ANNUAL REPORT
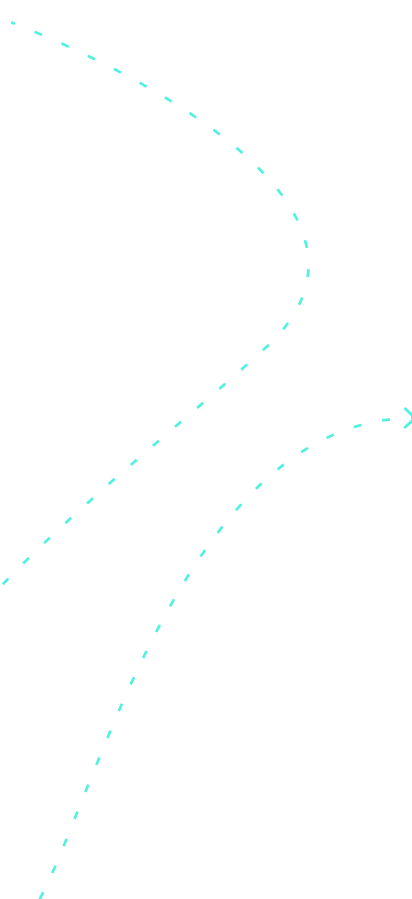
December 2021 – December 2022

EUROPEAN
ARTIFICIAL
INTELLIGENCE
FUND

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WELCOME FROM
THE DIRECTOR

As 2022 drew to a close, the public imagination was once again captured by Artificial Intelligence (AI) innovation. The launch of ChatGPT, a large language model with eerie powers of mimicry, opened the door to a panoply of new AI applications (including a holiday newsletter from one of our partners!). But worry quickly followed wonder as the technology's potential risks, which were ignored in the initial hype, became evident – from how to stem the mass production of disinformation to how to accurately judge the authorship of students' essays. It was a reminder, should we need it, that it's critical to put the interests of people and society front and centre as we shape the future direction of AI.

That is the mission of the European AI Fund. In the third year of our existence, the urgency to deliver on it has only heightened and we have continued our work to build a diverse and resilient civil society ecosystem to fight on the public's behalf, so that AI better serves people and society.

This year, we have been pleased to see the tangible impact of a resolute and collective civil society voice at play in the European Union's (EU) adoption of two landmark pieces of regulation, the Digital Markets Act (DMA) and the Digital Services Act (DSA), which go some way to holding big tech accountable. Fierce negotiations continue on the European AI Act, with our grantee partners working tirelessly to persuade decision makers to hold the line and secure people's fundamental rights in the face of a powerful industry lobby. We know, however, that even the best regulation is only as good as its implementation and are already building strategies to make sure that these new legislative teeth really bite.

Shaping AI in the public interest requires a diversity of skills, expertise and perspectives, which is why the European AI Fund supports organisations that are expert in technologies as well as those that represent particular communities or social justice areas that are on the frontline of the impacts of AI. This year we have extended our support to our 16 existing grantees by an additional 6 months so that they can sustain their engagement on policy and deepen their knowledge of the issues. And we're excited to have been able to fund 14 new organisations from across Europe that enrich our network with approaches such as algorithmic auditing, strategic litigation and investigative journalism, that bring expertise on issues including migration, health and criminal justice, and that represent marginalised communities and people with disabilities.

Nonetheless, the civil society sector remains small and emergent and faces the daunting resources and influence of the tech industry. To achieve our goals, it's essential to collaborate. Throughout the year we've worked to seed connections across the ecosystem. This culminated in November in a joyous meeting of grantees and funders co-hosted with our sister fund Civitates where we heard inspirational ideas for collective action from the climate movement, gained insights into EU advocacy strategies and reflected on the infrastructure that is needed to work better together.

All of this is only possible thanks to the support of our funders, who now number 13 philanthropic foundations. Not only do they provide the financial means to sustain our work, they guide our strategic thinking, champion our mission in the wider philanthropic sector and are generous with their practical wisdom. As we reached the end of the Fund's initial phase this year, we were thrilled to receive their energetic and enthusiastic commitment to continuing – and growing – our work.

Thank you to them, and to all those who have worked in different ways this year to support our shared vision. Together we are building momentum towards a world where AI serves the needs of people and society, respects human rights and promotes fair, inclusive and sustainable democracies.

Catherine Miller
Director
European Artificial Intelligence Fund

WHO WE ARE

The European AI Fund exists to empower a diverse and resilient ecosystem of civil society organisations to shape policy around AI and galvanise the philanthropic sector to sustain this vital work.

The development, use and regulation of AI is largely shaped by the interests of governments and the tech industry, without adequate concern for the needs of the individuals and communities it affects. This entrenches existing power imbalances and leads to AI that can exacerbate social injustice, amplify structural inequalities, infringe people's rights, undermine democracy and compromise climate action. Now is a critical time in the development of policies that will set the direction of AI in Europe in the long term. Civil society organisations need to be active and effective partners in shaping policy so that AI serves the needs of people and society.

OUR VISION

A diverse and resilient ecosystem of civil society organisations is an active and effective participant in shaping policy related to Artificial Intelligence so that it serves the needs of people and society, respects human rights and promotes fair, inclusive and sustainable democracies.

OUR MISSION

We want to create a community of civil society organisations with the capacity and skills to effectively engage and secure tangible impact on policy around Artificial Intelligence and a funding landscape that can sustain them over the long term.

WHAT WE DO

We offer civil society organisations funding and non-financial support to build their capacity for policy and advocacy on AI and we share our expertise with philanthropic partners to increase understanding and engagement on these issues.

HOW WE WORK

The European AI Fund is a collaborative fund, supported by 13 philanthropic foundations and hosted by the Network for European Foundations (NEF), based in Brussels. Partner foundations make up our Steering Committee which is currently co-chaired by Carla Hustedt (Mercator) and Mark Surman (Mozilla). The Fund's Director is Catherine Miller and Programme Manager is Alexandra Toth.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2022

- Awarded grants to 14 new organisations totalling €1.9 million in support from November 2022 until November 2024.

- Extended an additional €560,000 support for our 16 existing grantees until April 2023.

- Brought together 40 members of our community for two days of ecosystem building with our sister fund, Civitates.

- Welcomed our 13th funding partner to the European AI Fund.

- Secured our partners' commitment to growing their support for the Fund.

- Appointed our new director, Catherine Miller.

BUILDING THE CIVIL SOCIETY ECOSYSTEM

INSIGHTS FROM OUR 2021 POLICY AND ADVOCACY GRANTEES

The core of the European AI Fund's work is to support civil society organisations' capacity to engage in policy around AI, whether or not they have prior expertise in the subject. Support for our first 16 grantees began in April 2021 and over the past year we have seen their work really take flight. To capitalise on this momentum, we extended their grant period until April 2023.

POLICY & ADVOCACY GRANTEES APRIL 2021-APRIL 2023

Access Now Europe	Friends of the Earth Europe, FIAN International, and the Centre for Agroecology, Water and Resilience at Coventry University (CAWR)
AlgorithmWatch	GLITCH
ANEC – The European Consumer Voice in Standardisation	Health Action International (HAI)
European Digital Rights (EDRi)	Irish Council for Civil Liberties
European Network Against Racism (ENAR)	Mnemonic
European Patients' Forum	Moje Państwo Foundation
European Sex Workers' Rights Alliance (ESWA)	Panoptykon Foundation
Foxglove Legal (Foxglove)	Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants (PICUM)

"We now have the capacity to identify errors in the AI Act and can comment from a position of technical expertise. This has increased our policy impact because we can present technical insights that legislators value. As a consequence, we now have access to, and influence across, the political spectrum and our amendments are being taken on board. We expect this to grow further."

Organisations that were already active in the field have built effective coalitions within the ecosystem to increase their visibility and amplify their advocacy efforts, for example, through a number of joint letters from civil society making collective demands of policymakers for the AI Act. Although the framing of the legislation around consumer protection and technical standards has proven challenging for some, our grantees have succeeded in getting amendments tabled that adopted their positions.

Grantees that previously had limited AI expertise initially needed some time to get up to speed on these issues and to identify the best opportunities to engage. Recruitment has also posed a challenge as talent with the right mix of skills for these types of roles is hard to find. However in 2022 they have been able to use the knowledge they have built up to contribute effectively to policy debates and share valuable perspectives.

"Even as non-experts [in AI], we can bring important added value to these debates. This includes at the policy level where there are so few voices of those working on issues related to excluded populations and migrants in particular. It has very much been a process of learning and deepening our knowledge."

Our grantee partners report that they are more and better connected to each other, thanks partly to the cohort-building efforts of the Fund, as well as a number of ad-hoc collaborations.

Details of our 2021 grantees can be found at the end of the Annual Report. A summary of the grantees' insights in relation to the European AI Fund's evaluation criteria is on our website here.

WELCOMING OUR NEW 2022 OPEN CALL GRANTEES

In November 2022, the European AI Fund welcomed 14 more organisations from across Europe to work on policy and advocacy around AI over the next two years. These organisations bring a wide range of skills and expertise that will contribute to building a strong civil society ecosystem to shape the future of AI.

"Thanks to these coordination efforts we've managed to complement (and not jeopardise!) each other's advocacy efforts. We are determined to follow the same approach in the later stages of the project. It is our plan to invest even more time in building connections with other organisations in the AI Fund cohort and beyond."

POLICY & ADVOCACY GRANTEES
NOVEMBER 2022-NOVEMBER 2024

Ada Lovelace Institute	Fair Trials Europe (FTE)
Algorithm Audit	Fundación Ciudadana Civio
Danes je nov dan (Today is a new day)	Gesellschaft für Freiheitsrechte
Eticas Fundation	Global Health Advocates
EuroMed Rights	Homo Digitalis
European Council of Autistic People	SHARE Foundation & Politiscope
European Disability Forum	Systemic Justice

As new European Union regulations around AI are finalised, it's vital that civil society ensures these rules are properly implemented and can test their enforcement. We've funded organisations which conduct algorithmic auditing, strategic litigation and investigative journalism that can take on this challenge. And because AI affects every aspect of society, we've invested in organisations with expertise on issues such as migration, health and criminal justice, and those that represent marginalised communities and people with disabilities, as well as organisations with a particular national focus.

The grantees were selected from a competitive Open Call for proposals. We received 143 applications from a diverse pool of organisations working across Europe, and invited 32 to submit a second stage proposal. Applications were assessed by a committee of representatives from the European AI Fund's funding partners, with input from five external experts. We reflect on what we learned from the process later in the report.

Details of the 2022 grantees and their planned programmes of work can be found in the Annex at the end of this document.

INSIGHTS FROM OUR TECH AND COVID GRANTS

From the onset of the pandemic, it became evident that the use of technology in response to Covid-19 would have implications for generations to come. The European AI Fund wanted to ensure that at this moment of profound transformation, civil society could advocate for the public interest. Beginning in February 2021 and running until December 2021, the European AI Fund funded six organisations to monitor, analyse and challenge Europe's tech response to the pandemic.

TECH & COVID GRANTEES FEBRUARY 2021-DECEMBER 2021	
AlgorithmWatch	Civil Liberties Union for Europe
Ada Lovelace Institute	Global Data Justice Project
BIRN	Superrr Lab

Our partners have published their findings over the past year, revealing some common trends. These included the deployment of technologies without adequate policy guidance and safeguards, and without evidence that they even work. They also observed the normalisation of the use of invasive technologies which continued beyond the immediate needs of pandemic limitation, as well as the capture of public infrastructure by companies developing and implementing these technologies. Finally, they saw an increase in exposure and vulnerability to wider digital harms. A summary of these findings is available on our website. More details on the projects are listed in the Annex at the end of this report.

CONNECTING THE ECOSYSTEM

Civil society is greater than the sum of its parts, which is why we support our grantees to build relationships with each other, collaborate on mutual goals and be generous in learning from one another. We also work to understand what skills could help our grantees be more effective, and offer tailored learning workshops and additional small grants to assist them in addressing their specific development needs. We call this our Funding + approach.

In 2022, our workshops focused on centring relationships and working effectively with institutions, understanding timelines and timing in EU policy efforts, and leveraging networks within specific campaigns and across longer horizons. Four of our grantees also used additional development grants of up to €5,000 for coordination meetings and training.

In November, we co-hosted an event with our sister fund, Civitates, that brought together 40 people from among our grantees to foster connections and identify the best ways to support each other. Along with participants from our funding partners, they exchanged inspirational ideas for collective action from sectors like the climate movement, gained insights into EU advocacy strategies, and reflected on the infrastructure that is needed to better work together. The event (which was the first time many of the participants had been able to meet in person) created fantastic energy and generated many promising ideas . We shared some of the main themes in this blogpost.

FURTHER ACTIVITIES

Our 2022 strategy identified two further objectives. Firstly, to support actors that can envision alternative futures for what Europe's digital transformation can look like, and second, to bring greater transparency and accountability to the €20 billion that Europe is planning to invest in AI annually.

We supported Superrr Lab to host a Digital Futures Gathering which brought together more than 50 independent researchers, activists and civil society practitioners to imagine what just and sustainable digital futures can look like and develop collaborative strategies to work towards them. In 2023 we will design a programme of work based around these findings. We also appointed Eticas, a Spanish think-tank with expertise in AI and European funding mechanisms, to undertake research into the EU investments landscape. We will publish a report of the findings in early 2023.

WORKING WITH OUR FUNDING PARTNERS

"Limelight Foundation is glad to be able to contribute to the European AI Fund. The Fund has presented us with a unique opportunity to help grow work on AI in Europe: by joining forces with other funders, we have been able to help include voices that are directly and negatively affected by AI, in a manner that we wouldn't have had the capacity for on our own. Furthermore, the AI Fund has offered a space to learn from the expertise of both the team and its unique alliance of foundations."

PARTNERS	
Bertelsmann Stiftung	Mozilla Foundation
Charles Stewart Mott Foundation	Oak Foundation
Fondation Nicolas Puech	Open Society Foundations
Ford Foundation	Porticus
King Baudouin Foundation	Robert Bosch Foundation
Limelight Foundation	Stiftung Mercator
Luminate	

The European AI Fund is a collaborative fund where philanthropic foundations come together to pool their resources to support our mission. Since the Fund's foundation in 2020, our partners have contributed almost €5.5 million to help us grow the civil society ecosystem working to shape the future direction of AI in Europe.

In 2022 we were delighted to welcome Limelight Foundation as the Fund's 13th funding partner. Limelight is an independent philanthropic foundation based in the Netherlands that supports a strong and free information ecosystem in the digital age. We are excited to be among the first organisations to be supported by this newly-founded initiative and to benefit from the insights of its experienced team.

Each of our partners participates in our Steering Committee which helps set the strategic direction of our work. For the first time in the Fund's existence, in 2022, the committee was able to hold hybrid meetings at which our partners could finally meet in person. In May, we focused on our 2022 priorities and the Fund's growth strategy. In October, we discussed our 2023-25 strategy and approved funding for the new grantees. Both meetings featured presentations by our grantees and

offered opportunities for our partners to discuss their work. Becky Hogge of Open Society Foundations stood down as co-chair in May. In October, Carla Hustedt of Stiftung Mercator was elected as new co-chair, joining Mark Surman of Mozilla Foundation.

Many of our partners were active and engaged participants in the Open Call selection process through the summer of 2022. Alongside five external experts, they brought invaluable expertise, careful deliberation and passionate advocacy to the application process. Thanks to their commitment, we have selected a truly diverse and exciting group of organisations to support.
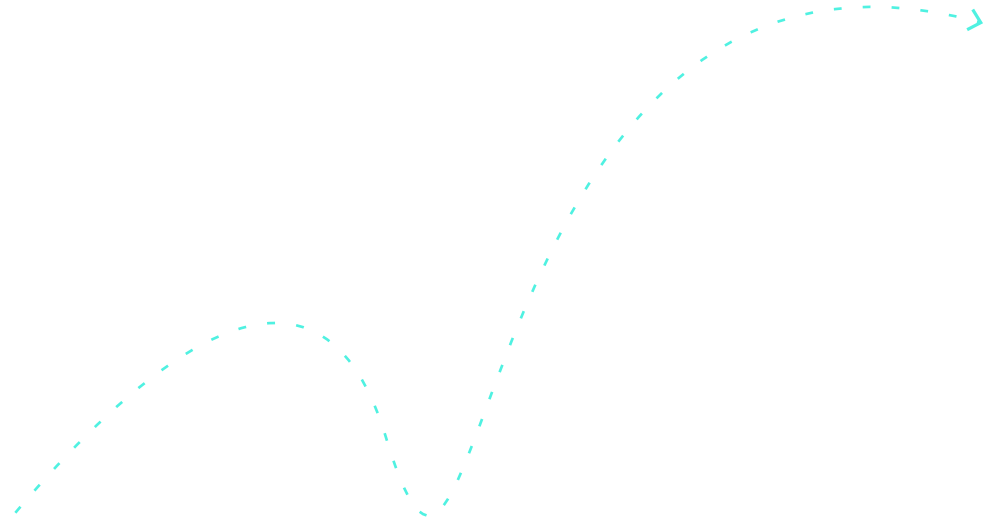
We are committed to sharing our expertise with the wider philanthropic sector. In 2022, we co-hosted a session at RightsCon to workshop ways that funders can better support digital civil society as well as participating in Tech and Climate funders' meetings and funder collaborations on platform accountability.

GROWTH STRATEGY

The Fund is reaching the end of its initial phase of operations. Over the past two years, we have built up our operations and established our credibility, supporting more than 30 organisations with almost €4.3 million across three funding calls and securing contributions from 13 partner foundations.

In May 2022, the Steering Committee agreed to renew support for the Fund for at least another three years, with an ambition to increase previous commitments by at least 20%, as well as bring on board at least two more partner foundations.

WHAT WE'VE LEARNED IN 2022

As a young and small organisation working in a fast-moving landscape, we're continuously evaluating our work to make sure we're being as effective as possible in achieving our mission.

INSIGHTS FROM THE 2022 OPEN CALL

This year we ran our second Open Call for funding which provided an opportunity to learn from previous experience and explore new approaches.

We wanted to reach a wide range of organisations from different geographies and backgrounds so we kept the application process as lightweight as possible. The first stage consisted of a short concept note complemented by information sessions to ask questions about the funding. We received 143 applications from 33 countries – reaching much further than our previous Open Call. We invited 32 applicants to the second stage and follow up with a more detailed application. Of these, we offered nine smaller organisations mentoring to support their proposal writing.

We received positive feedback from applicants about the ease and transparency of the process. However, we also recognise that delivering this Open Call to a tight timetable put a lot of pressure on our team as well as the evaluators from our partner foundations and external experts. We've shared our reflections in this blogpost.

COMMUNICATING WITH OUR NETWORKS

The Fund continues to share updates via a monthly newsletter, which now has over 500 subscribers, as well as on Twitter and LinkedIn. Each month we interview one of our grantees to raise awareness of their work. Grantees and funding partners are members of an email list where they can easily exchange relevant information with one another.

REALISING EQUITY THROUGH OUR FUNDING PRACTICES

We work across diverse geographies and cultures. Structural oppression manifests differently in different contexts and there is no single understanding of what this means. To better understand this, we asked applicants to our 2022 Open Call to share their approach to diversity, equity and inclusion. We are currently analysing the responses to understand how our communities understand and tackle structural oppression and build our approach from there.
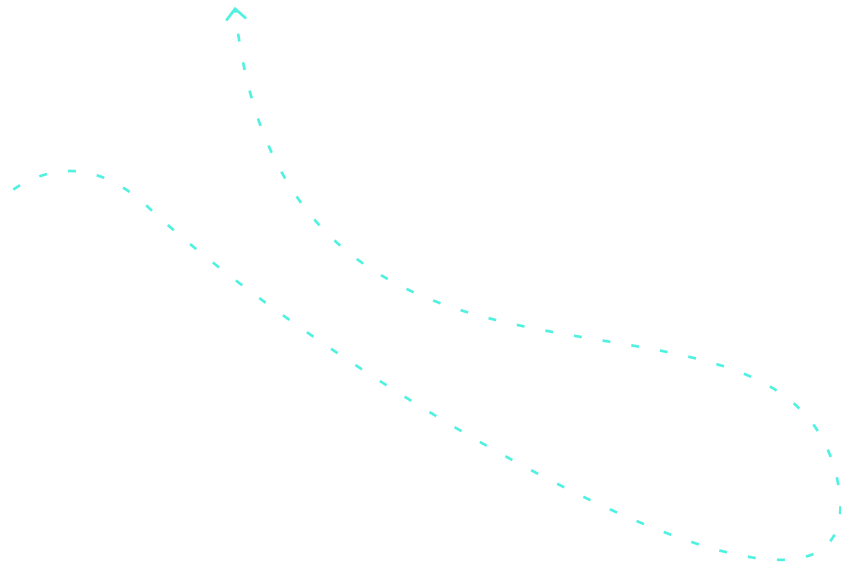
To deepen our knowledge and exchange best practices, the Fund's management team is a member of the PEX Racial Equity working group. We also participate in the Racial Justice X Philanthropy Dialogues for Europe organised by Ariadne.

We are pleased that discussions on diversity, equity and inclusion are part of the discourse across the NEF team and we continue to benefit from workshops commissioned by the consultancy, Next Level.

FOSTERING OPENNESS

We recognise the relationship between funders and grantees has inherent power imbalances and seek to minimise their impact across our work. Feedback from surveys and check-in calls indicates that our grantees appreciate our light administrative processes, as well as the Fund's flexibility. One of the grantees mentioned that they have never before had a funder who was as attentive to their needs as the Fund.

OBJECTIVES FOR 2023 AND BEYOND

Over the past year, we've been planning ahead. As we look towards the next phase of our work, we will build on our experiences as well as research like the landscape mapping we commissioned to make strategic choices about where the Fund can be most effective and what can be achieved with the resources available. In the period 2023-25 we will focus on three objectives:

Objective 1: A greater number and more diverse range of civil society organisations have the capacity and skills to effectively engage and secure tangible impact on policy around AI.

What success will look like:

- Funded and participant civil society organisations report an improvement in policy and advocacy capacity.
- Funded and participant civil society organisations are more visible in debates on AI (media appearances, meetings with policymakers, references by policymakers).
- Policy recommendations made by funded and participant organisations are adopted.

Objective 2: A greater number and more diverse range of philanthropic institutions are engaged in sustaining civil society work in Europe on policy related to AI.
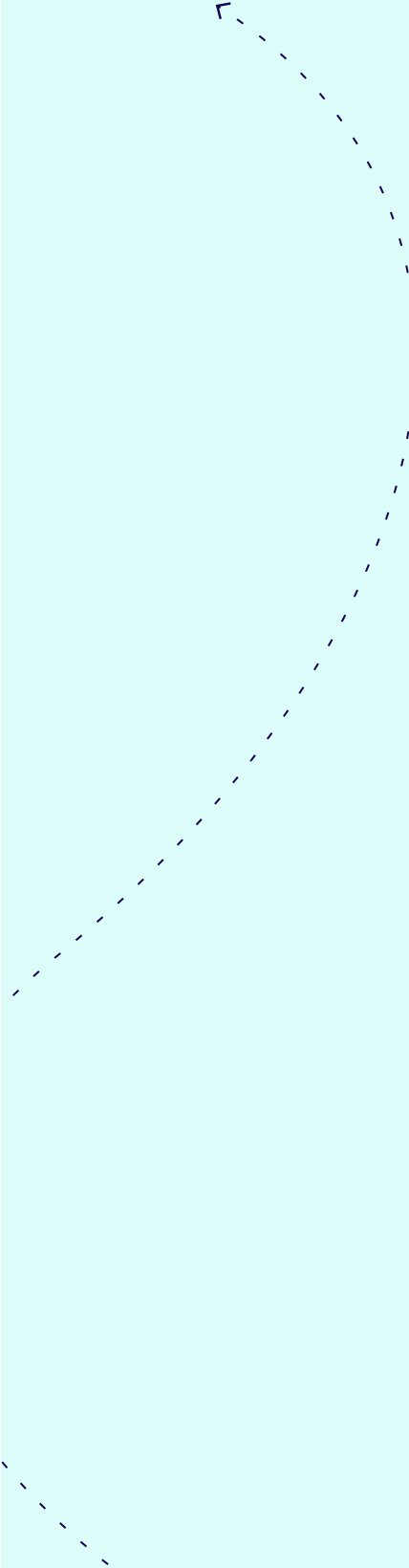
What success will look like:

- We have at least 14 active partners in the European AI Fund and we increase our income to €2.675 million annually.
- There are clear routes for potential funding for the existing cohorts, once the Fund's support finishes.
- More foundations in Europe have strategies that aim to support civil society in shaping AI in the interests of people and society.
- The Fund's partners initiate at least two additional collaborations in the 2023-25 period.
- We establish communication with a wider range of philanthropic organisations and are an active participant in philanthropic networks.

Objective 3: The European AI Fund is a valuable participant in shaping a landscape in which civil society work on AI can thrive.

What success will look like:

- The Fund is recognised for its expertise in the AI landscape and is a useful resource for both civil society organisations and funders.
- The Fund can clearly articulate its approach to structural oppression, has practical ways of implementing it and shares its learnings with the field.
- The Fund practises and models modern grant-making that serves the needs of grantee and funder partners and shares its learnings with the field.

LOOKING AHEAD

The European AI Fund's goal of a thriving civil society ecosystem that works to shape the future direction of AI is no longer just an idea. In 2022 we have seen it coming to life through the work of diverse civil society organisations joining to make common cause – in campaigns that made headlines, in successful litigation cases and in changes wrought in legislation.

We are encouraged to see the seeds sown at the inception of the Fund bearing fruit. But while we celebrate our successes, we know there is more to do. Technological innovation moves fast and AI is already changing people's lives. We are strengthened by finding more and more partners who share our mission and are joining our community. We look forward to working together to shape the path ahead.

FINANCIAL REPORTING

INCOME	BUDGET 2022	RECEIVED
Bertelsmann	€ 50.000,00	€ 50.000,00
Charles Stewart Mott Foundation	€ 44.056,04	€ 44.056,04
Fondation Nicolas Puech	€ 200.000,00	€ 200.000,00
Ford Foundation	€ 87.921,65	€ 87.921,65
Ford Foundation Addition	€ 22.607,30	€ 22.607,30
King Baudoin Foundation	€ 175.000,00	€ 175.000,00
Limelight Foundation	€ 250.000,00	€ 250.000,00
Luminate	€ 277.210,63	€ 227.210,63
Mozilla	€ 233.262,12	€ 233.262,12
Oak Foundation	€ 200.000,00	€ 200.000,00
Open Society Foundation	€ 594.884,00	€ 594.884,00
Porticus	€ 150.000,00	€ 150.000,00
Robert Bosch Foundation	€ 150.000,00	€ 150.000,00
Stiftung Mercator	€ 250.000,00	€ 250.000,00
TOTAL INCOME	**€ 2.634.942,00**	**€ 2.634.942,00**
CARRY FORWARD 2021	**€ 1.992.510,13**	**€ 1.992.510,13**

BUDGET	BUDGET	PAID
	Budget 2022	Budget 2022
1. Operation		
1.1. Grants	€ 2.063.605,00	€ 2.105.871,03
1.2. Convenings of grantees partners	€ 45.000,00	€ 42.494,11
1.3. Consultancy/Research (mapping…)	€ 17.000,00	€ 18.223,14
1.4. Communication	€ 33.000,00	€ 4.588,64
1.5. Evaluation	€ 18.000,00	€ -
1.6. Funding+	€ 60.000,00	€ 20.590,00
SUB TOTAL OPERATION	**€ 2.236.605,00**	**€ 2.191.766,92**

BUDGET	BUDGET		PAID	
	Budget 2022		Budget 2022	
2. Staff and administration	€	189.000,00	€	197.433,48
2.1.1. AI Fund Programme Officer	€	189.000,00	€	197.433,48
2.1.2. Others	€	-	€	-
2.2. Admin & Cost	€	57.066,00	€	70.665,02
2.2.1. Coordination meeting	€	3.500,00	€	5.359,66
2.2.2. Traveling Secretariat/Prge Officer	€	6.500,00	€	3.508,61
2.2.3. NEF - cost contribution	€	40.000,00	€	40.000,00
2.2.4. Miscellaneous and Bankcosts	€	7.066,00	€	21.796,75
SUB TOTAL ADMINISTRATION	€	246.066,00	€	268.098,50

TOTAL BUDGET	BUDGET		PAID	
	€	2.482.671,00	€	2.459.865,42

CARRY FORWARD		€	2.167.586,45
CASH FLOW		€	2.167.586,45

ANNEX

OPEN CALL 2021 GRANTEES
(APRIL 2021 – APRIL 2023)

Access Now Europe	Belgium	€133,333
AlgorithmWatch	Germany	€173,333
ANEC – The European Consumer Voice in Standardisation	Belgium	€66,666
European Digital Rights (EDRi)	Belgium	€160,000
European Network Against Racism (ENAR)	Belgium	€120,000
European Patients' Forum	Belgium	€120,000
European Sex Workers' Rights Alliance (ESWA)	Belgium	€106,666
Foxglove Legal (Foxglove)	UK	€120,000
Friends of the Earth Europe, FIAN International, and the Centre for Agroecology, Water and Resilience at Coventry University (CAWR)	Belgium	€100,000
Glitch	UK	€208,576
Health Action International (HAI)	Belgium	€160,000
Irish Council for Civil Liberties	Ireland	€160,000
Mnemonic	Germany	€133,333
Moje Państwo Foundation	Poland	€106,666
Panoptykon Foundation	Poland	€80,166
Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants (PICUM)	Belgium	€160,000

Access Now

Access Now defends and extends the digital rights of users at risk around the world. By combining direct technical support, comprehensive policy engagement, global advocacy, grassroots grant making, legal interventions and convenings such as RightsCon, Access Now fights for human rights in the digital age. Their Brussels team has promoted the organisation's programmatic goals in the European context on issues such as AI and data protection by advancing legislative processes, empowering users and holding the private sector accountable.

With the support of the European AI Fund, Access Now has exerted significant influence on discussion around the regulation of AI in the EU and beyond. Building on their joint civil society statement in November 2021, "An EU Artificial Intelligence Act for Fundamental Rights", Access Now has worked in close coalition with other civil society organisations to tackle the work issue by issue. They've engaged in behind-the-scenes advocacy, and in the European Parliament, Access Now has seen success across the board, with all of their amendments being tabled – in many cases by one or both of the co-rapporteurs in the IMCO-LIBE committees, as well as MEPs across most political groups. One of their most significant achievements has been to mainstream the debate about prohibitions in the AI Act, which they achieved by working in coalition with a variety of other civil society organisations.

AlgorithmWatch

AlgorithmWatch is the leading civil society organisation in the field of social impact of automated decision-making (ADM) and AI-based systems. The mission of AlgorithmWatch is to protect peoples' rights and strengthen the common good in the face of increased use of algorithmic systems. This is done by analysing effects of ADM / AI-based processes on human behaviour, pointing out ethical conflicts and explaining the characteristics and effects of these complex processes to a general public. To maximise the benefits of ADM / AI for society, AlgorithmWatch builds coalitions with different communities and disciplines, as well as co-develops ideas and strategies to achieve the responsible and benevolent use of ADM / AI-based systems – with a mix of technologies, regulation, and suitable oversight institutions.

AlgorithmWatch has established and deepened relations to other important stakeholders, first and foremost the CSOs of the AI core group, but also politicians, high-level administration officials and other CSOs. In their advocacy efforts, they are pushing for a EU-wide ban on biometric recognition technology that enables mass surveillance. They have jointly produced a civil society joint statement "An EU Artificial Intelligence Act for Fundamental Rights" which was signed by 123 organizations. This statement has been the foundation of their advocacy work since then. For a long time, AlgorithmWatch was the only NGO in Germany focusing on the AI Act and provided crucial insights regarding the German position.

ANEC – European consumer voice in standardisation

ANEC is the European consumer voice in standardisation. As one of only three EU-appointed not for profit organisations able to directly intervene in standardisation processes, ANEC represents the consumer interest of all Europeans in the creation and application of technical standards, market surveillance and enforcement, accreditation, and conformity assessment schemes. ANEC works with European Standardisation bodies CEN-CENELEC and ETSI to directly shape the standards that will underpin key European laws and public policies for consumers.

By engaging a consumer AI expert, ANEC has influenced the AI standardisation process both at the technical and policy levels. In addition to successes in CEN-CENELEC JTC 21 on AI, WG 1 Strategic Advisory Group and WG4 on AI Trustworthiness, they have recently secured the inclusion of an ANEC-provided diagram of the consumer product lifecycle into the submitted new work item proposal on AI Trustworthiness. The diagram shows the known additional detail needed beyond the existing AI international standards (ISO-IEC JTC1 SC42) for a consumer products lifecycle using AI. The work of WG4 promises to be fruitful in highlighting what we need for consumer trustworthiness in AI. ANEC is currently mapping out trustworthiness 'observables' throughout a product lifecycle. ANEC was also able to influence the content of the draft EC Standardization Request on Artificial Intelligence in terms of inclusiveness of the standardisation process. Their other stand of their work is about raising awareness and capacity building on standardisation at large. ANEC successfully held capacity building webinars for ANEC staff and civil society experts, providing an introduction to how AI-enabled technology works and its impact on a wide range of consumer products and services and what to consider when building advocacy positions and the role of standards.

European Digital Rights

The European Digital Rights (EDRi) network is a dynamic and resilient collective of civil rights organisations, experts, advocates and academics based across 19 countries, working to defend and advance digital rights and freedoms. Its mission is to challenge private and state actors who abuse their power to control or manipulate the public. EDRi does this by advocating for robust laws and their enforcement, informing and mobilising people, promoting a healthy, accountable technology market and building a movement of organisations and individuals committed to digital rights and freedoms in a connected world.

The support of the European AI Fund contributed to sustaining the work of EDRi Policy colleagues leading on AI Act advocacy, as well as supporting coalition-building and network coordination by providing the necessary core support for other teams. Due to the funding extension, EDRi could offer direct financial support to the work of EDRi members and partners active in the European AI Act coalition. Finally, the Fund's support meant EDRi could dedicate resources to expanding the knowledge base on AI and bias through commissioning research. EDRi's advocacy efforts push for a fundamental rights-based approach to AI regulation, ensuring all people are protected from harmful AI use. Their work methods include direct advocacy to EU institutions and governments, campaigning and public awareness and, importantly, coordinating civil society organisations to channel advocacy on the AI Act around fundamental rights issues. EDRI's work has had a great impact on the European Parliament's position with regards to the AI Act.

European Network Against Racism

ENAR is a 150+ member, pan-European anti-racism network combining advocacy for racial equality and facilitating cooperation among civil society anti-racism actors in Europe. It was set up in 1998 by grassroots activists to achieve legal and policy changes at European level and drive progress towards racial equality in all EU Member States. ENAR works to bring to an end to structural racism and discrimination, strengthen the sense of safety and security for racialised people, and to strengthen the resilience and solidarity of the network and the wider anti-racism movement across Europe. ENAR strives to create safe spaces for racialised people and CSOs and amplify the antiracism voice in Europe.

Due to delays in recruitment, the work under this project was postponed and got under way in September 2022, with the appointment of a new Policy and Advocacy Advisor.

European Patients' Forum

The European Patients' Forum (EPF) is one of the most prominent civil society organisations active in health policy at European level, representing the collective voice of the estimated 150 million patients living with various chronic diseases throughout Europe. EPF is an umbrella organisation of patient organisations across the EU and a driving force to advance patient empowerment and involvement in EU health policy debates, aiming to ensure equitable access to high-level, patient-centred care for all patients in Europe. Founded in 2003 and based in Brussels, EPF engages in policy advocacy and campaigning, and participates in EU-funded projects, organising educational and policy events, and capacity-building initiatives.

The support from the European AI Fund has helped EPF inform and empower the Secretariat and EPF members on AI in healthcare, putting them on a better footing to enact change in healthcare policy. They hosted a parallel session on AI at their Congress in June 2022, presenting EPF's view on AI in healthcare to policy makers and stakeholders, and included an expert led 'serious game', designed to help delegates be aware of real-life scenarios and decide for or against the use of AI solutions for patients at each step. Overall, the AI Fund's support has created a knowledge core within the EPF team on AI, as well as a valuable network of contacts amongst the academic and expert community, gaining more visibility with stakeholders on the topic, including participation in the European Commission's regular E-Health Stakeholder Group meetings, and various speaking invitations. The work that they achieved so far provides a strong foundation for their patient community towards achieving patient centric AI in healthcare, as the patient voice has been more present and visible on the topic and our community benefits from the capacity building to enact effect change at national level and have a robust voice in identifying the levels of risk in AI in healthcare.

European Sex Workers' Rights Alliance (ESWA)

The European Sex Workers' Rights Alliance is a regional network of more than 100 organisations providing services to sex workers and advocating for sex workers' rights in Europe and Central Asia. ESWA is sex worker-led and aim to challenge repressive laws and policies that impact sex workers' human rights in particular in regard to the access to health and justice.

Support from the European AI Fund has been used to kick-start its programme on the Digital Rights of Sex Workers. Digitalisation and the consequent impact of the new technologies have changed sex work and brought up new threats that ESWA has been working on identifying and building strategies to counter them. With the AI Fund's support, ESWA has organised capacity/movement building meetups, as well as a members' Congress, bringing 200+ sex workers and allies from 20 countries in Europe and Central Asia which featured 27 workshops, a public conference and an event at the European Parliament over 4 days in October 2022. They have also conducted advocacy and alliance building activities, and published two community reports, and built new and ongoing partnerships and collaborations with other human rights organisations working on digital rights issues. ESWA has also worked extensively on EU policy developments such as the EU AI Act, DSA, Europol and CSAM regulation.

Foxglove

Foxglove is a UK-based non-profit that works to build a world where the use of technology is fair for everyone. When the powerful misuse technology to oppress or exclude, Foxglove investigates, litigates and campaigns to fix it. Support from the European AI Fund helped Foxglove reach new allies within the Amazon warehouses during a summer of protests, get their stories into the press and launch solidarity campaigns, highlighting the injustice of Amazon's risible 35p pay offer during the cost-of-living crisis. Foxglove have also been supporting Amazon workers in Germany to work up test case legal challenges. The first case will challenge the algorithmic micromanagement of Amazon workers, which harms their physical health and results in them peeing in bottles. Foxglove also worked with Organise to launch an open letter signed by more than 200 workers to raise concerns about the harm that Prime Day does to workers.

When Time Magazine ran a front page exposé on Facebook's moderation hub for East Africa, Foxglove were able to act on behalf of whistle-blower Daniel Motaung, a brave content moderator who lost his job for organising his colleagues to stand up to worker oppression. Foxglove selected a Kenyan counsel and filed a world-first constitutional challenge in the Kenyan courts on Daniel's behalf, challenging Facebook (Meta) and their outsourcing company Sama for forced labour, human-trafficking and union-busting. In response, Facebook tried to silence them, threatening

Daniel and Foxglove with criminal contempt, which they successfully resisted with the help of an EU-led coalition of 80 groups (their allies, People vs Big Tech). The case in Kenya is a world first and could force change for content moderators around the globe, including thousands of workers in Europe. In addition, the AI Fund's grant enabled Foxglove to support the Greater Manchester Coalition of Disabled People to challenge the UK's Department of Work and Pension's use of a secretive algorithm which unfairly flags disabled people for benefits fraud. Foxglove continue to collaborate with and learn from other groups in Europe bringing similar cases and challenging similar algorithms.
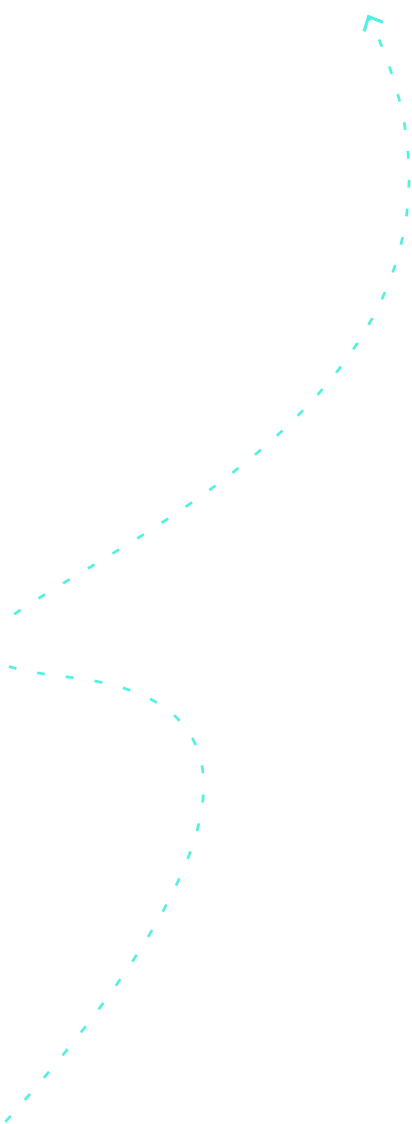
Friends of the Earth Europe (FOEE), FIAN International, and the Centre for Agroecology, Water and Resilience at Coventry University (CAWR)

Friends of the Earth Europe (FOEE) is the largest grassroots environmental network in Europe, uniting more than 30 national organisations. FOEE work towards environmental, social, economic and political justice, equal access to resources and opportunities on the local, national, regional and international levels, and seek to increase public participation and democratic decision-making.

FIAN international is a pioneering human rights organisation in the field of economic and social rights. FIAN supports affected communities in their struggles for food and dignity. FIAN has consultative status with the UN and national sections of six European countries.

The Centre for Agroecology, Water and Resilience at Coventry University (CAWR) is a research centre with vast experience in scientific and policy research on sustainable food systems and the development of transdisciplinary methodologies and deliberative democratic processes for agriculture and food knowledges.

The support from the European AI Fund has enabled the coalition of FOEE, FIAN International and CAWR to kickstart exchanges on AI/ADM among organisations active in the food movement in Europe. With a few noticeable exceptions, the debate on digital farming focuses mainly on the potential benefits of how AI could improve the economic and environmental performance of agriculture. Few civil society organisations have raised concerns about how digitalisation can lead to greater corporate control and reduce farmers' autonomy. Through interviews, a series of informal online meetings and well-attended structured workshops (including a public-facing workshop with over a hundred participants at the UN Food Systems (UNFSS) counter summit), the coalition was able to facilitate knowledge exchange and relationship building with actors working on agri-food, and technology and digitalisation experts such as the Institute for Technology in the Public Interest. These activities have clarified that European legislation, including the DSA, DMA and AI Act, will impact the farming sector even

though they did not set specific rules for the farming sector. If AI and its regulation are shaped without listening to the voices of marginalised groups such as small-scale food producers, it risks further cementing inequalities and discrimination that are already damaging food systems and ecosystems at large.

Glitch

Glitch is a UK charity committed to ending the abuse of women and marginalised people online. Through workshops, training, reports and programmes, Glitch equips the intersectional community to become the digital citizens we need in the world today. From grassroots to systemic change, Glitch advocates for an online world that is a safe space for all.
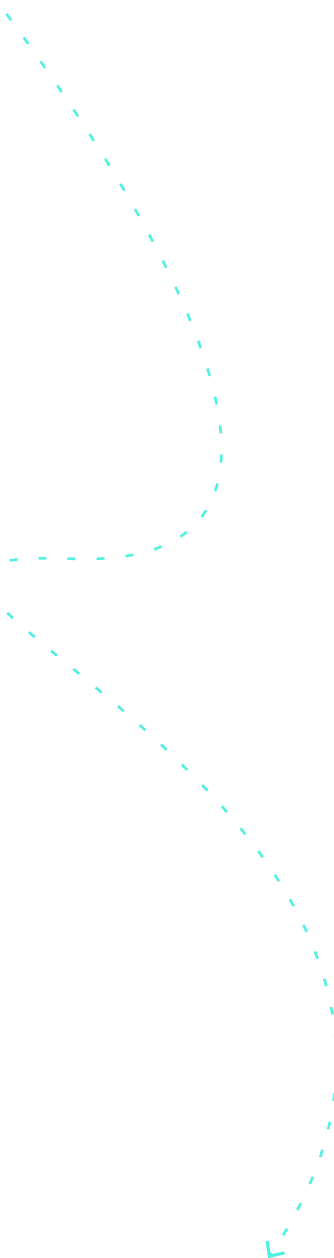
The AI Fund's grant enabled Glitch to recruit and onboard a Head of Policy, Research and Campaigns, thereby adding capacity, expertise and strategic oversight to the team, and facilitated the commission of "Artificial Intelligence & Online and Technology-facilitated Gender-Based Violence: An EU Landscape Analysis", a report providing insights into current gaps around intersectional AI policy. Glitch has completed scoping analysis of the AI Act to identify two strategic points for their expertise to support Black women and other marginalised groups across Europe: deepfake image abuse, and user redress from AI harm (outside of the criminal justice system). Over the funding period, Glitch developed partnerships with other cohort members ENAR and EDRi, and are supporting sector efforts on Emotion Recognition and Predictive Policing prohibitions.

Health Action International (HAI)

Health Action International (HAI) is an independent non-profit organisation. It conducts research and advocacy to advance policies that enable access to safe, effective, affordable and quality-assured medicines and rational medicine use for everyone, everywhere. HAI focuses on creating long-lasting changes to government and industry policies and practices, rather than on temporary solutions.

In the context of information asymmetries, the importance of civil society having a voice on human rights and public health to balance out corporate interests has become clear. The grant from the European AI Fund has enabled HAI to find its voice, establish expertise in the area of AI and, as their capacity grows, increase awareness of issues at the intersection of AI policy and health.

HAI has been analysing the impact of the AI Act on AI that is used in healthcare, and have developed a report and advocacy materials as result. They have used these materials in advocacy meetings with MEPs and their assistants and have suggested amendments to strengthen

the regulation of health-related AI. Several amendments were tabled by GUE/NGL, the Verts/ALE and ECR. As a result of HAI's work, the implications of the AI Act on healthcare, which were sorely neglected, have received more attention. Several MEPs acknowledged they lacked expertise, which is why they did not actively negotiate concerns in this field and were inclined to take on recommendations from the powerful pharmaceutical and MedTech lobby, who advocate for deregulation and the exclusion of health AI and medical devices from the Act. Alongside this, the grant has enabled HAI to grow a network of organisations through meetings and public talks. These efforts are starting to yield concrete outcomes. Together with the Department of Global Health and Social Medicine at King's College London, HAI has applied for a CASE Studentship PhD opportunity. The grant also enabled them to join the European Medicines Agency's (EMA) Pharmacovigilance Risk Assessment Committee's Multistakeholder Drafting Group for a Reflection Paper on Digital Support to Risk Minimisation Measures and Their Effectiveness Evaluation (which is a lengthy way of naming a group which will advise on the guidance EMA should develop on the use of digital tools for providing patient information).

Irish Council for Civil Liberties (ICCL)

ICCL is Ireland's leading independent human rights organisation. Fully independent of business and government, ICCL has been at the forefront of progressive grassroots change in Ireland since its founding and its work is rooted in international human rights legal and policy expertise.

The AI Fund's support enabled ICCL to develop new technical expertise, with which they identified and corrected critical flaws in the AI Act that would have severely undermined the protection of people and their fundamental rights. These errors had not been identified by other organisations or by the co-legislators. They succeeded in correcting these flaws because official and legislators across the political spectrum have come to respect ICCL's technical insight and forensic amendments. ICCL has been invited to brief all major European Parliament parties. Their recommendations have been taken on board by all of them, in more than 100 amendments. ICCL will work with the European Parliament and the Council to strengthen the Liability Directives further.

Mnemonic

Mnemonic works globally to help human rights defenders effectively use digital documentation of human rights violations and international crimes to support advocacy, justice and accountability.

The support provided by the European AI Fund has helped Mnemonic work with national and EU level policymakers in multi-stakeholder forums and conduct direct advocacy through coalitions. The Fund supported Mnemonic's work on three counts: shaping and influencing

public and policy discourse around AI and ADM governance at the European and national level, raising awareness mainly around content removals, and engaging in coalition work on content moderation.

As part of the DSA Human Rights Alliance, alongside other civil society organisations, Mnemonic pushed for valuable changes in the DSA to ensure that the final version better safeguards the freedoms, rights and safety of users. These included: 1) Transparency reporting and having social media platforms report on the use of automation for content moderation, specify its precise purposes, and explain how they determine if it is accurate; 2) Requiring that platforms notify users when content has been "demoted" or is subject to other measures; and 3) Including special requirements for very large online platforms (VLOPs) to carry out additional due diligence on the impacts of their moderation policies and operations. The European AI Fund also supported Mnemonic in increasing their organisational capacity to engage in the EU legislative process and in gaining further visibility within the European civil society space by engaging with coalitions.

Moje Państwo Foundation

Moje Państwo Foundation's mission is to strengthen citizens' right to access information, secure freedom of expression and tackle corruption. Moje Państwo wants governments to be transparent and accountable, including when using technology that impacts citizens' rights and obligations. Moje Państwo creates tools, and conducts research and strategic litigation that aims to increase transparency and civic participation. The organisation focuses mainly on Central and Eastern Europe but also conducts projects on a global scale.

Thanks to the European AI Fund's grant, Moje Państwo was able to develop its capacity as a European digital policy advocacy organisation. By attending conferences, discussions and workshops they have strengthened two main areas of competence. Firstly, the implementation and use of AI/ADM systems in the public sector and secondly, how to effectively influence policy at the national and EU level. Moje Państwo is now recognised as an expert in the field of the use of technology by the state. This is especially true because of their participation in the working groups on AI and on the strategic directions of data management, both of which operate at the Chancellery of the Prime Minister in Poland. The grant further enabled Moje Państwo to support public officials with their expertise, with two of their reports published on the government's AI portal in materials intended for the public sector. Their postulates, expressed as part of consultations or letters addressed to EU bodies, were partially noticed and appeared among the amendments to the AI Act as part of the legislative work. They also succeeded in a case to force the Polish Ministry of Justice to disclose the algorithm used to randomly allocate cases to judges in the common courts, the implications of which will be of real importance for public administration practices in terms of disclosing this type of information to citizens.

Panoptykon Foundation

Panoptykon Foundation is a Polish watchdog with a mission to protect fundamental rights in the context of growing surveillance and new technologies. The Foundation keeps an eye on those who collect and use personal data to influence people: public authorities, intelligence agencies, private corporations. Their experts keep track of new legislation, develop alternative regulatory solutions and intervene in strategic cases.

The grant enabled Panoptykon to engage in advocacy related to the AI Act both on the EU and national level. In particular, they engaged in an informal dialogue with industry and academic stakeholders who influence political process in the European Parliament and Polish position in the Council; they commissioned a survey that confirmed EU citizens' support for arguments formulated by civil society in the debate on AI Act; and hired political communication agency to design and carry out effective political communication in Brussels. Panoptykon's work had influence on positions taken by shadow rapporteurs in the European Parliament and Polish government in the Council. While it is still impossible to predict the final outcome of this complex political process they are glad that many of the ideas for amending the draft AIA pushed by Panoptykon along with other EDRi members are "on the negotiating table". Internally, Panoptykon managed to increase their capacity by recruiting a new staff member - a specialist with more than 10 years' experience in the field of human rights and technology to lead their work on the AI Act in 2023.

Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants (PICUM)

The Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants (PICUM) is a network organisation that seeks a world where human mobility is recognised as a normal reality, and where all people are guaranteed their human rights regardless of migration or residence status. Bringing together a broad range of experience and expertise, PICUM generates and coordinates a humane and informed response to undocumented migrants' realities and provides a platform for its members and partners to engage policy makers and the general public in the full realisation of their rights. Founded in 2001 as an initiative of frontline organisations to mobilise support for undocumented migrants, today PICUM leads a network of 164 civil society organisations in 31 countries.

Since PICUM has become a grantee, they have deepened partnerships with actors from digital rights and other sectors in collective advocacy on the AI Act (AIA), generally, and more specifically on migration and AI. This has involved collaboration on the preparation of a briefing and proposed amendments to the draft regulation; joint meetings with MEPs and their assistants; strategy and coordination calls; and the development of collective outputs. They have also expanded their engagement on digital rights to other parts of PICUM's work beyond the AIA, such as in the area
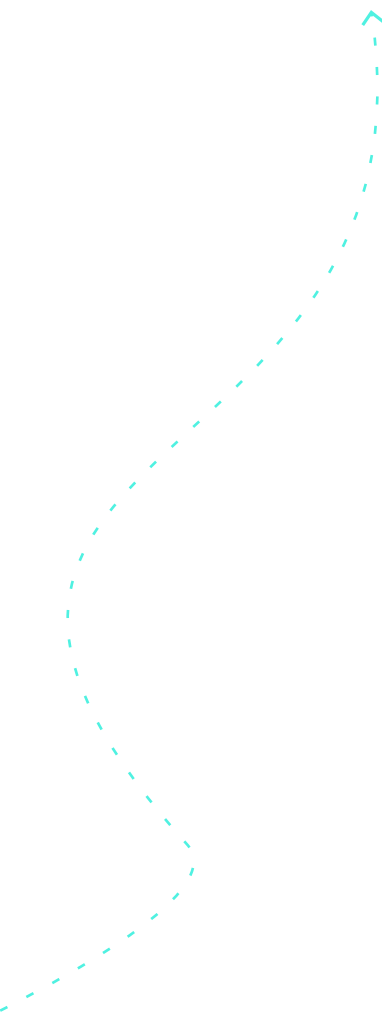
of child rights by facilitating constructive engagement with privacy and surveillance concerns through the lens of their work on undocumented children; and on labour rights, working with members and partners to understand and address the growing role of digital technologies for workplace control and implications for migrant workers. PICUM has continued to create and share tools and analysis that highlight the links between AI, technology and migration, and to articulate in different spaces and for different audiences the related impact and harms. Their contribution has, then, been in their participation in the collective advocacy on the AI Act and thus in shaping a shared analysis and approach; and their role in shaping understanding more generally of the intersection between tech and migration in ways that extend to other policy domains.

OPEN CALL 2022 GRANTEES
(NOVEMBER 2022 – NOVEMBER 2024)

Ada Lovelace Institute	UK	€88,000
Algorithm Audit	Netherlands	€79,700
Danes je nov dan (Today is a new day)	Slovenia	€107,200
Eticas Foundation	Spain	€247,196
EuroMed Rights	Denmark	€120,000
European Council of Autistic People (EUCAP)	Czech Republic	€42,600
European Disability Forum (EDF)	Belgium	€185,600
Fair Trials Europe (FTE)	Belgium	€144,933
Fundación Ciudadana Civio	Spain	€60,000
Gesellschaft für Freiheitsrechte (GFF)	Germany	€132,000
Global Health Advocates	France	€145,706
Homo Digitalis	Greece	€108,000
SHARE Foundation & Politiscope	Serbia	€194,000
Systemic Justice	Netherlands	€250,000

Ada Lovelace Institute

The Ada Lovelace Institute works to create a shared vision of a world where AI and data are mobilised for good, to ensure that technology improves people's lives. Its 2021-2024 Strategy lays out six strategic goals, one of which is to "rebalance power over data and AI". The Ada Lovelace Institute commits to developing, testing and proposing practical, regulatory and legal accountability mechanisms to rebalance power in data and AI systems. Europe is leading the world in approaches to data and AI regulation that foreground fundamental rights and societal benefits. The coming years will see ongoing conversation on implementation of the DSA, the DMA,

and the Data Governance Act, as well as debates about the Draft AI Act and the Draft Data Act, and a new proposal on AI liability. There remains much work to be done to ensure that AI and data regulation empowers people and creates a regulatory and economic ecosystem that justly and equitably delivers the benefits of new technologies while minimising risks and harms. Using their three interlinked approaches to shaping regulation – building evidence, convening diverse voices, and shaping policy and practice – over the next two years the Ada Lovelace Institute will pursue the following objectives: 1) Ensure that public and political debates on the AI Liability Directive and AI Act ("the AI Framework") and other relevant laws are well informed by interdisciplinary research into their implications and impact on people and society; 2) Support the effective implementation of the AI Framework through participation in and shaping of standard development mechanisms to ensure technical standards embed fundamental rights; and 3) Develop and advocate for audit, impact assessment and evaluation methodologies that can be used to ensure the effective implementation of regulation.

Algorithm Audit

Algorithm Audit is using a case-based approach to build and share public knowledge about ethical algorithms. The NGO forms independent audit commissions for advising on ethical issues emerging in concrete algorithmic practices, tests technical tools to detect and mitigate bias in practice, and conducts advocacy work by connecting international professionals and sharing knowledge with society and policy makers. Algorithm Audit enables the normative capabilities of humans to work in tandem with the scalable capacity of statistics to define fair AI on a case-by-case basis.

Danes je nov dan (Today is a new day)

Danes je nov dan (Today is a new day) is a Slovenian NGO that uses digital technology and the internet to create dialogue on public issues, facilitate participation and push for transparency. Their mission is to promote open data, responsible use of technology and participatory decision-making processes.

With its prolific AI/ADM research programmes, new UNESCO-backed International Research Centre on Artificial Intelligence, and the forthcoming implementation of the National Programme for the Promotion of Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence, Slovenia is experiencing a wave of excitement around AI. But the majority of discussions focus on the perspectives of researchers, engineers and politicians, to the exclusion of "non-technical" views. Anticipating the rollout of the first significant use cases of AI/ADM in the public sector which will set the ethical and legal foundation for future use, civil society must organise and devote substantial resources to this topic or risk being left at the margins of the debate.

To disrupt this worrying trend, Danes je nov dan will empower a diverse coalition of NGOs to become a key stakeholder in debates regarding the future of AI in Slovenia. Enhancing the technical expertise and coordination of these NGOs will bring more transparency and accountability to the use of AI/ADM in the public sector. This will be accomplished by responding to standard setting, the application of reference projects and the use of AI/ADM for various activities through a range of channels including soft law, awareness-building, media and public pressure in order to address specific cases with advocacy and strategic litigation among other approaches.

Eticas Foundation

Support from the AI fund will allow Eticas to consolidate, increase and make more visible its policy and advocacy efforts, including its initiatives with civil society organisations and work at the policy level in Spain and the EU. Specifically, it plans to focus on disseminating its work and experience on algorithmic audits (both internal and external), algorithmic leaflets, algorithmic registries, AI scores and certification mechanisms. These tools draw on historical examples of how society has negotiated complex technical innovations with significant social impacts, while also incorporating Eticas' experience in translating abstract commitments to fairness, transparency and accountability into technical specifications that can be embedded in product design and development. Eticas will enlarge the team and go beyond individual projects and initiatives to implement a strategic communications and impact strategy.

EuroMed Rights

The field of migration and asylum is being shaped by a security focus, with a growing interest in developing new technologies to manage migration flows and process asylum procedures. The EU, Frontex and some Member States are exploring the use of AI to manage external borders by predicting migration flows through the software ITFLOWS and automatically process asylum procedures (for example, by using AI to assess the credibility of asylum claims, enable face recognition, and attempt to identify the country of origin of Arab-speaking asylum seekers). However, there is very little transparency in the data used to train and deploy these technologies. What kind of data is collected, analysed and used to train AI asylum systems? Who develops and manages this data? What information may be ignored when creating harmonised and standardised procedures? And above all, what human rights violations could take place? EuroMed Rights will explore these questions by conducting research, advocacy, capacity building and outreach activities. With a network of 70 civil society organisations in 30 countries in the Euro-Mediterranean region, the geographical focus will be on the EU, on Member States at external borders, and countries on the southern shore of the Mediterranean. The work will focus on

two main themes: the use of AI in asylum procedures and the use of AI in monitoring migration flows. The main objectives are to increase transparency on the actors who develop and manage AI technologies for border management and the kind of data collected, ensure policies regulating the use of AI technologies in border management are based on human rights, increase accountability on the EU budget used on AI technologies for migration and asylum. The overall aim is to increase the capacity of EuroMed Rights and its members in the field, and make the public more aware of the issues at stake.

European Council of Autistic People (EUCAP)

The European Council of Autistic People (EUCAP) aims to build the capacity of autistic-led organisations in Europe to advocate for the rights of autistic people in all matters concerning AI. It will conduct a literature review, consultations and a multi-lingual survey to map existing AI research and technology that targets autism and better understand what kinds of application are beneficial and acceptable to autistic people. This knowledge will be used to inform autistic communities in Europe and train key volunteers within EUCAP's member organisations, providing them with the means to engage effectively with policymakers, legislators, researchers and industry representatives to convey the needs and wishes of autistic people. Increasing the direct involvement of autistic people in research and development, in a spirit of co-production, can bring benefits beyond just serving their specific needs. EUCAP will engage in networking and seek opportunities for partnerships beyond this two-year project to bring more of the positive potential and strengths of autistic people into the field of AI.

European Disability Forum (EDF)

With this project, the European Disability Forum (EDF) wants to make sure that European and national legislation regarding AI systems (including providers and users) include accessibility requirements and protect people with disabilities from discrimination and the violation of their rights. EDF will do this through multidimensional advocacy work at both the European and national levels. At the European level, EDF aims to build and strengthen the partnership between organisations working on the proposed AI Act (for example, EDRi, Global Disability Innovation Hub, Ethical AI Alliance, EurAI and Equinet). Complementing this will be EDF's advocacy work at the European Parliament, the Council of the European Union and the European Commission as well as relevant ministries in Member States and European and national standards organisations. EDF recognises the importance of being involved in standardisation processes by liaising with the ANEC (the European consumer voice in standardisation) and involvement in the development of European standards in support of the AI Act. This cannot be successful without building the disability movement's knowledge of and capacity in AI, so

a large part of the planned activities will be devoted to empowering EDF members in understanding AI, its risks and opportunities, and equipping them with the tools to advocate for ethical AI at the national level. The final part of the planned work will be to raise public awareness of ethical AI by creating a European and national campaign.
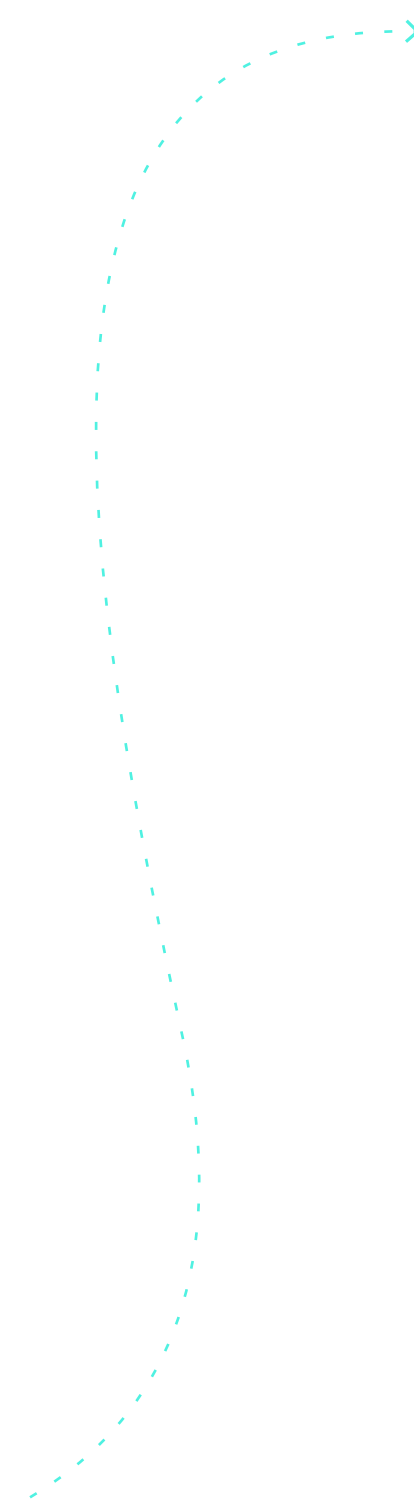
Fair Trials Europe (FTE)

Fair Trials Europe (FTE) ensures that European legislation on AI (whether EU, Council of Europe or national level) contains strong safeguards, including prohibitions on the most harmful types of AI applications in policing and the criminal justice systems. FTE's goal is that these safeguards are enforced at the national level and that, going forward, the public, civil society and those who are most impacted are vigilant of advances in this technology and able to challenge actual or potentially harmful uses. The grant from the European AI Fund will support FTE's work to: 1) Develop policy recommendations from the ground up via dialogue with affected people that builds on FTE's evidence-base to regulate the uses of AI in policing and criminal justice systems; 2) Mobilise policymakers to regulate AI systems in policing and criminal justice; and 3) Mobilise affected people, civil society and the public to enforce accountability in the uses of AI in policing and criminal justice.

Fundación Ciudadana Civio

Inside public administrations, a growing number of technical barriers, cumbersome or openly hostile application processes, and opaque algorithms are having a dramatic impact on welfare services, effectively cutting support for those who most need it, while allowing responsibility to be evaded due to decisions being attributed to "the algorithm". Three years ago, Civio started developing technical, organisational and legal capabilities to assess and control the increasing use of AI/ADM systems by Spanish public bodies. Civio did so while exposing the risks and flaws of one such system, BOSCO, which validates electricity subsidies applications. With the European AI Fund's grant, Civio will continue developing these skills in a structured and strategic manner, as opposed to their current best-efforts basis. Funding will enable Civio to monitor these issues consistently, detecting and reacting to government decisions as they happen – this at a critical time when EU regulation is being transposed and adapted into policies and strategies at the national level, and when civil society advocacy is needed to counteract the influence of big tech and hype. Funding will also support campaigning and outreach around their ongoing strategic litigation, and potentially additional cases, exposing flawed governmental arguments against transparency (for example, national security, copyright). Finally, through investigative journalism, Civio will make the impact and consequences of AI visible to people, identify and empower affected communities, and hold decision makers to account.

Gesellschaft für Freiheitsrechte (GFF)

Gesellschaft für Freiheitsrechte e.V. (GFF) promotes democracy and civil society, protects against disproportionate surveillance, and advocates for equal rights and social participation for everyone. Its strategic litigation efforts concern the use of ADM systems by state and private actors (for example, in immigration processes or online content moderation). With the help of the European AI Fund, GFF will strengthen its efforts to complement its litigation with advocacy work at a pivotal time in EU platform regulation. With the entry into force of the DSA, users of online platforms will gain unprecedented new means of enforcing their fundamental rights against platforms' increasingly automated content moderation processes. Whether those instruments will lead to a tangible increase in platform accountability will depend on the nature of their enforcement. Germany, as the largest Member State, will play a central role in DSA enforcement and other platform regulation. In 2023/2024, the current German centre-left government will embark on most of its legislative projects, including collective redress. It will also appoint a regulatory body to take on the role of DS Coordinator. The German position in the EU Council on the chat control proposal – a new form of preventive mass surveillance – is decisive on the use of error-prone AI filters as an obligation for online communications services, exposing millions of users to privacy invasions and the threat of being wrongfully suspected of serious crimes. GFF wishes to take an active role in these developments by promoting a fundamental rights-based approach to ADM systems and laying the groundwork for future effective litigation against restrictions on platform users' rights.

Global Health Advocates (GHA)

Global Health Advocates (GHA) is a 15 year-old French NGO which carries out political advocacy in France and with EU institutions to ensure that policies and resources are effectively addressing health inequalities. With the support of the European AI Fund, GHA plans to capitalise on existing coalition work and advocacy expertise in France to seize the AI policy agenda, document its impact on access to healthcare, monitor and challenge public investments and the implementation of AI policy, and ensure greater social accountability. This project will help build GHA's capacity, and that of its coalition, to create a civil society ecosystem capable of mobilising its forces to preserve the public interest when it comes to the implementation of AI in healthcare.

Homo Digitalis

Homo Digitalis was founded in 2018. It is the first and only digital rights civil society organisation in Greece, and is a proud member of the European Digital Rights (EDRi) network. Its goal is the protection of human rights and freedoms in the digital age. It strives to influence

legislators and policy makers on a national level, and raise awareness among the wider public regarding digital rights issues. When digital rights are jeopardised by public or private actors, Homo Digitalis carries out investigations, conducts studies and takes legal action. Homo Digitalis has a strong track record of successful action in the field of AI and human rights protection in Greece, enjoying victories, recognition and an important network of allies. However, its actions are conducted on a completely volunteer basis and this status limits its strategic impact and negatively affects the organisation's future development and sustainability. With the support of the European AI Fund, Homo Digitalis will be able to hire a full-time Director of AI Matters for two years, set up the framework necessary for transitioning to a full-time organisation and strategize sustainable future growth. The objective is to take a big step towards the transformation of Homo Digitalis into a strong human rights watchdog in the field of AI development and deployment, especially on matters related to technology-led policing and border management activities.

SHARE Foundation and Politiscope

SHARE Foundation and Politiscope's Monitoring AI-backed Surveillance Architectures (MASA) project aims to advocate for better human rights standards in the development and implementation of legislation around AI in Europe. In particular, countries in south-east Europe clearly lack capacity to implement AI systems in ways that takes human rights into account. At this critical juncture, when vital legislation is being developed, SHARE Foundation and Politiscope will join forces to monitor and advocate on the development and implementation of AI legislation, as well as existing, ongoing and planned AI projects in Serbia and Croatia. The ultimate hope is to develop a model that can be useful in other countries as well.

Systemic Justice

Technology harms society's most marginalised groups, whether through the AI-assisted policing of racialised groups and surveillance of people crossing borders, automated decision-making in social service provision, or countless other implementations. The project supported by this grant explores how technology and AI cause daily, systemic harms to marginalised groups across Europe, and seeks to disrupt and alleviate these harms by pioneering a new model of community-driven litigation. Simultaneously, Systemic Justice aims to inform the policy and advocacy work of organisations in Europe, forming partnerships with movements and collectives to build their power and knowledge and put communities in the driver's seat every step of the way.

TECH AND COVID GRANTEES
(FEBRUARY 2021 – DECEMBER 2021)

AlgorithmWatch	Germany	€44,825
Ada Lovelace Institute	UK	€45,000
Balkan Investigative Reporting Network (BIRN)	Bosnia and Herzegovina	€44,994
Civil Liberties Union for Europe	Belgium	€43,110
Global Data Justice project	Netherlands	€45,000
Superrr Lab	Germany	€38,800

AlgorithmWatch

AlgorithmWatch's Tracing the Tracers project created a digital platform to continuously monitor and analyse automated decision-making (ADM) systems used in response to the Covid-19 pandemic in Europe and beyond. They highlighted the multitude of devices, tools and solutions tested and adopted despite an absence of evidence of their effectiveness, and often with insufficient democratic debate.

Ada Lovelace Institute

The Ada Lovelace Institute researched the ethical, societal and human rights arguments around vaccination certificates and immunity passports and proposed a six-point roadmap for "a vaccine passport system that delivers societal benefit". They advocated for a pause on the roll-out of initiatives until an evidence based, publicly debated, ethical and sustainable approach to vaccine certification could be established that would not further exacerbate the disproportionate impact of the crisis on the most vulnerable.

Balkan Investigate Reporting Network (BIRN)

The Balkan Investigate Reporting Network (BIRN) supported ten reporters through its Digital Rights Programme for Journalists, established a Covid-19 Crisis Tech Response live feed to highlight digital abuses and published a comprehensive report on digital rights in the region, with a particular focus on the rise of far right and hate speech online and content removal.

Civil Liberties Union for Europe (Liberties)

The Civil Liberties Union for Europe (Liberties) conducted comprehensive research on how different European contact tracing apps work, what kind of data they collect and process, how efficient these apps are, how transparently they operate, and how the apps can worsen existing social problems.

Global Data Justice project, Tilburg University

Tilburg University's Global Data Justice Project explored technology-led and market-driven "sector transgressions", analysing how companies from the defence, intelligence and security sectors have pivoted to find new applications in areas such as health and education.

Superrr Lab

Superrr Lab examined the conceptualisation, development and deployment of digital public infrastructure in the fight against Covid-19, paying special attention to the role of digital civil society. They published a "Covid-19 Infrastructure Playbook" to help civil society organisations and governments navigate the ongoing digital transformation, be aware of the risks and opportunities, and act with public interest in mind.