

The AI Readiness Crisis: Humanity Is Falling Behind Its Own Technology

Why AI Literacy and Youth Empowerment Are Now a Global Emergency



New York City, New York Jan 20, 2026 ([Issuewire.com](https://www.issuewire.com)) - As global leaders converge for **Davos 2026**, AI Exponential Thinker (AIXT) is sounding a **worldwide alarm**: AI is moving faster than humanity can prepare, leaving millions of young people unready for the workforce. Without immediate action, AI could exacerbate inequality, destabilize economies, and erode trust globally. **AIXT is mobilizing to equip youth with the literacy, skills, and agency needed to navigate the AI Exponential age responsibly.**

*“The window to act is now. We must prepare the next generation for the AI era before the consequences become irreversible” said Dr. Lobna Karoui, President of AI Exponential Thinker, during the organization’s 5-Year Celebration in Courchevel 1850 on **January 1, 2026.***

Over the past five years, AIXT has reached **100,000+ young people across 50+ countries**, supported **200+ mentees** and convened **100+ high-impact AI conversations**, engaging a global advisory ecosystem of leaders from Fortune 500 companies and globally recognized institutions, including **Google, Meta, Harvard, the World Economic Forum and SoftBank**.

“In this crucial moment, when AI is poised to transform every aspect of our personal and professional lives, universal AI literacy is imperative” said **Kay Firth-Butterfield**, former Head of Artificial Intelligence and Member of the Executive Committee at the World Economic Forum.

Building on five years of global impact, AIXT is now accelerating through its **Next Gen First 2026–2030 strategy**, aiming to reach **one million youth across 100+ countries by 2030**. The organization is expanding its initiatives through **Exponential Trust Times**, scaling from **six AI podcast series to 20+ AI Talks series and 100+ global AI campaigns**, creating a pipeline of AI-literate youth and future leaders equipped for the exponential age.

“Our mission is clear: equip current and future generations to navigate the exponential age with responsibility, critical thinking and growth Mindset” said Dr. Lobna Karoui.

AI Exponential Thinker is turning awareness into action by preparing youth, advising leaders, shaping policy and creating scalable initiatives to ensure AI strengthens humanity rather than destabilizing it.

“AI is not going to replace humans, but humans with AI are going to replace humans without AI” said **Harvard Professor Karim R. Lakhani**.

About AI Exponential Thinker (AIXT)

AI Exponential Thinker is the world's first multi-generational nonprofit led with youth and powered by AI. Its mission is **AI Literacy & Youth Empowerment for Responsible Innovation**, equipping current and future generations to navigate and shape the exponential age of AI.

www.aiexponentialthinker.com

About Exponential Trust Times

Exponential Trust Times is a global media platform dedicated to shaping trust, responsibility and informed leadership in the exponential age of technology.

www.aiexponentialthinker.com/exponentialtrusttimes

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