Did you know that WLC is collaborating in AI4Gov, an innovative project supported by the European Commission, as a research partner?

AI4Gov

Trusted AI for Transparent Public Governance fostering Democratic Values

AI4Gov aims to unlock AI's potential for evidence-based innovations while actively addressing crucial challenges, including ethical concerns, discrimination, and biases in modern democracies.

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WLC provides constant support to the Project Coordinator and the Project Partners, ensuring that AI4Gov activities align with the applicable legal and ethical standards.

WLC guides AI4Gov research throughout its entire lifecycle with informative reports addressing ethical and legal challenges

January 2023

December 2023

December 2024

December 2025

D1.2 Version 1 → D1.2 Version 2 → D1.2 Version 3

Report on Gender and Ethical Management

WLC has recently published the initial segment of a three-part iterative report, aimed at offering guidance on addressing **social science, ethical considerations, and gender issues in the use of artificial intelligence**. The primary goal is to ensure that the technologies employed and developed within the project align with relevant laws, regulations, and established ethical guidelines.

The EU's approach to AI is characterised by a balance between fundamental rights and innovation

- ✓ The report focuses on grasping the legal approach towards the challenges presented by AI, particularly in relation to discrimination. By adopting a focus centred on the European Union, we can recognise how **our views on AI are intricately shaped within the specific context where these laws are enforced**.

- ✓ As AI is undergoing significant advancements, it is prompting extensive discussions worldwide among policymakers, industry representatives, civil society organizations, think tanks, and media outlets. Within this dialogue the European Union has actively participated, demonstrating commitment through various initiatives and proposals aimed at addressing both the opportunities and challenges presented by AI.

- ✓ Initially, the EU's technological developments on AI lagged behind those of the United States and Asia, primarily due to anticipated negative economic impacts. However, the EU swiftly adopted a robust approach, **prioritizing the protection of fundamental rights but balancing it with fostering innovation measures.**

Fundamental rights

Innovation
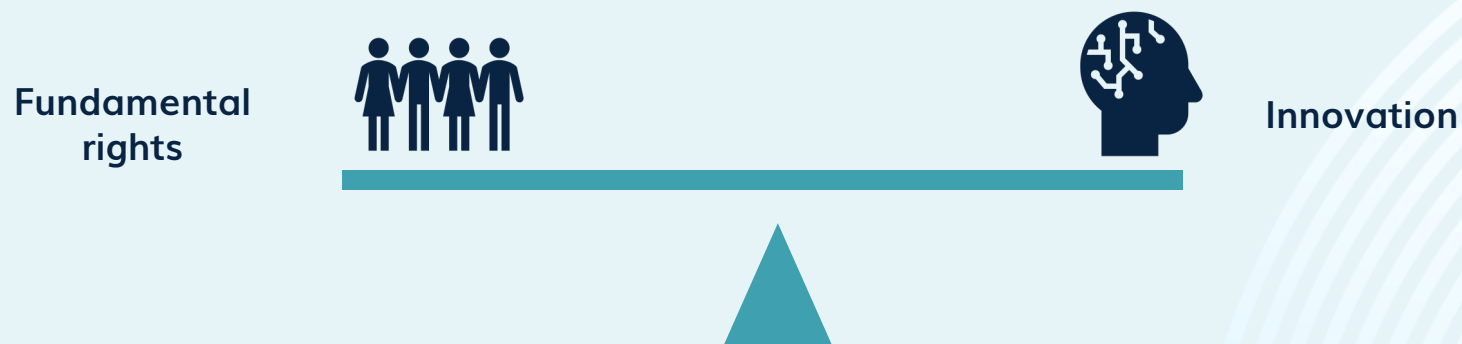
The chronology of EU policy documents on AI demonstrates how the EU has leaned progressively towards an AI approach centered on human rights

Date	Document	Scope
2017 February	Resolution on Civil Law Rules on Robotics (European Parliament, 2017)	Liability issues: damage caused by robots. Suggest legal status for robots.
2018 April	Communication 'Artificial intelligence for Europe' (European Commission)	Boosting private and public technological and industrial capacity. Preparation for socio- economic changes brought by AI. Ensuring an appropriate ethical and legal framework based on the EU's values in line with the Charter of Fundamental Rights.
2018 December	Communication 'Coordinated Plan on AI' (European Commission)	By coordination and cooperation policies, increase Europe's efforts in public interest areas, such as healthcare, transport, security, education, energy, manufacturing, and financial services.
2019 April	Independent High-Level Expert Group on AI 'Ethics Guidelines for Trustworthy AI' (European Commission)	Defines three components of trustworthy AI: lawfulness, ethics, and robustness. Components are based on FR enshrined in EU Treaties and the Charter.
2020 February	White paper 'On AI – A European Approach to Excellence and Trust' (European Commission)	Proposes a regulatory framework for AI based on risks.

The AI Act

Building upon the European Commission's **2020 White Paper on AI** and the subsequent **2019 Ethics Guidelines for Trustworthy** AI, the EU shifted its focus to championing standardized rules governing the development and use of AI.

✓ In April 2021, the European Commission proposed regulations for trustworthy AI, aiming to **enhance the single market with a cohesive legal framework** with specific objectives:

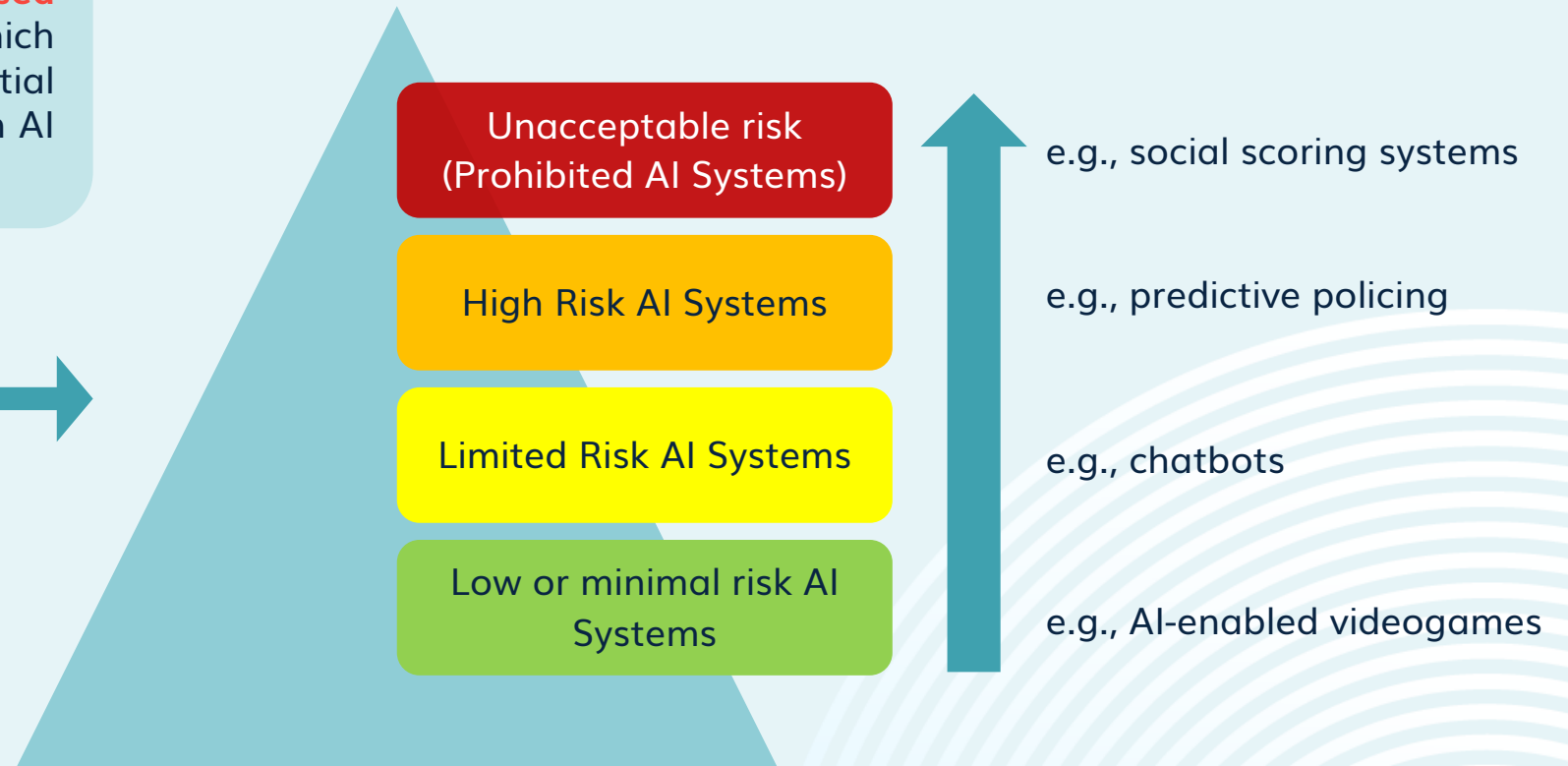|	
Ensure AI systems in the EU market are safe and adhere to existing EU regulations.	Provide legal clarity to boost AI investment and innovation.
Strengthen governance and enforce EU laws on AI systems concerning fundamental rights and safety.	Promote a unified market for legal, secure, and dependable AI solutions while preventing market segmentation

✓ On February 2024, the EU Member States have endorsed the final text of the AI Act, leaving only the parliamentary vote pending for the ultimate approval of the document.

The AI Act thoroughly embodies the EU's human rights-centred approach to AI

This commitment to human rights is manifested through a **risk-based approach** in the legislation, which prioritizes the assessment of potential risks associated with human rights in AI applications and systems.

Unacceptable risk
(Prohibited AI Systems)

High Risk AI Systems

Limited Risk AI Systems

Low or minimal risk AI Systems

e.g., social scoring systems

e.g., predictive policing

e.g., chatbots

e.g., AI-enabled videogames

What will we discuss in the next sessions?

Comparative Analysis: Regulatory Approaches to AI in Different Jurisdictions

- Diverging from the EU framework, this session explores global approaches to AI regulation. It focuses on comparing the fundamental rights approach of the EU with the innovation-driven perspectives of the United States, UAE, and China.

The Impact of AI on Gender Discrimination

- This session discusses how biases may be embedded in AI algorithms and potential strategies and perspectives to promote fairness, inclusivity, and gender equality in artificial intelligence.

Step-by-Step: How to Perform a Fundamental Rights Impact Assessment (FRIA) for AI

- This session breaks down the step-by-step process of the FRIA, explaining how to assess the potential impact of AI technologies on fundamental rights, ensuring a comprehensive and systematic approach to ethical considerations and legal compliance.

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Thank you!

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