

Building Trust, Accelerating Infrastructure, and Connecting Ecosystems

Welcome to the June 2026 edition of the Bulgarian AI Factory BRAIN++ Newsletter! This month has been an incredible whirlwind of deep tech breakthroughs, international collaborations, and cross-border ecosystem building. From unraveling our revolutionary open-source data governance architecture to hosting leaders from across Europe, the Bulgarian AI Factory is cementing Sofia's role as a premier European hub for trustworthy AI innovation.

Let's dive into the major highlights of the month.

THE BIG STORY: Introducing CHAIN++
Building Open-Source Data Trust for Collaborative AI

Traditional paper contracts and standard database logs cannot technically guarantee what happens to data once it leaves an organization's perimeter. This regulatory and technical bottleneck routinely stalls promising AI collaborations.

CHAIN++ changes that. Co-funded by the **EuroHPC Joint Undertaking** and the **European Union**, CHAIN++ is a federated, permissioned data governance chain engineered within our ecosystem at BRAIN++, **Sofia Tech Park**. It provides data sovereignty and trust between organizations, solving a critical challenge in AI: sharing sensitive datasets securely, legally, and transparently, in line with our commitment to collaborative innovation. CHAIN++ will be fully open source upon its official production release.

How It Works: Security at Every Level

CHAIN++ coordinates data sharing across independent AI infrastructure networks through three secure layers:

- **Cryptographic Smart Contracts:** Usage constraints—such as data residency, expiration windows, and specific processing limits—are locked cryptographically on a multi-factory federated chain where records cannot be retroactively modified.
- **The Data Guardian:** A local, client-side application that scans and auto-justifies outgoing data, immediately blocking any transfer that violates contract terms before it even leaves your infrastructure.
- **Temper-Evident Audit Trails:** Utilizing kernel-level eBPF logging, every single layer, data access, and container action is stamped with a cryptographic fingerprint, providing undeniable proof of regulatory alignment (GDPR, EU AI Act, EHDS).

Engineered for Regulated Industries

CHAIN++ is uniquely architected to unlock data collaboration in high-stakes environments:

- **Healthcare & Life Sciences:** Securing clinical registries for collaborative research.
- **Financial Services:** Enabling fraud detection model training without exposing raw consumer transaction logs.
- **Public Sector:** Driving secure cross-institutional infrastructure projects.

What's Next?

Our current Proof of Concept (PoC) represents an important internal milestone. The next step on our roadmap is the public release of the underlying codebase as open source on GitHub, enabling developers and compliance teams to explore, audit, and contribute.

Explore the Tech

Follow our progress and deep dive into the technical details by reviewing the [Whitepaper: CHAIN++](#).

[DOWNLOAD](#)

June at a Glance: Key Milestones & Ecosystem Events

Date/Timeframe	Event	Core Focus
June 2	'Europe on Air' International Seminar	AI as a partner for investigative journalism and fact-checking.
Mid-June	SpinOff Europe Conference	Scaling EU AI Factories and sovereign infrastructure capabilities.
June 17	International Forum for Innovation Cooperation	AI as a partner for investigative journalism and fact-checking.
Late June	ISC High Performance 2026 (Hamburg)	AI as a partner for investigative journalism and fact-checking.
Last Week of June	Western Balkans EDIH Gathering	AI as a partner for investigative journalism and fact-checking.

AI as a Partner, Not a Competitor:
'Europe on Air' Comes to Sofia

On **June 2**, BRAIN++ welcomed an ambitious group of international journalists and media students participating in the prestigious **Europe on Air** program. Bringing together talent from Belgium, Austria, Spain, Finland, Georgia, and Bulgaria, this year's cohort focused on a critical question: *How social media affect our life?*

The Seminar

Prof. Simen Stoyanov, Manager of the BRAIN++ AI Factory, led a specialized masterclass exploring how AI is transforming the media landscape. He outlined how future journalists can harness AI for:

- Fast, hyper-efficient processing of massive data volumes.
- Advanced fact-checking to combat disinformation.
- Automating routine tasks to liberate time for high-quality, investigative journalism.

Prof. Stoyanov also addressed Europe's broader geopolitical tech landscape, emphasizing why the Old Continent must actively develop its own data centers. **Data independence, security, and technological sovereignty are fundamental to safeguarding the future of democratic media.**

Meeting Discoverer

The visit concluded with a highly interactive Q&A session and a firsthand tour of the **Discoverer supercomputer**—the pride of Bulgarian high-performance computing. Multinational reporting teams immediately put their new knowledge into practice, conducting field interviews with Prof. Stoyanov.

Strengthening Sovereign European AI:
Spinoff Europe & Matchmaking

BRAIN++ continued its strategic push to position regional computing power as a catalyst for industrial and academic breakthroughs through two key forums:

SpinOff Europe Conference
At the strategic session Fireside Chat: *EU AI Factories — Scaling AI Innovation and Infrastructure*, **Kiril Krilov** represented BRAIN++. The session tackled the roll-out of large-scale infrastructure and outlined exactly how computing power can be leveraged effectively to drive breakthrough innovation across industry, academia, and the public sector.

International Forum for Innovation Cooperation
On **June 17**, BRAIN++ and the Discoverer++ team hosted delegates from the International Forum for Innovation Cooperation and Matchmaking. The meeting established concrete pathways for international businesses and research institutions to leverage our localized high-performance infrastructure.

Hamburg Highlights:
CHAIN++ at ISC High Performance 2026

The BRAIN++ team traveled to Hamburg, Germany, to participate in **ISC High Performance 2026**, one of the most prestigious supercomputing events in the world!

Our meetings with key international partners, researchers, and industry leaders in Hamburg reaffirmed that the European AI ecosystem is accelerating rapidly. BRAIN++ served as an active engine of this progress, bridging the gap between massive computing power, foundation model training, and real-world applications. ISC 2026 also provided the perfect global stage to present **CHAIN++**, sparking intense interest from European infrastructure providers looking for robust, compliant data governance tools.

Western Balkans EDIHs Converge at Sofia Tech Park

During the final week of June, Sofia became the official meeting point for the **Western Balkans European Digital Innovation Hubs (EDIHs)**, with BRAIN++ playing a central role.

Together with FundingsBox, the Regional Cooperation Council, GIZ and EDIH delegates from **Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Kosovo, North Macedonia, Serbia, Montenegro, and Bulgaria** (including colleagues from SCAL MOVE.BG, GATE Institute, 3-Fi Ltd., Sonensen, and the ICT Cluster), we gathered for two days of intense knowledge exchange.

Key Takeaways:

- Shared operational best practices and addressed the practical bottlenecks of SME digitalization.
- Toured the Sofia Tech Labs and the Discoverer Petaracal Supercomputer, showcasing what operational European innovation looks like in action.
- Laid the groundwork for a seamlessly connected digital ecosystem across the Western Balkans.

'Grateful for the connections made and the knowledge shared. Here's to building a stronger, more connected digital ecosystem across the Western Balkans!'

Thank you for reading the June 2026 update. For real-time announcements, technical documentation, or to apply for infrastructure access, visit our [official portal](#) or follow our open-source progress on [GitHub](#).

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