Committee on Ethics and Regulation of Artificial Intelligence - Scope and Focus

**Research, development and deployment of tools of Artificial Intelligence (AI) might become the new driving force of the advancement of our society. AI tools bring a promise of a myriad of new opportunities, nevertheless we must not be blind to their risks. In order to manage our exposure to these risks, we must lead this process towards socially responsible human centric solutions. The Permanent Committee on Ethics and Regulation of Artificial Intelligence (CERAI) extends its helping hand to lead this process. CERAI is an independent expert and advisory committee and was appointed by the Ministry of Investments, Regional Development and Informatisation of the Slovak Republic to assess ethical, societal and legal questions related to the research, application and use of technologies utilising AI systems or their elements.**

We, the members of CERAI, recognise the great opportunities of AI to substantially increase the quality of our lives, better the public services and turbo charge the productivity in various areas, such as healthcare, industries, education, protection of our environment, etc. We are cognizant of the AI’s immense potential for our society by using tools of AI in the context of big data analysis, implementation of solutions of cognitive tasks, processing of information or their deployment within environments and conditions which threaten human life or health. The assertion that the methods of AI will encroach into the everyday lives of us, the citizens, and that they have the potential to substantially increase the quality of our lives, stands unchallenged. However, the other side of the coin presents us with a large number of ethical and legal questions.

We support the views that the processes and outputs, which the tools of AI generate, should be transparent, proportionally explainable and should not deepen or spread the existing societal biases. Furthermore, these processes and outputs should not be discriminatory and should not increase existing social inequalities. At the same time, they should be socially, economically and environmentally sustainable. They should enforce human autonomy and the ability of humans’ free choice and be compliant with the fundamental human rights and existing legal norms. The development of AI in Europe should be directed in a way that ensures that every citizen has an equal access to technologies, which contribute to the increase of the quality of life, work conditions, healthcare and education.

Within this context, we would like to highlight the following key domains, which are the subject of our interest, and which fall into our competencies as listed in CERAI’s bylaws. Predominantly,  our ambition is to actively lead the expert discussions on the topic of ethics and regulation of AI. Whether in the form of formal reports concerning ethical questions as well as questions related to the AI regulatory framework, or in the form of background and conceptual materials related to legal norms governing ethical aspects of research, development, deployment and the use of AI. Our intent is also to increase the general awareness of the importance of ethics and regulation within technologies. We want to establish communication channels about our knowledge and findings with the wider expert community, companies, researchers and academic circles. We also have an ambition to support various other stakeholders who face solving questions related to ethics and regulation of technologies. We want to bring into spotlight the existing use cases from real life applications, which use AI responsibly and to the benefit of society.

Members of CERAI intently follow all initiatives focusing on the uptake and development of trustworthy AI, i.e. legal, ethical and technologically robust and resilient AI, within the European context. We stand by declarations that the tools of AI, just like any other technological tools, must be human centric, controlled by humans and serve humans to further our social and economic wellbeing and societies. We, therefore, support deployment of such technological tools, that handle all concerned persons in their lifecycle, ranging from their creators all the way to the end consumers, not as means to reach technological progress for the technological progress itself, but which respect human dignity of every individual, their human rights and freedoms, and the principles of democracy and rule of law. Our ambition is to represent CERAI amongst the general public as an expert authority, which will help balance the technological and societal needs present within the research, development, deployment and use of AI in the Slovak Republic and Europe.

Members of CERAI