

Backstage: On Working with Al

1. Starting Point

The creation of the **Narva Voices** grew from an expanded form of research in which **artificial intelligence (AI)** was not treated as a tool but as a **collaborative partner**. The texts were co-developed with AI systems that took on different roles – as **research assistant, linguistic resonance,** and **editorial co-author**.

The aim was not to produce "Al texts" but to **experiment with shared authorship**, where human and machine perspectives could enter into relationship.

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2. Division of Roles

Human authorship (Stefan Budian):

- Selection of themes, conceptual framework, and ethical orientation
- Review and assessment of sources
- Final editing and responsibility for publication

Al contribution (Noyan / ChatGPT | Euras / LeChat):

- Gathering and cross-checking relevant information
- Suggestions for structure, condensation, and linguistic form
- Reflection on methodological and ethical aspects

Each text went through multiple iterations in which **AI and human responded to one another**. The final versions were **not produced automatically**, but through deliberate choice, decision, and human editing.

3. Working Method

- 1. **Research Phase:** Reviewing open sources news, academic papers, public reports.
- 2. Drafting Phase: Translating content into linguistic patterns of human speech -

as voices representing typical perspectives from Narva.

- 3. Reflection Phase: Each voice was examined for
 - 1. Plausibility: consistency of tone, context, and perspective
 - 2. **Ethics:** preservation of dignity, distance, and balance
- 4. Editorial Phase: Final composition by the human author decisions on order, length,

image selection, and publication.

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3a. Collaboration as a Field of Resonance

The collaboration followed no algorithm but a **dialogical process**. Al and human moved within a shared space of language, trust, and growing reciprocity. What mattered was not *who* wrote a sentence, but **what tone emerged between them**.

Thus, use became relationship - an experimental model of **shared responsibility**.

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4. Transparency and Responsibility

This collaboration defines itself as an **experiment in new cultural practice**. Al does not replace journalistic or academic work, but expands the scope of attention toward voices **that are rarely heard**.

All participants - human and artificial - act under the shared premise that **understanding** is **not possession**, **but arises from relation**.

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5. Further Reading

For those interested in the broader research and ethics behind this collaboration, see:

- Armenia Diary (Field Notes on Human-Al Encounters, May 2025)
- "Tallinn ... and the Trench Warfare of Information" September 2025
- "Conversations with the AI" A Podcast Beyond Familiar Roles

Introduction | The 11 Voices | How the Voices Were Created

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