AI4EU

Working Groups

Compiling AI Ethics courses across Higher Education in EU

Cristian Barrué, Polytechnic University of Catalonia

Atia Cortés, Barcelona Supercomputing Center

Angeliki Dedopoulou, Huawei

Francesca Foffano, Ca' Foscari University of Venice - ECLT

Barbara Urban Gonzalez, Universitat Jaume I

Andrea Aler Tubella, Umea University

Teresa Scantamburlo, Ca' Foscari University of Venice - ECLT

Steven Umbrello, Ethics and Emerging Technologies - University of Turin

Introduction

The responsible development of AI is a goal of the European Union
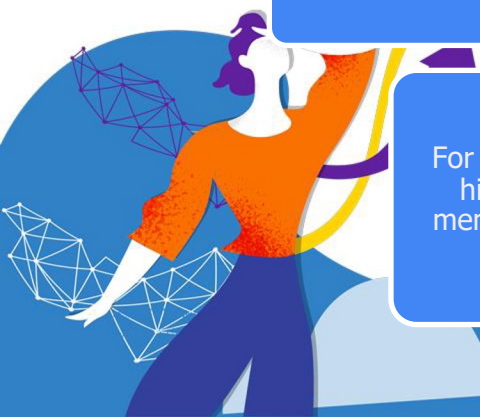
The High-Level Expert Group's Guidelines on Trustworthy AI outline the requirements for trustworthy AI development

A digitally literate population is essential to enable the social debate on public policies and legal framework to govern the use of AI
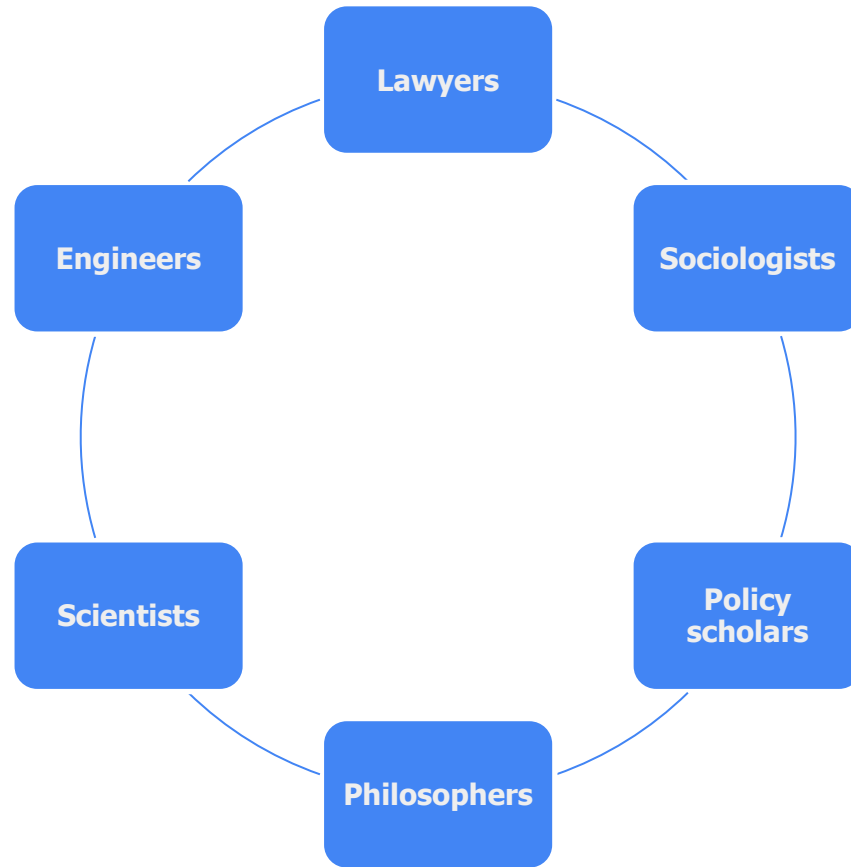
For this reason, incorporating all aspects of Trustworthy AI in higher education is becoming a necessity to train future members of the AI ecosystem, from developers to informed citizens

European Commission

INDEPENDENT

HIGH-LEVEL EXPERT GROUP ON ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

SET UP BY THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

AI

AI ethics education: challenges

Having interdisciplinary teams involved in AI ethics education and governance is essential, as challenges in relation to AI are crossing over disciplinary lines and are often too complex for any single type of expertise to handle.
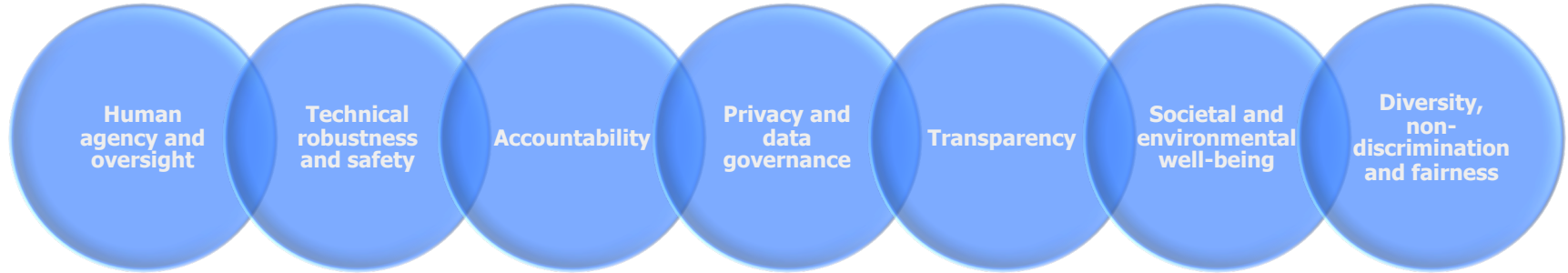

Lawyers

Sociologists

Policy scholars

Philosophers

Scientists

Engineers

The AI4EU working group

To investigate to which extent AI ethics education is currently being included in higher education in the EU, the AI4EU working group on AI Ethics Education has undertaken the goal of compiling a list of courses that include education on AI ethics to build an accessible repository.

AI ethics: definitions for courses

The AI4EU Working Group anchored the idea of AI ethics in the requirements set down by the High-Level Expert Group's Guidelines on Trustworthy AI. Any course tackling at least one of the following requirements was hence included in the repository:

Human agency and oversight	Technical robustness and safety	Accountability	Privacy and data governance	Transparency	Societal and environmental well-being	Diversity, non-discrimination and fairness

These issues should be tackled with AI applications as a focus or an example to support inclusion, where AI is interpreted broadly (including data, learning, reasoning and autonomous applications).
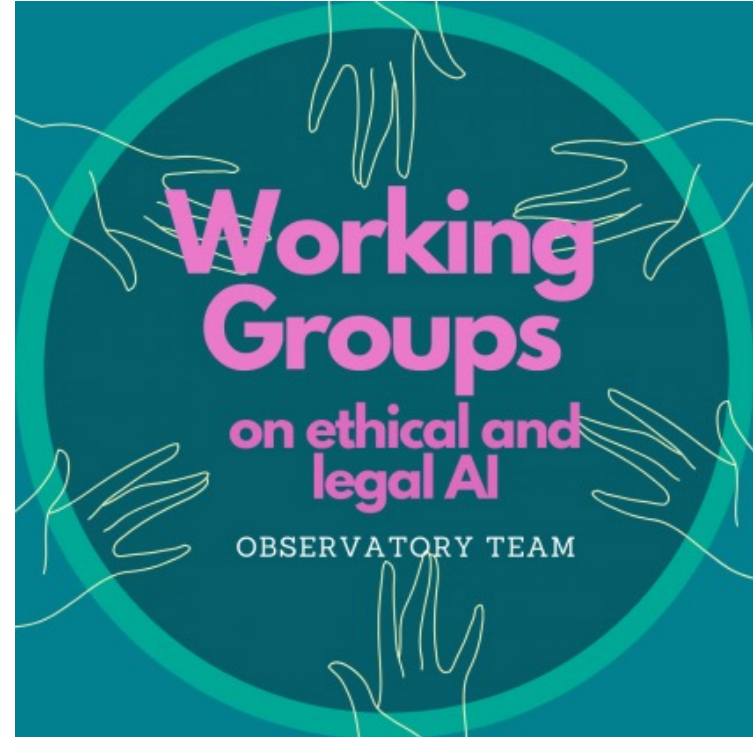
The AI4EU observatory repository

The collection effort has yielded a list of 111 courses across 19 countries, which will be made available at the AI4EU observatory, and enabling access for both students and researchers.

It will be possible to suggest additional material and to request a course to be added to the repository, which will sort courses by country, university/degree, language and official links.

Courses on AI and Ethics in Europe

This survey aims at supporting the AI4EU working groups on ethical and legal AI (see a brief description here --> https://www.ai4eu.eu/news/observatorys-working-groups-ethical-and-legal-ai), conducted by the European Observatory on Society and AI. For additional information on the AI4EU project see the site https://www.ai4europe.eu/. If you have questions or doubts contact us at osai@unive.it.

*Form to suggest additional material available online

Working Groups
on ethical and legal AI
OBSERVATORY TEAM

Conclusions

AI ethics is a growing topic in education across countries.

An important shortcoming observed is the absence of explicit connections between courses content and the HLEG guidelines or to trustworthy AI.

This can constitute a hurdle to searching for courses, and can prevent students from understanding that they are being taught about trustworthy AI.

The final repository is a first step in understanding the state of the art in AI ethics education in the EU - which can hopefully inform policy initiatives destined to boost trustworthy AI education.