



The Global AI Ethics Consortium (GAIEC)

Forging Ahead

The effort to make sure that technologies are beneficial to society needs to be a globally collaborative one. Academia, with its broad access across different disciplines and cultures, can connect and build international research communities, collaborative networks and global consortia working together on AI ethics-related issues.

That is exactly why the IEAI joined forces with academic institutions, research centers and distinguished members of academia worldwide a little over one year ago and launched the [Global AI Ethics Consortium](#) (GAIEC). **Our aim was to move out of the general and abstract theories, frameworks and guidelines and provide what is really needed: instructions for applying AI ethics in a way that is technically feasible and globally-minded.**

Founded on [April 15th 2020](#), the GAIEC just celebrated its first anniversary. This first year was both exciting and intense. The GAIEC started as a network of experts interested in examining the responsible use of AI in the fight against the COVID-19. The pandemic made clear the urgent need to discuss the ethical considerations in the use of AI and develop operational ethical frameworks in the field of AI. **Our ability to react rapidly to this need was tested in practice. A year after, we are very proud of what the group has accomplished.**

First, the IEAI released a [call for proposals](#) and awarded the GAIEC with a total of €400,000 in funding to support four short-term research projects with a focus on providing insights to developers and policymakers considering the use of AI to manage the current COVID-19 pandemic, as well as prepare for future scenarios. **This was IEAI's immediate response to this pandemic. This was our call to action.**

Moreover, the IEAI, together with its GAIEC partner, [The GovLab](#), the [NYU Tandon School of Engineering](#) and the [Center for Responsible AI](#) designed the [AI Ethics - A Global Perspective](#) course; a collection of short, free of charge online lectures and seminars from leading global experts in the field of AI. **This course, which was launched in February 2021, was our attempt to address the importance of AI ethics and support the immediate needs for expertise and resources on the emerging ethical concerns, dilemmas and questions regarding the ethical implications of decisions made on AI use.**

Finally, this year (January 2021), we also launched the [GAIEC Repository](#), which aims to promote research on AI ethics and by making this information more easily available to all. Our GAIEC Repository centralizes data, publications and other work from our members and those working on AI ethics, broadly. It is a continuously expanding database and we welcome suggestions for contributions. **Through the GAIEC and the Repository, we hope to increase collaboration and knowledge sharing on the use of responsible AI.**



This year we will present the results of our multi-stakeholder projects and have the chance to discuss with the GAIEC members not only about our research findings and but also **opportunities for new areas of collaboration at the [Responsible AI Forum \(TRAIF\)](#)** in Munich (6-8 December 2021).

AI is a global challenge, and so is AI ethics. The ethical challenges related to the various uses of AI require multidisciplinary and multi-stakeholder engagement, as well as collaboration across cultures, organizations, academic institutions, etc. **Since its launch, the GAIEC has brought together 20 experts from academic and research institutions on six continents while its projects involve 7 universities and research centers, 13 Principal investigators, 12 researchers and 7 applied partners from all over the world.** And GAIEC continues to grow in terms of scope and membership.

Many challenges related to AI ethics are still ahead of us. Through our work at GAIEC, we want to bring a global awareness of the importance of ethics in AI, acknowledging at the same time the diverse contexts around the globe in which AI is employed. **And we can only achieve that if we work together.**

To this end, we have devoted our latest joint statement in 2021 to highlighting the **[Importance of Public and Civil Society Participation in AI Governance](#)**. We have already taken concrete steps towards increased engagement with the initial goal of creating an open **Civil Society for AI Ethics Directory**. Our aim is to create strong partnerships with existing civil society groups by including them in our events and research projects that investigate AI-related topics.

Thank you GAIEC community for this amazing first year. 2021 brings us new challenges. However, it also brings us new opportunities. **Together we can achieve more. Stay tuned!**

“The time for analyzing how AI is deployed -whom it affects, how it affects them, what are its broader social and economic impacts- is now.”

Excerpt from the [GAIEC Statement of Purpose](#)

The [Institute for Ethics in Artificial Intelligence](#)
Coordinating and Founding Member of the GAIEC
Technical University of Munich
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