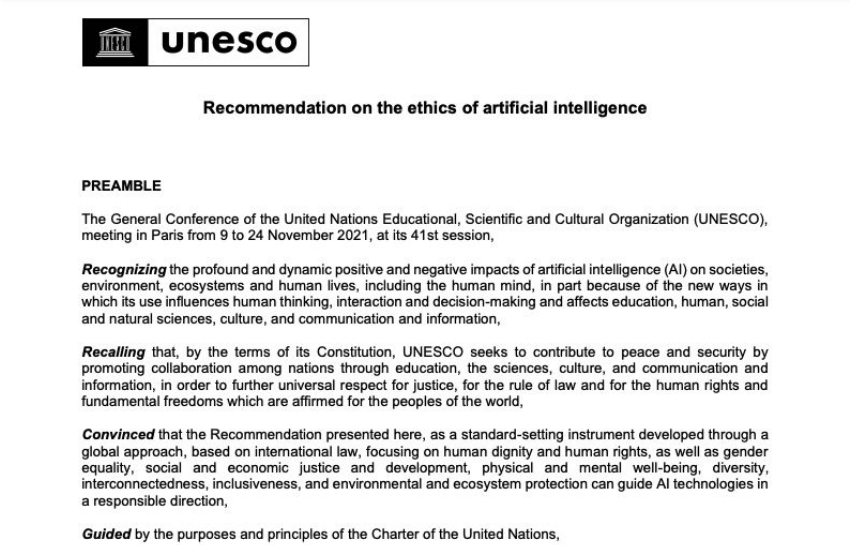
The Role of Technology Facing Law and Ethics:

How to build up an inclusive digital society and implement UNESCO Recommendations at **the local level**

Stefaan Verhulst
Co-Founder and Chief Research and Development Officer
The GovLab at New York University

THEGOVLAB

Introduction



unesco

Recommendation on the ethics of artificial intelligence

PREAMBLE

The General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), meeting in Paris from 9 to 24 November 2021, at its 41st session,

Recognizing the profound and dynamic positive and negative impacts of artificial intelligence (AI) on societies, environment, ecosystems and human lives, including the human mind, in part because of the new ways in which its use influences human thinking, interaction and decision-making and affects education, human, social and natural sciences, culture, and communication and information,

Recalling that, by the terms of its Constitution, UNESCO seeks to contribute to peace and security by promoting collaboration among nations through education, the sciences, culture, and communication and information, in order to further universal respect for justice, for the rule of law and for the human rights and fundamental freedoms which are affirmed for the peoples of the world,

Convinced that the Recommendation presented here, as a standard-setting instrument developed through a global approach, based on international law, focusing on human dignity and human rights, as well as gender equality, social and economic justice and development, physical and mental well-being, diversity, interconnectedness, inclusiveness, and environmental and ecosystem protection can guide AI technologies in a responsible direction,

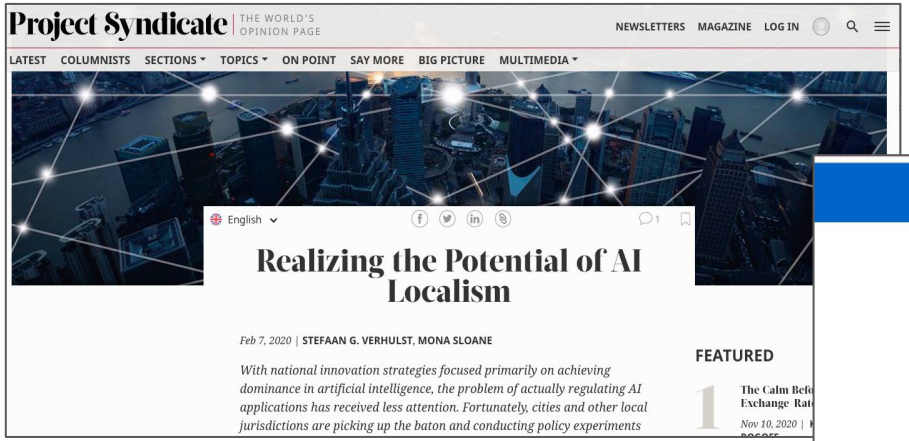
Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

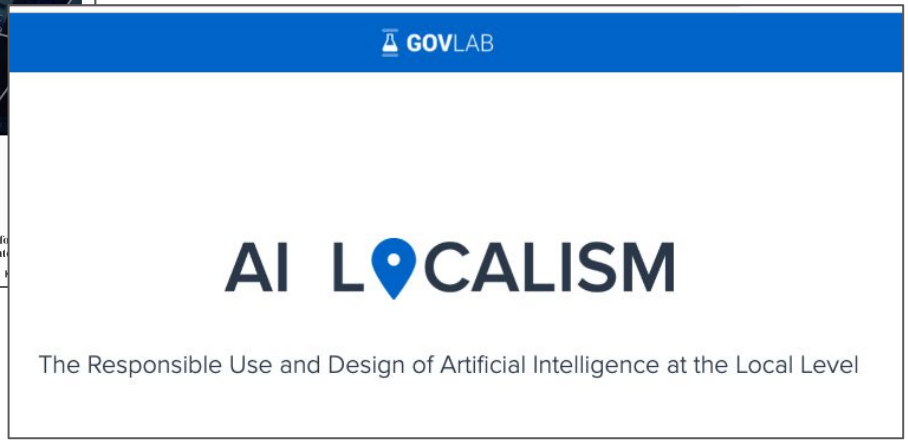
“This Recommendation is addressed to Member States, both as AI actors and as authorities responsible for developing legal and regulatory frameworks throughout the entire AI system life cycle, and for promoting business responsibility. It also provides ethical guidance to all AI actors, including the public and private sectors, by providing a basis for an ethical impact assessment of AI systems throughout their life cycle…”

Integrating Recommendations at the Local Level

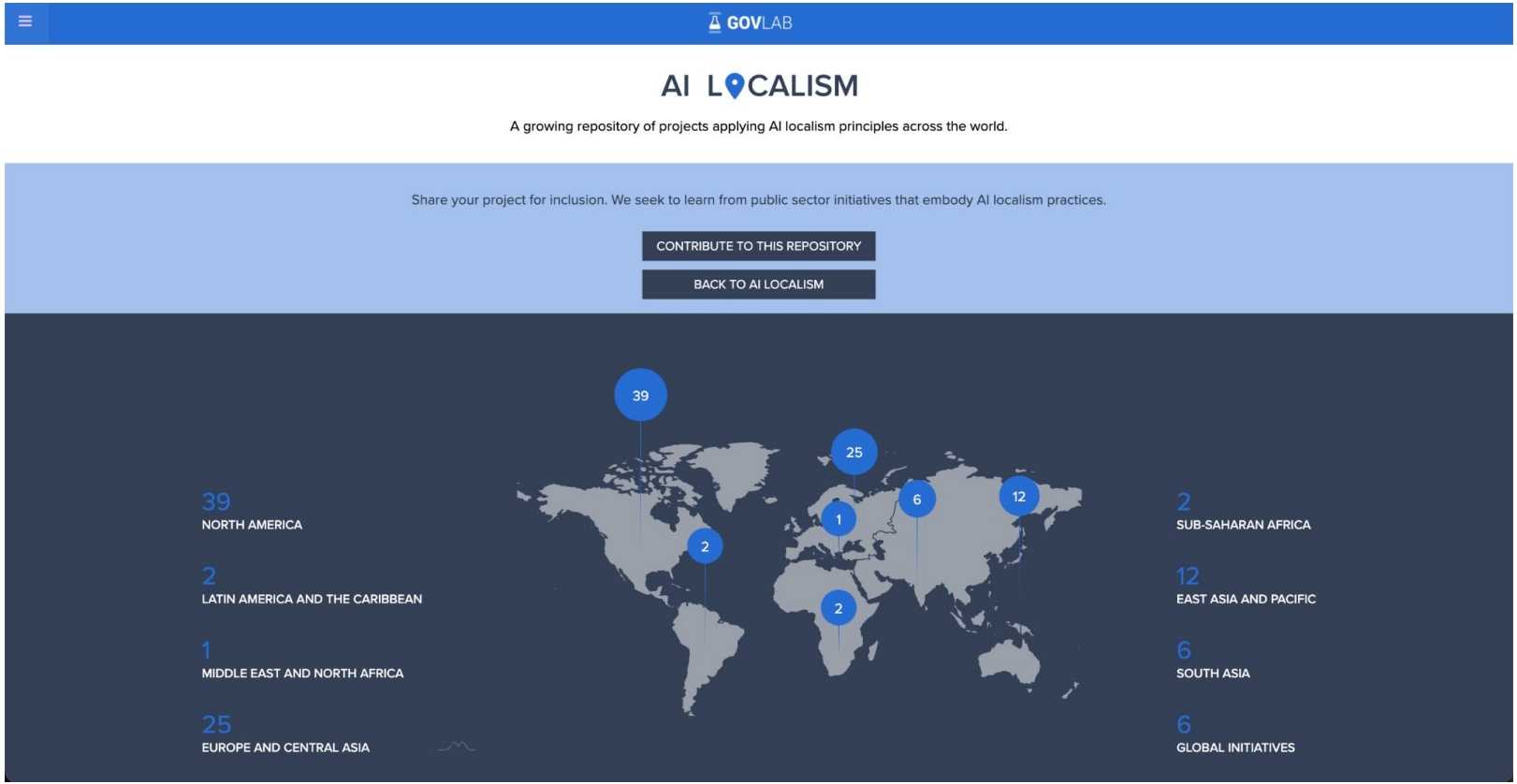
AI Localism: The Responsible Use and Design of Artificial Intelligence at the Local Level

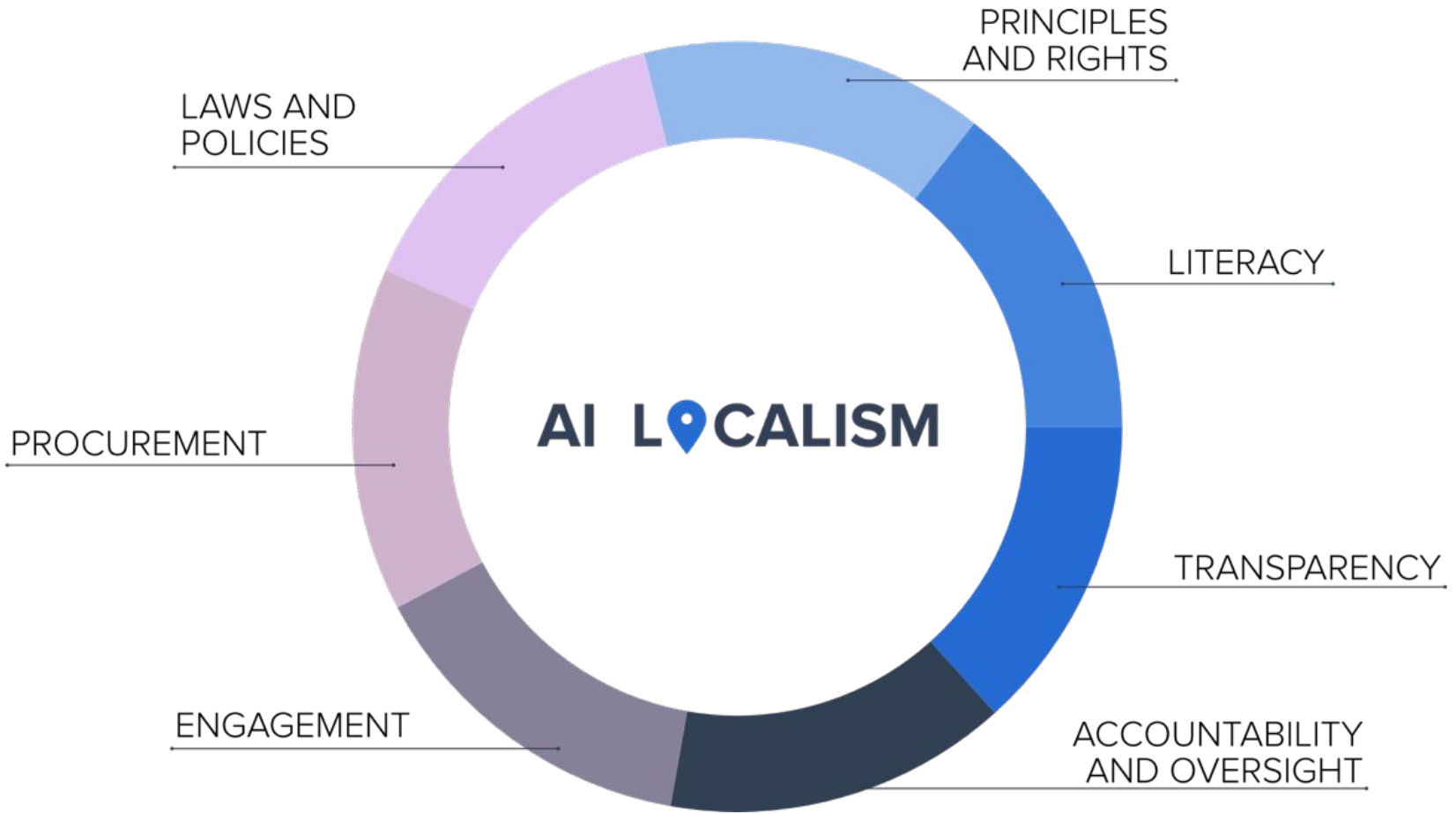
"... cities shape our world–not only the economy but its ideas, culture, and policies. On the front lines of our greatest challenges, cities drive the most innovative solutions ..."





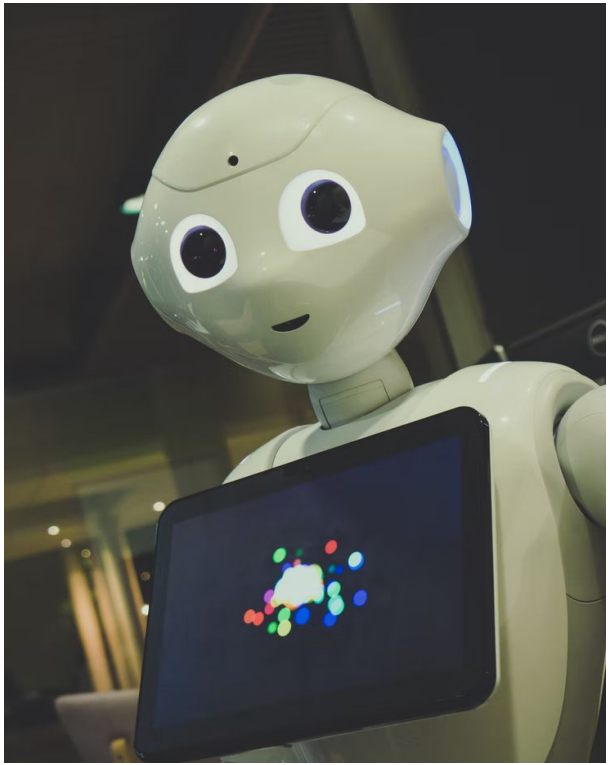
AI Localism Repository




PRINCIPLES AND RIGHTS
LAWS AND POLICIES
LITERACY
AI LOCALISM
PROCUREMENT
TRANSPARENCY
ENGAGEMENT
ACCOUNTABILITY AND OVERSIGHT

Incorporating Recommendations at the City Level

- By implementing the Recommendations at the local level, we may prevent fragmentation among cities.
- Ethical impact assessments at the city level may be more effective in identifying and addressing the risks of AI technologies in a timely manner.
- A multi-stakeholder approach, as prescribed by the Recommendations, has already proven effective at the local level and would be straightforward to implement.
- Developing tools at the local level could more closely align with priorities to meet the needs of vulnerable populations.



Assessing AI Localism initiatives

unesco

Recommendation on the ethics of artificial intelligence

V. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

131. Member States should, according to their specific conditions, governing structures and constitutional provisions, credibly and transparently monitor and evaluate policies, programmes and mechanisms related to ethics of AI, using a combination of quantitative and qualitative approaches. To support Member States, UNESCO can contribute by:

(a) developing a UNESCO methodology for Ethical Impact Assessment (EIA) of AI technologies based on rigorous scientific research and grounded in international human rights law, guidance for its implementation in all stages of the AI system life cycle, and capacity-building materials to support Member States' efforts to train government officials, policy-makers and other relevant AI actors on EIA methodology;

(b) developing a UNESCO readiness assessment methodology to assist Member States in identifying their status at specific moments of their readiness trajectory along a continuum of dimensions;

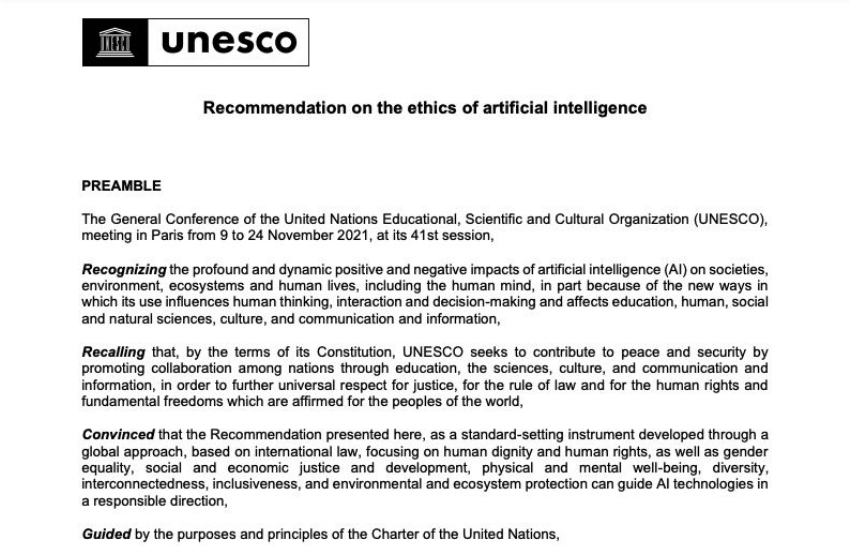
(c) developing a UNESCO methodology to evaluate ex ante and ex post the effectiveness and efficiency of the policies for AI ethics and incentives against defined objectives;

(d) strengthening the research- and evidence-based analysis of and reporting on policies regarding AI ethics;

(e) collecting and disseminating progress, innovations, research reports, scientific publications, data and statistics regarding policies for AI ethics, including through existing initiatives, to support sharing best practices and mutual learning, and to advance the implementation of this Recommendation.

Acquiring the Social License to Use AI

Fostering Dialogue



unesco

Recommendation on the ethics of artificial intelligence

PREAMBLE

The General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), meeting in Paris from 9 to 24 November 2021, at its 41st session,

Recognizing the profound and dynamic positive and negative impacts of artificial intelligence (AI) on societies, environment, ecosystems and human lives, including the human mind, in part because of the new ways in which its use influences human thinking, interaction and decision-making and affects education, human, social and natural sciences, culture, and communication and information,

Recalling that, by the terms of its Constitution, UNESCO seeks to contribute to peace and security by promoting collaboration among nations through education, the sciences, culture, and communication and information, in order to further universal respect for justice, for the rule of law and for the human rights and fundamental freedoms which are affirmed for the peoples of the world,

Convinced that the Recommendation presented here, as a standard-setting instrument developed through a global approach, based on international law, focusing on human dignity and human rights, as well as gender equality, social and economic justice and development, physical and mental well-being, diversity, interconnectedness, inclusiveness, and environmental and ecosystem protection can guide AI technologies in a responsible direction,

Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

“The objectives of this Recommendation are:…
(d) to foster multi-stakeholder, multidisciplinary and pluralistic dialogue and consensus building about ethical issues relating to AI systems; ”

The Data Assembly: A Public Deliberation on the Re-Use of Data

- A collaboration among and between citizens, civil rights organizations, key data holders and policymakers
- Our goals were to:
    - Identify varying concerns, expectations, and opportunities surrounding data re-use;
    - Co-design innovative solutions and design principles
- Primary outcome: the Responsible Data Re-Use Framework
- A similar model could be implemented in the context of ethical AI technologies.

THE DATA ASSEMBLY

The Responsible Data Re-Use Framework

Fostering Public Conversations around the Use of AI

- The Data Assembly model translates well to the context of ethical AI technologies and could be used to acquire the social license needed to ethically and effectively use AI at scale.
- The scope and applicability of the UNESCO Recommendations make them an excellent foundation for public conversations around the use of AI at all levels.

Considerations for Public Engagement

Citizens

- How can governments include all segments of their population in deliberative exercises?
- How to prevent capture of certain processes by distinctive groups of citizens that might have a particular agenda?

Civil Society and Academia

- What role do civil society and academia play in representing voices not heard?

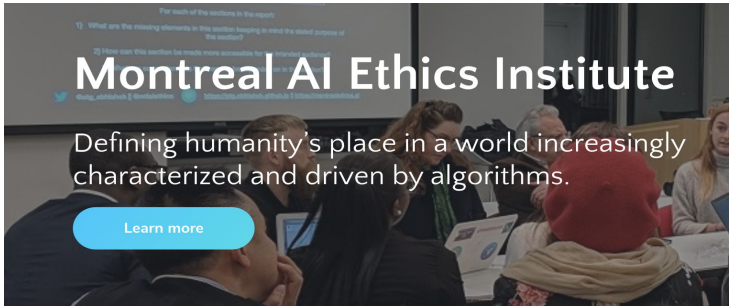
Key Steps

- Stakeholder mapping and impact assessments
- Design different scenarios to measure expectations

Public Engagement: Key Actors

Open dialogue
on AI ethics

CLAIRE



AI ETHICS: GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES

MODULES INSTRUCTORS WEBINAR SERIES PARTNERS REGISTER HERE

AI ETHICS

A Collection of Lectures on the Ethical implications of Data and Artificial Intelligence from Different Perspectives

https://aiethicscourse.org/

www.thegovlab.org