CIVICAi

CIVICAi 2024 OBJECTIVES

CIVICAi actively promotes citizen participation in the governance of Artificial Intelligence (AI). In 2024, three axes of intervention are prioritized to facilitate the integration of AI into society in a harmonious, ethical, and responsible manner.

These three areas are:

1. Relationships with businesses and public administrations

Relationships with businesses and governments will be energized through the creation of the EMPRESAi and GOVERNAi Forums, respectively, with the aim of establishing a space for dialogue and collaboration among the four sectors that should be involved in the harmonious and ethical development and deployment of AI: public administrations (GOVERNAi forum); businesses (EMPRESAi forum); AI experts who may or may not be members of CIVICAi (EXPERTAi forum); and civil society, represented for the purposes of this axis of action by CIVICAi associates and by the entities that make up its social council. This axis intends to actively involve all stakeholders in the AI regulation process. More specifically, the following actions will be carried out:

1.1 Work to ensure that public administrations develop specific training and action plans on AI. It is crucial to bear in mind that direct collaboration with municipalities, through specific agreements within GOVERNAi and under the auspices of the Generalitat de Catalunya and Provincial Councils, is critical since local administrations have a direct and effective relationship with citizens. Public organizations may be included in this forum.

1.2 Achieve that the three forums, the social council, the associates, and the governing bodies of CIVICAi work as a network of contacts and cooperation that turns the association into a reference channel for information, content, training, and activism, and cooperate to keep AI on the public agenda.

1.3 Support and encourage the direct and ongoing relationship with governments, parliaments, and international organizations of political or public law nature, so that the voices of CIVICAi's associates and social council are heard and considered in all matters referring to AI.

1.4 Establish a transparent collaboration framework with companies to regulate their participation in the EMPRESAi forum. This will allow access to in-kind resources from companies, generate income from participation fees in this forum, and from grants or sponsorships by companies to projects of the divisions or the association at large.

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2. Development and implementation of training modules

CIVICAi proposes the creation of training programs on AI aimed at a wide spectrum of recipients, including public administrations, professional colleges, and society in general. The goal is to provide these groups with general, yet solid and accessible training in AI. To this end, the following actions will be undertaken:

2.1 Develop training modules of approximately 6h duration, covering from fundamental concepts to ethical issues, strategic aspects, and practical applications, so that the management and application of AI tools are made responsibly, public understanding of AI is improved, and individual capacities of the recipients are strengthened.

2.2 Collaborate in the AI-related training activities carried out by universities participating in the social council, including university extension programs and senior citizens' seminar/lectures series.

3. Participatory processes and dissemination

Disseminating AI involves making knowledge about this technology accessible and understandable to society at large, regardless of citizens' expertise level. To this end, the following actions will be undertaken:

3.1 Enhance and expand the activities initiated by the 12 divisions in different thematic areas or social sectors, since this is the mechanism through which CIVICAi works to ensure the population adequately understands how AI can influence their lives. Also, is a channel for public participation in politico-social debates about the development and regulation of AI. Divisions also deals with the challenges faced by professionals in adapting to the technological, labor, and social changes that AI is already causing and will cause soon.

3.2 Establish the appropriate channels of communication and collaboration between the divisions' directions, the entities of the social council, as well as with the GOVERNAi and EMPRESAi forums.

3.3 Collaborate and establish worldwide alliances with NGOs and organizations that pursue the goal of promoting citizen participation in issues affecting humanity, and more specifically those related to technology.

3.4 Organize dissemination events on AI with the entities of the social council and/or participate in events they organize. The goal is to raise the level of citizen awareness and commitment regarding AI and to promote, at the same time, their informed and critical participation in regulatory processes.

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The TEAMS collaboration platform will publish information on all these events in its calendar.

3.5 Organize the CIVIC symposium about AI, open and participatory, aimed at fostering a dialogue and a collective/participative reflection on the governance of AI. This space aims at bringing together experts in ethics, law, technology, industry professionals, and political representatives to debate how AI can influence democracy and human rights.

3.6 Promote the nomination of Prof. Geoffrey Hinton, godfather of generative AI, for the Catalonia International Prize 2024, together with the entities of the CIVICAi social council and other organizations.

CIVICAi, along with its social council and the three mentioned forums, works towards the establishment of a global AI supervision agency, advocating for a broad and diverse representation of society in this process. This approach would not only reinforce the role of Catalonia, Spain, and Europe as drivers in the ethical regulation of AI but also promote an inclusive and transparent governance model, essential for the sustainability of these and other technological advances.