

TRAINING OF TRAINERS ON ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

5-6 NOVEMBER 2024



solidar
FOUNDATION

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Training of Trainers is an annual training opportunity offered by SOLIDAR for its members to increase their knowledge of and capacity to engage in policy themes connected to social affairs, inclusion and education at EU level. The training is based on an interactive methodology and is carried out by experts in the relevant field.

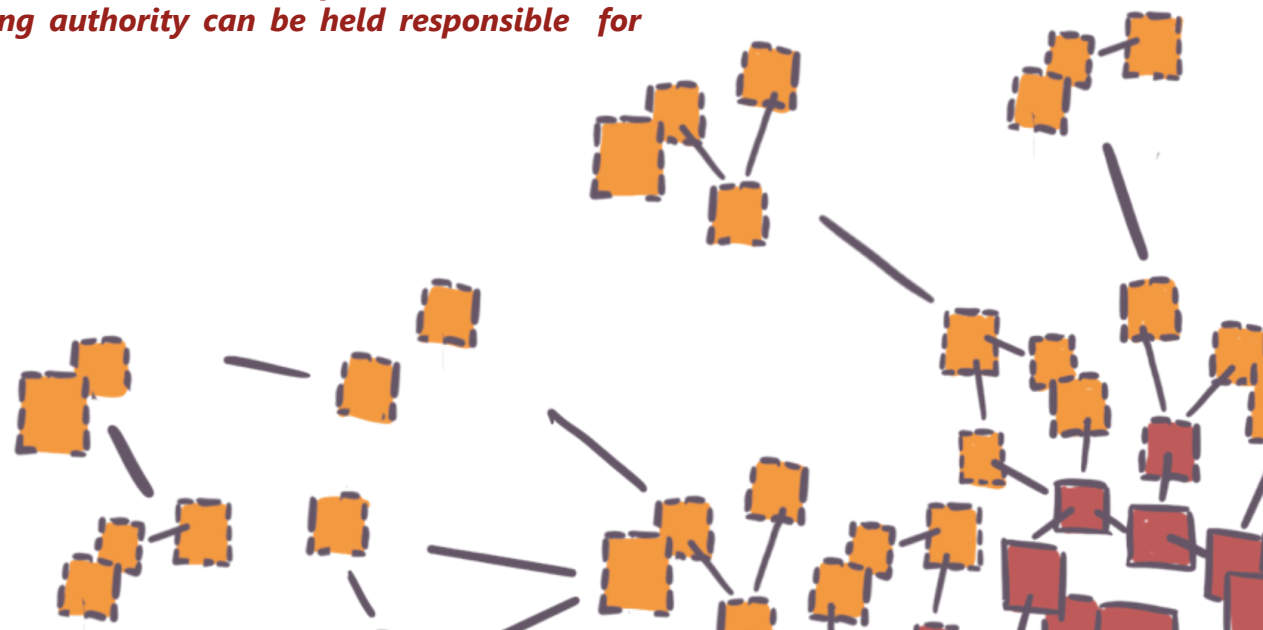
The Training of Trainers 2024 was dedicated to **Artificial Intelligence and its implications for social justice**. The objective was to approach a topic that is perceived as very technical but that has (and will have) a massive impact on access to rights and equality in society.

In fact, this activity is part of the effort of demystifying AI and affirming the right of civil society to have a say in how AI is developing and to intervene to make sure that fundamental rights are not threatened, but rather upheld through and despite the use of new technologies. It is under everyone's eyes that AI is developing at a high pace and becoming more prominent in every aspect of our lives, from work life to service provision, from education to migration management practices. The EU has tried to put in place some measures to regulate AI, namely with the AI Act and the platform work directive, but more is needed to encompass all risks (and opportunities)

carried by AI and to democratise its application. Therefore, to ensure that AI is correctly applied, knowledge needs to be created within society at large and within civil society more specifically. SOLIDAR is therefore starting this endeavour with its network, in which AI is still quite an unexplored issue.

With this objective, the training was structured over two days and divided into different sections. The major outcomes can be found in this toolkit.

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Day 1

In the afternoon of the first day, an **introduction to AI for CSOs** took place. Ella Jakubowska, Head of Policy at EDRI, intervened to reply to the following questions:

- What is AI?
- What are its main current applications?
- What are the risks it carries for discrimination and violation of fundamental rights?
- How is AI being regulated at EU level?
- What are the opportunities of making society more just and inclusive for all in relation to AI?
- What role should civil society play in its development and how could it become more democratic?

Day 2

After the more general sections of Day 1 through which the participants have familiarised themselves more with the functioning and role of AI, the second day allowed them to dig more into the declination of AI in specific fields, namely the welfare systems, education and border control and migration management practices.

Concerning the **welfare system**, the training explored how algorithms and other AI techniques are and will be employed by welfare services to identify the beneficiaries, share information with target groups, establish the level of the benefits people receive etc. In doing so the risks and opportunities are assessed, with an intersectional approach which considers different forms and levels of potential discrimination and existing social inequalities.

Regarding **education**, the training dove into the applications of AI in the education and lifelong learning field and considered what transversal skills will be needed in society to manage and receive these developments in a way that fosters active citizenship, and social inclusion and justice.

For what concerns **migration**, the activity expanded the role that AI can play in the discriminatory management of borders control procedure and the risks this carries for violations of fundamental rights.

All areas were explored during day 2 and a section was dedicated in each of them with the objective of replying to the following questions:

- How is AI being applied in this field?
- What are some examples of existing practices and what are the criticalities?
- What mitigation tools exist?
- What advocacy actions should be developed by civil society at national and EU level?

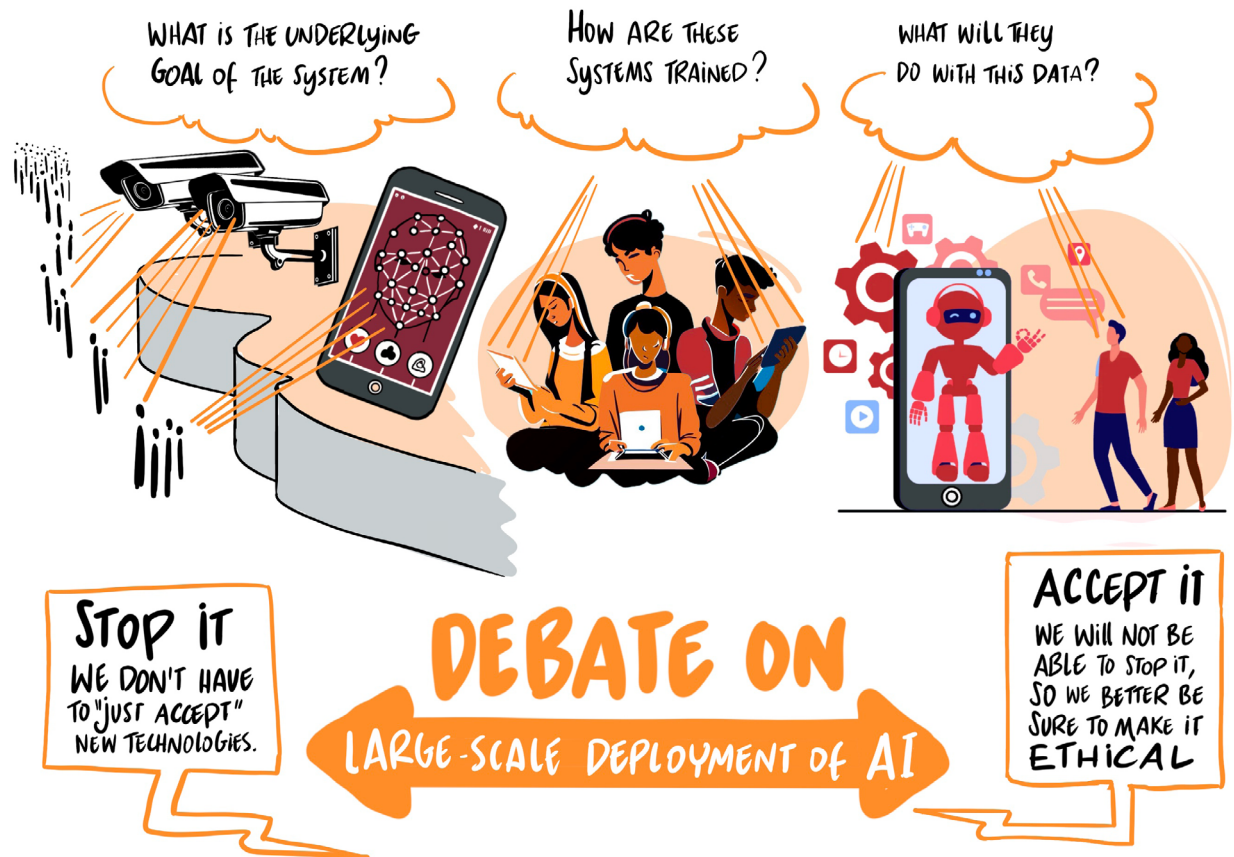
GENERAL SUMMARY

Methodology

1. Start with the **mindset of humans** itself: make it less biased, and more inclusive
2. **Educate** people/co-workers/yourself on these new technologies and about the ethical risks related to AI
3. Have **open & constructive conversations** around AI and social justice, keep your eyes open on the fact that a lot of people will have other opinions about this topic
4. Use the lens of the **critical frames** to make a first assessment
5. Decide upon **guiding principles** to make decisions + evaluate **who should be around the table** to make collective decisions
6. Decide upon **measures/resources** to include to mitigate risks
7. Have enough **assessments on the input of data** in these technologies
8. Guarantee **transparency** about the distribution of the output

Summary

- AI are not killer robots, they are new technologies and they are everywhere
- Insights in benefits, but even more in risks
- Debate around whether we need to stop the large-scale deployment of AI, or accept it
- In case of accepting, how to make sure ethics are more included when installing/adopting AI technology?



RECLAIMING THE POWER:

Building civil society's perspective on AI for social justice

Day 1 Introduction to AI

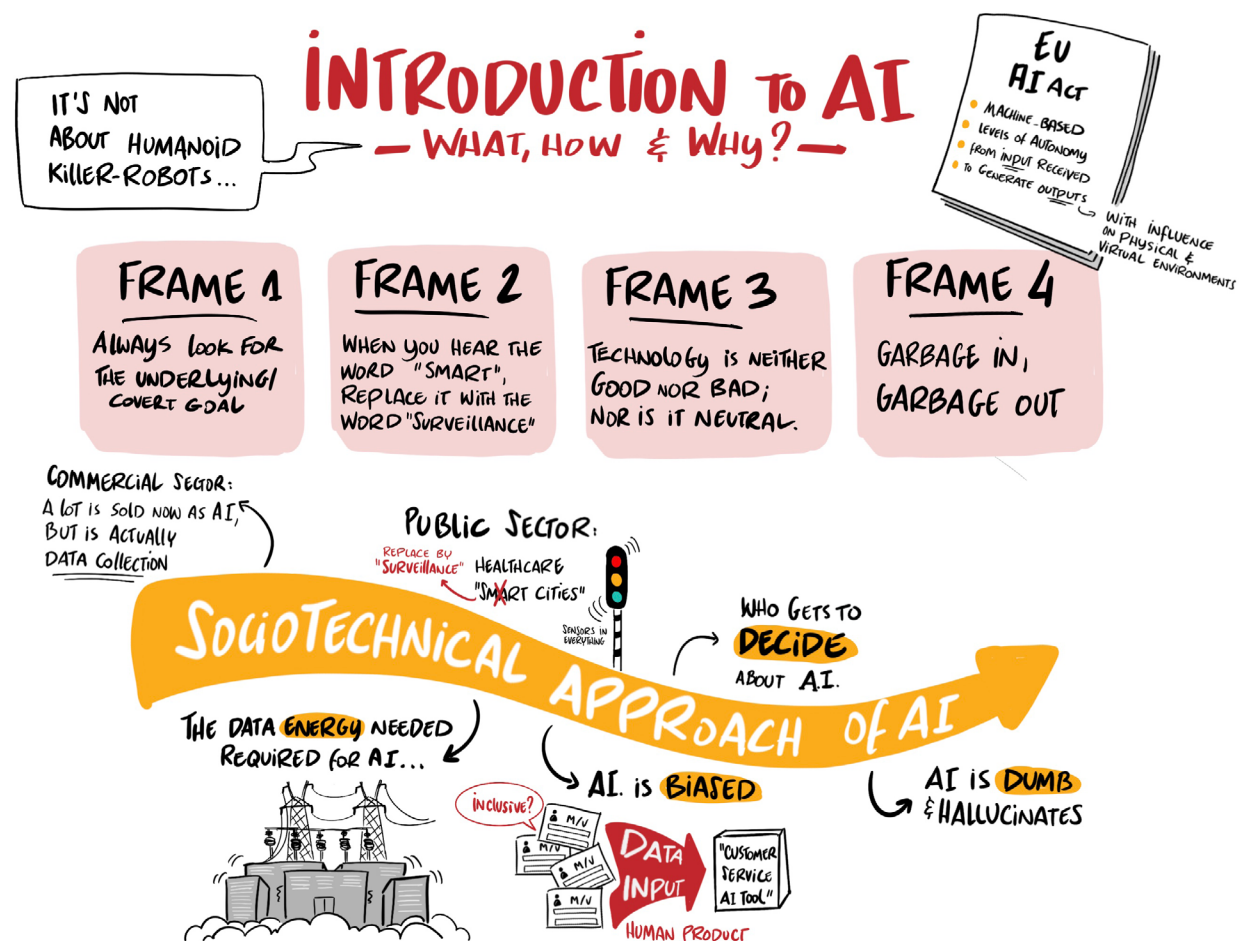
Ella Jakubowska, Head of Policy at EDRi, shared critical perspectives on AI for CSOs. She emphasized demystifying AI, which is often mundane and sociotechnical, reflecting societal biases and power dynamics. AI is fallible, with issues like errors, bias, and unequal representation. Ella critiqued myths about AI as a universal solution, noting its environmental impact and limited effectiveness in addressing systemic problems.

The EU/AI Act introduces risk-based regulation, banning some harmful systems but leaving most AI without transparency obligations. EDRi stresses scrutinizing profit-driven motives, avoiding “smart” as a euphemism for surveillance, and recognizing AI’s embedded societal challenges.

Training material:

Introduction to Artificial Intelligence (AI) - what, how and why?

Ella Jakubowska (she/her), Head of Policy, European Digital Rights (EDRi)
& Blue Tiyavorabun (they/them), Policy Advisor on AI, EDRi



EU/AI ACT

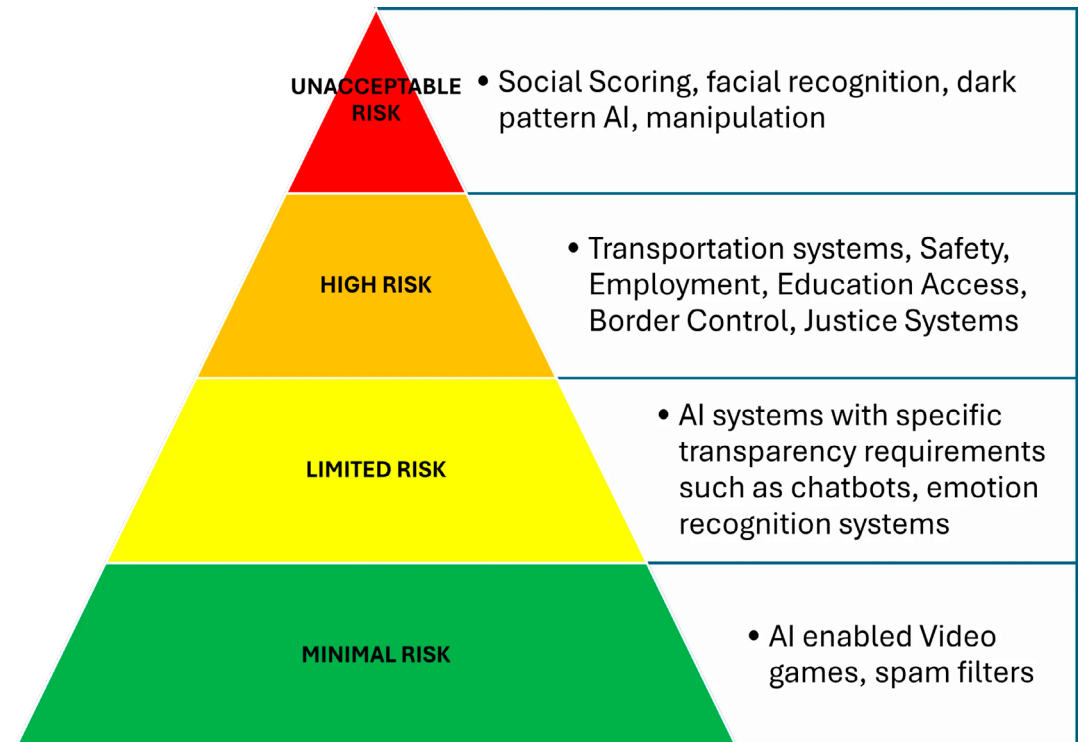
The Act adopts a risk-based framework, categorizing AI applications by their level of risk.

- AI systems considered to have **no risk** are not subject to the Act's regulations and will not face additional transparency requirements.
- For “**yellow risk**” systems, such as emotional recognition technologies, transparency is required unless these systems are used by police.
- “**Orange risk**” systems must comply with technical measures, including a mandatory human rights test.
- AI systems categorized as “**red risk**” are outright banned.

Instead of taking a rights-based approach, the AI Act uses a product safety framework. This has drawn criticism from organizations such as Edri, which argue that technical criteria alone cannot guarantee AI safety. Nevertheless, finding an alternative approach has been challenging.

Overall, while most AI technologies will not be subject to additional obligations, the Act aims to ensure transparency and accountability for higher-risk AI applications.

Resource: [EDRI's comprehensive overview of how the EU AI Act fares in terms of fundamental rights protection](#)



RECLAIMING THE POWER:

Building civil society's perspective on AI for social justice

Day 2 AI and the Welfare System

Asena Soydaş, Project Manager at reframe[Tech], led discussions on ethical AI in welfare systems, highlighting benefits like efficiency, personalization, and accessibility for welfare recipients.

However, challenges such as biases, fairness, and transparency persisted. Lessons were drawn from past failures like the Dutch SyRI scandal and Germany's biased dialect recognition system. Private organizations explored AI for social good, such as improving care matching. Participants emphasized learning from mistakes and prioritizing human-centered, ethically guided AI in welfare services.

Training material

AI in The Welfare System

Solidar Training Academy 2024

November 6, 2024

Asena Soydaş, reframe[Tech]

BertelsmannStiftung



AI AND THE WELFARE SYSTEM



WE NEED TO
CHANGE OUR
MINDS FIRST
[BIAS] BEFORE
FEEDING A.I.

RECLAIMING THE POWER:

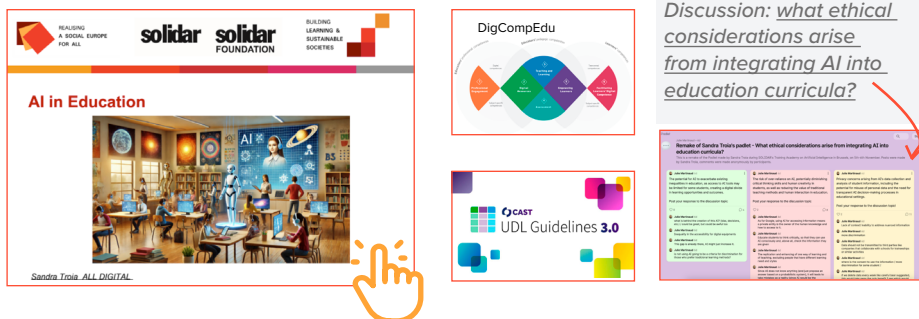
Building civil society's perspective on AI for social justice

Day 2 AI and Education

Sandra Troia (ALL DIGITAL) discussed the ethical use of AI in education, emphasizing critical approaches for students and adults. AI simplifies administrative tasks, allowing teachers more time with students, while tools like adaptive learning platforms and predictive analytics support personalized learning. However, concerns over data privacy, governance, and inclusivity persist. Frameworks like DigCompEducation and UDL 3.0 guide ethical AI use, stressing human oversight in decision-making.

As the interactive session was set up around using AI, some participants expressed incomprehension toward using AI, especially chatbots, in education, questioning their necessity and alignment with educational values. What followed was an in depth discussion with differing visions: should we fight against the use of AI or include it?

Training material



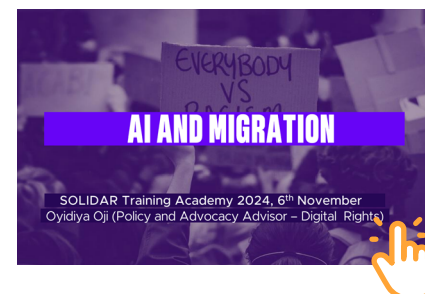
Day 2 AI and Migration

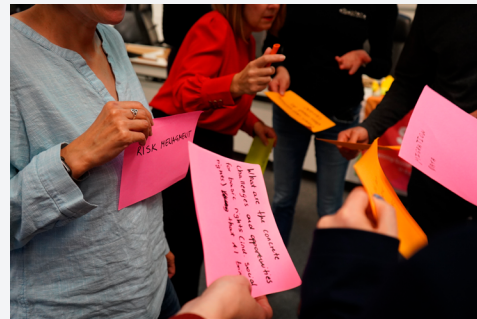
Oyidiya Oji (ENAR) highlighted the use of AI in migration, emphasizing its potential to perpetuate systemic inequalities. Tools like biometric databases, predictive software, and surveillance technologies are used to control migration but often stigmatize migrants, compromising their dignity and safety. Examples from Greece and Hungary illustrate the harmful impact of AI, such as enabling pushbacks and criminalizing migration.

Despite these concerns, the AI Act lacks prohibitions for such systems in migration contexts. ENAR urges CSOs to document AI's impact, strengthen alliances, and advocate for migrant-centered approaches in public discourse.

Resource: Joint statement from #ProtectNotSurveil: How the EU AI Act fails migrants and people on the move.

Training material





ECHO NETWORK PROJECT

On November 5th, in the morning, the closing conference was held for the ECHO Network Project.

Vision of the network

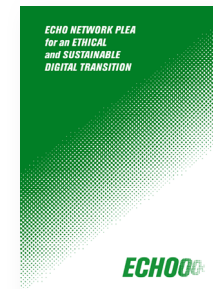
Introduction & Vision ECHO (Ethical, Common, Human and Open) Network is a project running from January 2023 until November 2024 which intends to promote digital citizenship and responsible use of digital technology, providing citizens and organisations with a clear understanding of how to use digital technology ethically, and focuses on how EU institutions address this matter to safeguard citizens. The project is coordinated by CEMÉA France and its consortium comprises of 7 partner organisations: CEMÉA Belgique, CEMEA Federazione Italiana, CEMÉA France, Centre for Peace Studies, Framasoft, SOLIDAR Foundation and WilliEichler-Akademie based in 5 different countries Belgium, Croatia, France, Germany and Italy. At the core of ECHO Network lies the aim to engage (young) people in a digital transition towards an ethical, responsible, inclusive and sustainable digital space.

The project explored how civil society organisations (CSOs), including youth organisations, can be empowered to understand how our digital society works, and enabled the exchange of practices and shared experiences on the ethical use of digital technologies. ECHO Network aims to spark a change in practices among staff of organisations, and especially organisations and CSOs addressing youth rights to use more ethical and sustainable digital practices and provide them with the necessary tools to train youth with an ethical and sustainable approach to digital technology. On top of that, the project aimed to raise awareness among organisations and their staff about European policies related to digital and environmental issues and to build a European network of trust between popular education associations, ethical hosting organizations and associative lobbying organizations.

Further resources

<https://www.solidar.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/echo-plea-final-online.pdf>

<https://echo-network.eu/>



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SOLIDAR organises its work for lifelong and life-wide learning for democratic participation through the SOLIDAR Foundation. The purpose of the Foundation is to advance our common policy and advocacy work while addressing internal learning needs in what we consider a learning hub for the network.

Through our member and partner organisations, SOLIDAR Foundation engages communities in EU decision-making processes, empowers people through lifelong learning, and voices their concerns to the EU institutions by carrying out active lobbying, projects of collective action, policy monitoring, research, and awareness-raising.

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