European Artificial Intelligence & Society Fund

Annual report 2023

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Welcome
from the Director

2023 was the year that the world woke up to the AI challenge. In the space of 12 months, public debate shifted from astonishment at ChatGPT's ability to produce plausible-sounding texts on an infinite array of subjects, to a serious and consequential debate on the potential and risks of Artificial Intelligence for our societies. Initiatives around AI governance have mushroomed, and the year ended with European leaders agreeing the basis for the world's first comprehensive regulation of AI technologies, the European Union's AI Act.

The European AI & Society Fund community has played a pivotal role in these conversations. Many of our partners were engaged up to the very last minute of the marathon negotiations over the AI Act, demanding that human rights safeguards were not traded away. Thanks to their dedicated work in the face of intense industry lobbying, potentially significant measures, including fundamental rights impact assessments and redress procedures for people discriminated against by AI systems, were secured.

Our grantees have been working on other EU initiatives too, in areas such as health and workers' rights, as well as locally, for instance with Algorithm Audit's in-depth analysis of algorithmic profiling for welfare re-examination in Rotterdam, and internationally, such as Foxglove's fight for the rights of content moderators in Kenya. Through this work we see the investment that the Fund has made in supporting civil society over the past three years translating into tangible outcomes that secure the public interest.

This year our Ecosystem Programme of smaller project grants opened funding to a wider community and has enabled seven more organisations to take on urgent issues, such as platform workers' rights, Islamophobia in algorithmic systems and generative AI in political advertising. The applications process again confirmed the vast appetite among civil society groups across Europe to tackle the impacts of AI on society. We were only able to support one in 20 of the proposals we received.

The diversity of our community is its greatest strength. Our grantees have built powerful coalitions to work collectively towards common goals, drawing on their respective strengths in technology and social justice expertise. The appointment of our skilled Networks and Communications Manager Līva Vikmane this year has enabled us to invest more time in supporting and sustaining these relationships. We have also deepened our thinking about diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI). A considered process led by Programme Manager Alexandra Toth resulted in an articulation of our values and DEI approach which will be the foundation for our continued work in this area.

All our work is underpinned by the steadfast support of our funder community. In 2023 we were pleased to welcome two new members – Adessium Foundation and the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. Our partners' commitment is demonstrated not just through their financial contributions but through their strategic engagement in our work, led by our dedicated co-chairs Guillermo Beltrà and Carla Hustedt. We are grateful to them and to all of those who have supported our work in many different ways over the past year.

We start 2024 with renewed energy and ambition to meet the scale of the AI moment we are in. The year ahead presents a unique opportunity to build on the strengths of our fantastic community and work towards our mission of AI that promotes fair, inclusive and sustainable democratic societies.

Catherine Miller
Director, European AI & Society Fund

Who we are

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

We believe AI should be used to serve the needs of people and society, and promote fair, inclusive and sustainable democracies.

The rapid development and adoption of AI technologies is reshaping people's lives at an unprecedented pace. But this transformation is led by the interests of governments and big tech corporations, without adequate concern for the individuals and communities it affects. This exacerbates existing social injustice, infringes people's rights, threatens democracy and undermines climate action.

There is currently a brief window of opportunity to set the direction for AI in Europe so that it serves the public interest. For this to happen, civil society organisations need to be an active and effective partner in shaping policies and ensuring that the voices of people and society are heard loud and clear.

That's why the European AI & Society Fund supports civil society organisations to build their capacity for policy and advocacy on AI through funding, learning and collaboration. And we share our expertise with philanthropic partners to increase their understanding and engagement on these issues.

"Now is the moment for us as a society to work together to promote the values we want to instil in AI. No organisation alone can address the scale and multiplicity of the challenges AI presents to our societies, economies and democracies. We need to combine experience from affected communities, technology expertise and decades of social, environmental justice and human rights work. The European AI & Society Fund provides a much-needed forum for those of us providing funding in the technology justice space to work together and collectively shape AI for the benefit of society."

Carla Hustedt, co-chair of the European AI & Society Fund, director of the Centre for Digital Society at the Mercator Foundation

"The dedicated and sustained engagement of civil society organisations has played a pivotal role in shaping European tech policy. Without their active involvement, these regulations would have taken a radically different form, leaving people with fewer tools to hold tech corporations and governments accountable for the impacts AI has on their lives. With technology rapidly evolving, we need to make sure that civil society is supported to continue this work."

Guillermo Beltrà, co-chair of the European AI & Society Fund, Technology and Society team lead at the Open Society Foundation's Europe and Central Asia Program

Our vision

A diverse and resilient ecosystem of civil society organisations is an active and effective participant in shaping policy related to AI 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 in and secure tangible impact on policy around AI, 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. Since being set up in 2020, our partners have contributed over €7.5m to support the European AI & Society Fund's mission. With that money we have supported more than 40 organisations from around Europe to shape AI to better serve people and society.

The European AI & Society Fund Strategy 2023 - 2025 outlines three high-level objectives that will help achieve our vision:

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.

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.

3.

The European AI & Society Fund is a valuable participant in shaping a landscape where civil society work on AI can thrive.

How we work

The European AI & Society Fund is a collaborative fund, supported by 13 philanthropic foundations and hosted by the Network for European Foundations (NEF). Partner foundations make up our Steering Committee which is currently co-chaired by Carla Hustedt (Mercator) and Guillermo Beltrà (Open Society Foundations). The Fund's Director is Catherine Miller, Programme Manager is Alexandra Toth, and Networks and Communications Manager is Līva Vikmane.

Our values

We recognise that the negative societal impacts of AI are often experienced most acutely by people and communities which have been marginalised. We therefore have a particular commitment to making sure the voices of those communities are heard loud and clear. The European AI & Society Fund's work is guided by our values and ways of working:
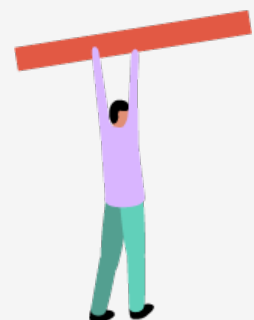
We listen

We enable

We learn

We collaborate

We uplift

Highlights from 2023

- We supported 38 civil society organisations across Europe with €1.8m funding.

- Our grantees achieved tangible policy impact: they strengthened fundamental rights in the European Union's AI Act, won court-room rulings in support of improving working conditions for content moderators, and built guidance for algorithmic benefit distribution.

- We launched a €200.000 Ecosystem small grants programme to give a wider community access to our funding, supporting seven new organisations.

- We supported our grantees to build AI and policy skills and expertise, and appointed Līva Vikmane as Networks and Communications Manager to support community building.

- Adessium Foundation and the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation joined the European AI & Society Fund as new funding partners.

- We changed our name to the European AI & Society Fund, to better reflect our mission.

- We developed our approach to diversity equity and inclusion (DEI).
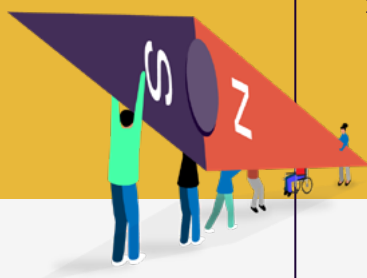
Building the civil society ecosystem

The European AI & Society Fund supports civil society organisations from across Europe that want to shape policies so that AI better serves people and society. Some of our grantees have previous expertise working on AI, digital rights and technology. Others represent particular communities or interests and want to address how AI is affecting their work.
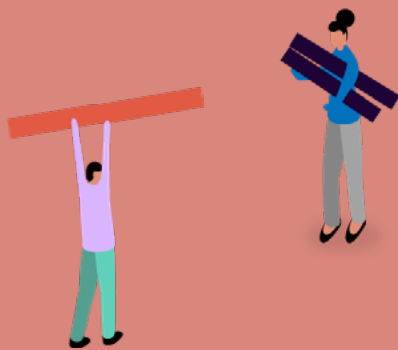
In 2023 we supported 30 organisations through our policy and advocacy grants.

| Our policy and advocacy grantees	
Access Now Europe	Foxglove Legal (Foxglove)
Ada Lovelace Institute	Friends of the Earth Europe & FIAN International & Centre for Agroecology, Water and Resilience at Coventry University (CAWR)
Algorithm Audit	
AlgorithmWatch	
ANEC – The European Consumer Voice in Standardisation	Fundación Ciudadana Civio
	Gesellschaft für Freiheitsrechte
Danes je nov dan (Today is a new day)	Glitch
Eticas Foundation	Global Health Advocates
EuroMed Rights	Health Action International (HAI)
European Council of Autistic People (EUCAP)	Homo Digitalis
	Irish Council for Civil Liberties (ICCL)
European Digital Rights (EDRi)	Mnemonic
European Disability Forum (EDF)	Moje Państwo Foundation
European Network Against Racism (ENAR)	Panoptykon Foundation
European Patients' Forum (EPF)	Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants (PICUM)
European Sex Workers' Rights Alliance (ESWA)	SHARE Foundation & Politiscope
Fair Trials Europe (FTE)	Systemic Justice
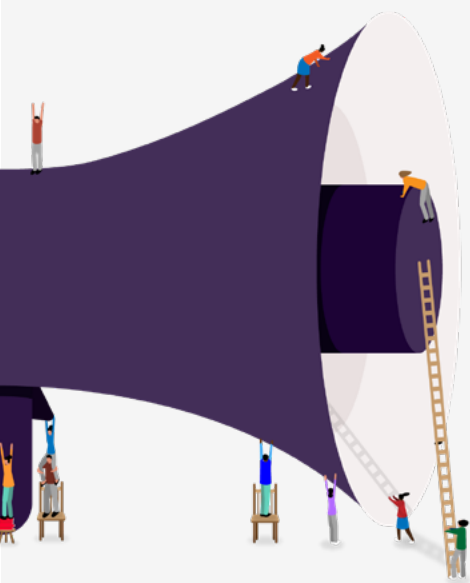
Insights from our grantees' work

Our funding has increased our grantees' policy, technical and communications skills and capacity, and for some, also helped professionalise their organisations. In 2023 it was encouraging to see how this capacity has translated into tangible policy wins in a number of arenas, how they have succeeded in bringing the views of communities affected by AI into policymaking, and effectively addressed the intersection of AI with issues such as healthcare and migration.

The development of the European Union's AI Act – the first attempt globally to create comprehensive AI regulation – has been a focus for a lot of grantees. The European Parliament adopted many of their demands, such as fundamental rights impact assessments, increased transparency and accountability, prohibitions on emotion recognition and facial recognition technologies, and the empowerment of people affected by AI systems. Despite heavy counter-lobbying from industry and governments during later negotiations, our grantees secured significant victories in the final text of the Act. AI deployers and developers will need to assess how AI impacts people's fundamental rights, and undergo transparency obligations, especially where the AI systems are designated as high risk. EU leaders have also agreed to at least partially prohibit several harmful AI uses, such as social scoring, remote biometric recognition and predictive policing.
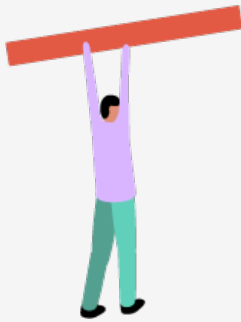
AI and labour rights was another priority area for many in our community. Foxglove's legal action secured rulings that protected the jobs of more than 200 outsourced Kenyan content moderators who had been sacked for organising, and established Facebook's responsibility as their employer. PICUM led discussions about acceptable and unacceptable uses of technology in the workplace for undocumented migrants, contributing to the European Labour Authority's work. And ESWA successfully challenged and prevented the adoption of discriminatory proposals in the Digital Services Act that would have forced sex workers to disclose sensitive information.

Other grantees have established themselves as leading experts on AI and society at a national level, shaping policy in France, Ireland, Italy, Croatia, the United Kingdom, Poland, the Netherlands, Spain, Greece, Germany, Serbia and Slovenia.

Spotlight

Algorithm Audit

Governments are using discriminatory algorithmic systems to distribute benefits. Now there is guidance for using algorithms responsibly.

A year ago, an investigation by Lighthouse Reports revealed how the benefit fraud detection algorithm in the Dutch city of Rotterdam had been disproportionally flagging claims by young single mothers with poor Dutch language skills as fraudulent. Their articles highlighted the devastating costs for the families who were wrongfully accused and had their benefits paused.

Now Algorithm Audit has developed a guide of strict conditions for the responsible use of these kinds of algorithms by public bodies. Developed through deliberation and testing to explore what a fair algorithm for benefit fraud detection looks like, the guide has been accepted by the Dutch ministry for digitalisation and provides a normative standard that can be used in all 342 municipalities in the Netherlands. It rejects the use of certain characteristics, as well as traits that can help to identify these characteristics, such as the city district where the person lives, the number of children they have and their literacy level.

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Collaborations and partnerships

The European AI & Society Fund is committed to fostering an ecosystem where digital rights, technology experts and social justice organisations work side-by-side. This approach has enabled civil society to act collectively and represent perspectives from communities historically excluded from decision making in digital policy.

A closeknit and trusting core group of organisations with a range of expertise was critical to the effective advocacy that took place around the European Union's AI Act and members plan to continue working together on the implementation of the new regulations. In the later legislative stages, we supported the Centre for Democracy and Technology with an additional grant to facilitate access to the European Council, resulting in a well-received roundtable, hosted by the Spanish presidency of the EU, where civil society groups could advocate for their positions directly with the EU member states.

> **"Without the civil society AI Act coalition, there wouldn't be any of the achievements in the legislation and on changing the narrative around AI"**
>
> European Digital Rights, co-cordinator of the civil society AI core group.

Other groups formed around the needs of specific communities. The #ProtectNotSurveil coalition centred the experiences of people on the move in their work on the AI Act by shining a light on how these people are affected by surveillance technology and AI. Access Now, the European Disability Forum and the European Council of Autistic People (EUCAP) collaborated on addressing the tech industry's ableist narratives on emotion recognition technologies, while Glitch and the European Network Against Racism (ENAR) worked together to explore non-carceral forms of redress where AI deepfakes have caused harm for racialised women.

Spotlight

Access Now x EUCAP & European Disability Forum

Countering ableist narratives spread by industry

Technology companies have been lobbying against restrictions on so-called emotion recognition technologies by arguing that they can assist autistic people. Access Now, in collaboration with EDRi, reached out to the European Disability Forum and the European Council of Autistic People (EUCAP) to draw on their expertise and found they were sceptical about the need for – and the feasibility of – such technology. They worked collectively to adopt a common position on this issue on the AI Act. Access Now has continued this work in a report and videos on biometric profiling "Bodily harms: how AI and biometrics curtail human rights", which includes interviews with EUCAP and other disability justice advocates.

ENAR x Glitch

How deepfakes affect Black women

The Black feminist organisation Glitch has found a clear lack of intersectional perspectives in the AI policy space. Although online gender-based violence is a prominent form of AI harm that disproportionately affects Black women, there is little research and advocacy work from this perspective.

Glitch developed a partnership with the European Network Against Racism (ENAR) to engage anti-racist organisations and deepfake experts on the issue of AI deepfake image abuse targeting Black and racialised women. The next steps involve scoping and delivering a research project on how deepfakes affect Black women, and user redress for deepfakes.

Other collaborations have evolved around thematic clusters such as health, with organisations jointly working on the new European health data regulation that will set out how people's data is collected and shared. ANEC, the Ada Lovelace Institute and Algorithm Audit have also cooperated on contributing to the AI standards that are currently being developed by European standardisation bodies and that will have an important role in future regulation.

Spotlight

Danes je nov dan

Reimagining technological progress and building
the digital rights community in central Europe

In October 2023, Danes je nov dan hosted a new regional event "Civil Society Reimagining Technological Progress", focusing on the transformative power of an active and engaged civil society. The event brought together international and local organisations, activists, legal experts and engineers to open a space for discussions, reshape the discourse and redefine the narrative on technological progress and discuss what owning the means of digital production really means. As a result a new community of civil society organisations from central Europe and the Western Balkans has emerged to work together on the challenges and opportunities that AI presents to societies.

"In our first two roundtables we tried to build the connection between the topics our members are familiar with and the use of AI in their domains of expertise."

European Network
Against Racism

Our grantees' increased capacity has also strengthened the wider civil society ecosystem, socialising issues related to AI across the field. Examples include webinars on AI and patients' rights by the European Patients' Forum, roundtables with member organisations and experts on AI and anti-racism by ENAR, and a series of articles on AI and disability justice by the European Disability Forum (EDF).

Challenges

The lack of sustainable, long-term funding remains one of the key challenges for our grantees. Organisations also emphasise the need for funding dedicated to strategic coalitions and coordination. Policy work is always challenging for civil society organisations due to the complexity of decision making and ever-changing legislative timelines. Grantees have appreciated the Fund's willingness to be flexible, enabling them to adapt their plans.

"To build an ecosystem of resilient organisations, there should be efforts to sustain organisations in the long-term."

Grantee partner

"We learned that our members have no funding to work on AI. That's why the European Disability Forum introduced a subgranting programme."

European Disability Forum

Our field-building activities

Besides providing financial resources, we support our grantee partners through our Funding+ programme, offering learning and development opportunities that address their individual and collective needs.

In 2023 it included:

Peer-learning policy skills sessions building expertise on the EU Trilogue process and tech industry positions.

AI Expertise Programme deepening knowledge on technical aspects of AI.

From Activist to Manager leadership learning programme developing skills and confidence in tackling organisational challenges.

Learning and Development Grants €5.000 available on request to address individual learning and development needs.

We offered the programme *From Activist to Manager* in response to our partners' appetite for support in coping with the organisational and leadership elements of their work. Thirty-five people took part over three cohorts, working through peer learning to address recurring issues in their roles.

The policy skills workshops were particularly useful to organisations new to influencing EU decision-making and helped them navigate how EU legislative change works and how to rally support for their agenda. The workshops supported them in creating new partnerships within the community and beyond, exchange best practices and discussing common challenges.

Expert speakers introducing technical aspects of AI to our community in the AI Expertise Programme, building their confidence to engage as credible interlocutors on AI issues.

We recognise a tension between responding to the needs of our community and some organisations' capacity to take up the offer of additional support. While participation in the activities is voluntary, we are mindful that some partners might feel obliged to turn up to a funder-hosted event. It is something that we keep in mind when communicating with grantees and planning the programme.

Ecosystem grants

In 2023, we awarded grants to 7 organisations through a new Ecosystem Grants Programme. Our goal was to offer smaller project funding with a quick turnaround to respond to new developments in the field and bring new expertise into the Ecosystem. The funded projects tackle a range of challenges including racial justice, migration, political advertising and workers' rights.

Ecosystem grantees awarded through the Ecosystem Grants Programme 2023
Equinox Initiative for Racial Justice
Forum of European Muslim Youth and Student Organisations (FEMYSO)
Novi Sindikat
Statewatch
Superrr Lab
The Hermes Center (Associazione Hermes)
Who Targets Me

The appetite to undertake this work was far greater than the funding available. With a total programme budget of €200.000, we were able to fund only 7 organisations out of 159 applicants and needed to reject relevant and brilliant proposals. Although we had planned to run three funding rounds, we allocated all the money after the first selection process. We quickly learned that running an open call on a rolling basis is not feasible, when everyone in the field critically needs funding. Visit our website to read our reflections on the Ecosystem grants programme.

Galvanising philanthropy

The European AI & Society Fund is a collaborative fund, bringing together diverse philanthropic partners around our shared mission. In 2023 these partners contributed over €2m to make our work possible, with most renewing and increasing their commitments to the Fund.

Our funding partners are:

Adessium Foundation

Charles Stewart Mott Foundation

Ford Foundation

John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation

King Baudouin Foundation

Limelight Foundation
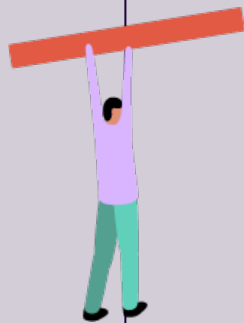
Luminate

Mozilla Foundation

Oak Foundation

Open Society Foundations

Porticus

Robert Bosch Foundation

Stiftung Mercator

"Society is digitalising at a rapid pace, and this development affects nearly every aspect of our lives. By joining the European AI & Society Fund, Adessium Foundation wants to contribute to the conditions that are necessary for a responsible digital society."

Martijn Roos, Programme Manager for Public Interest at Adessium Foundation

In the course of the year we welcomed Adessium Foundation as a new partner. Adessium is an important funder of European democracy work and brings a strong understanding of the intersection of technology and society.

We were also delighted that John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation joined the Fund. MacArthur is a US-based foundation with strong expertise in public interest technology. It joined the European AI & Society Fund as one of its first ventures into funding in Europe.

The Fund has bid farewell to two partners in 2023. A shift in strategy has led Bertelsmann Stiftung to exit the Fund while Isocrates Foundation discontinued its activities and is currently not making new grants. We are grateful for their valuable support over the years.

Sharing expertise

The Fund is committed to supporting a greater number and more diverse range of philanthropic institutions to engage in sustaining civil society work in Europe on policy related to AI. As part of this, we share our expertise with our partners and the wider philanthropic community to increase their understanding and engagement on these issues.

In 2023 we explored the AI and Society funding landscape by surveying our grantees to understand their needs, researching the current funding landscape, and interviewing foundations that are not yet our partners to understand the opportunities and barriers to growing philanthropic engagement around AI.

These efforts found that the field remains under-resourced and strongly dependent on a small number of funders. Although awareness for AI and society topics is increasing, philanthropic organisations are taking time to adjust their funding. A common barrier was the sense that the topic was complex and required expert teams in order to engage, while we found organisations that were engaging in the subject often had individual "champions" who drove forward activities. As part of this research, we built a database of AI and society funders which we have shared with our grantees.

We also commissioned research to understand how funders can support civil society through the implementation and enforcement of the EU's AI Act. This found that while it was important to sustain the existing ecosystem to leverage the credibility and expertise it has built up, new skills – particularly technical, research and campaigning skills – will need to be brought into the field in the next phases of this process.

We have begun to build up a community of interest through our funders' learning lunches, which we organise in partnership with Ariadne Network. In 2023, we hosted six events sharing insights from our grantees and funding partners on a range of subjects, from decoding the basics of ChatGPT, to understanding leading AI narratives, to a deep dive into predictive policing systems.

We've also participated in a wide range of events and networks, including the Philea and Ariadne forums, events hosted by Alliance magazine and King Baudouin Foundation as well as ad hoc presentations to a range of funders.

Contributing to the landscape

The European AI & Society Fund is committed to being a valuable participant in shaping a landscape where civil society work on AI can thrive. This means we undertake work that we feel is missing from the ecosystem, reflect on our practices and share these findings with our community.

Shaping public debate on AI

As AI started to grab news headlines and became the subject of wider public interest, we supported Rootcause to undertake research to understand the dominant media narratives about AI and society and identify who is shaping the conversation.

The resulting report found that the tech industry dominates the conversation, being quoted more times than the remaining top 20 organisations put together. The research revealed that even where regulation was discussed, narratives tended to align with the interests of technology companies and there was little debate about ethics and values.

The researchers recommended that civil society work actively to formulate a proactive vision that they could promote, instead of reacting to paradigms set by industry. They also noted that organisations needed greater investment in communications capacity. We explored these issues with our grantees and found that civil society lacks capacity in narrative- and message-building on tech justice. Media training and communications skills-building can be useful tools, but without narrative and framing work, they will only address short-term needs.

Based on this, we supported European Digital Rights (EDRi) with a learning and development grant, to develop a messaging guide on the AI Act and co-financed a workshop on strategic communications for civil society working on tech justice, organised by our partner foundation, Luminate. To provide more visibility towards media and other stakeholders for the work our grantees are doing, we have launched a directory of public interest AI experts in our grantee partner organisations.

Fund communications

At the start of the year we changed our name to the European AI & Society Fund and relaunched our website, social media and other communications material to articulate our mission and work more clearly.

We've continued sharing the learnings and achievements of our grantees and amplifying their work across our social media platforms. Notably, our LinkedIn community has expanded nearly five-fold, and our monthly newsletter now reaches a growing number of new readers. Meanwhile, we've taken a step back from X, formerly Twitter, due to the constant changes in their policies and no longer being able to reach our audience.

Through conducting monthly interviews with our grantee partners, we've been able to shine a spotlight on their work and make sure that we share stories that they want to talk about.

Diversity, equity and inclusion

In 2023, we started to proactively articulate our approach to diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI). We recognise that the negative societal impacts of AI are often experienced most acutely by people and communities that have been marginalised. We therefore have a particular commitment to making sure the voices of those communities are heard loud and clear.

A four-day training on the topic, organised by the Network of European Foundations, helped us get started. This programme allowed us to do a deep dive into diversity, equity and inclusion by first individually and then collectively taking stock of our existing practices, and by articulating our DEI objectives.

Our approach to diversity, equity and inclusion is founded on the European AI & Society Fund's values and ways of working, namely:

We listen

We enable

We learn

We collaborate

We uplift
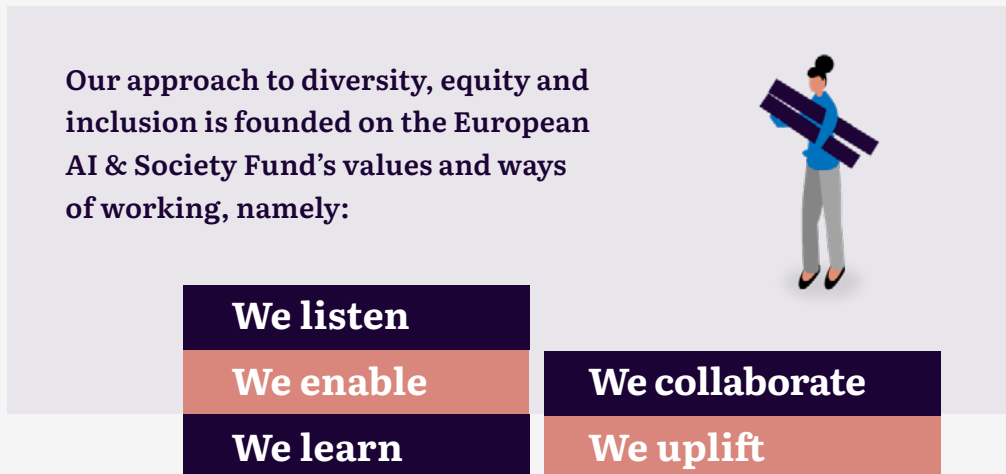
As a result, we have defined the following DEI goals:

1. Moving from quantitative to qualitative practices in data collection methods for our evaluation mechanisms.

2. Streamlining DEI practices in our grant-making processes. By building on our existing practices, we will work towards making our grants easier to access and making our processes more flexible and transparent.

3. Building more participatory processes: we have already tested parts of this process, namely by asking the community (through a survey) to shape the small ecosystem grants programme. We asked civil society organisations what kind of grant and capacity building would be useful for them, in order to design the programme based on their feedback.

4. Contracting external assessment of our DEI practices.

We recognise that practising DEI is an ongoing and dynamic process and look forward to continuing to learn from others and sharing our own experiences as we do. You can read more about how we arrived at this approach and our DEI practices on our website.

Looking
ahead to 2024

The shift in the AI debate over the course of the
past year creates a pivotal moment for AI. The
rapid rollout of generative AI has made the social,
democratic and economic impacts of AI tangible
to a wider public, and primed policymakers to act.
But this moment won't last. We need to capitalise
on this brief window of possibility with a concerted
push of civil society engagement, or we risk ceding
the field to well-funded industry interests.
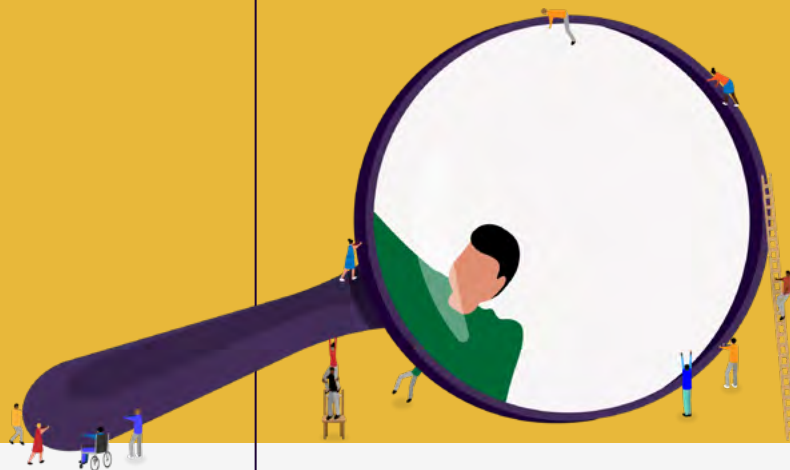
Our research into the next steps for the AI Act has highlighted that with the right research, technical and investigative skills, civil society can establish sound practices for regulators, and secure significant wins through regulatory implementation and enforcement that will make a tangible difference to how AI is used.

"...to capitalise on this moment of opportunity, in 2024 we will lead a concerted push to create a strategic shift in the level of funding available for this important work"

As new forums for AI governance open up, there's the opportunity to cement European policy wins and support civil society internationally to secure accountability over technology. Our community of expert organisations has been at the coalface of AI policy (and on the frontline of industry lobbying) for three years. Their insights can be central to shaping global debates on the future of AI.

Later in 2024 a new European Commission will be appointed, with a new mandate and agenda. This is where civil society can take the reins of the debate, set a proactive narrative, and offer politically salient thinking with actionable recommendations for how AI can be used to serve the needs of people and society, not just the powerful few.

The challenge may seem daunting. We know that industry resources are vast, with €113m spent per year in lobbying in Brussels alone, and that they are tenacious in defending their interests. But we know too that our community is strong and able to rise to this challenge. They punch above their weight and work collectively and smartly. But above all they draw strength from their legitimacy in representing the people and communities whose lives will ultimately be affected by the use of technologies.

The European AI & Society Fund is already supported by a generous circle of funders that share our mission and who give us the financial and strategic support to carry out our work. But to capitalise on this moment of opportunity, in 2024 we will lead a concerted push to create a strategic shift in the level of funding available for this important work. We are excited to see there is momentum towards this goal and would encourage all those who want to explore how to support this goal to get in touch to discuss how they can contribute: info@europeanaifund.org

Financial Statement

INCOME	BUDGET 2023
Adessium Foundation	€150.000,00
Charles Stewart Mott Foundation	€113.072,88
Ford Foundation	€113.846,91
John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation	€277.906,44
Isocrates Foundation	€200.000,00
King Baudouin Foundation	€175.000,00
Oak Foundation	€240.000,00
Open Society Foundations	€415.372,09
Robert Bosch Foundation	€165.000,00
CARRY FORWARD 2022	€2.166.640,00
TOTAL INCOME	€4.016.838,32

Contributions from our partners are scheduled according to the partnership agreements, and some payments cover longer periods of time. Therefore, only partners from whom we were anticipating contributions in 2023 appear on this list.

BUDGET	BUDGET 2023	PAID
1. Grants		
1.1. Grants	€2.591.111,86	€1.800.790,99
1.2. Funding+ grants cohort budget	€60.000,00	€60.308,56
Sub-total grants	**€2.651.111,86**	**€1.861.099,55***
2. Operations		
2.1. Events, skills & capacity building for grantees	€90.000,00	€87.574,52
2.2. Consultancy/Research	€53.000,00	€54.093,13
2.3. Communication	€22.000,00	€19.367,60
Sub-total operations	**€165.000,00**	**€161.035,25**
3. Staff and Coordination		
3.1. European AI & Society Fund Staff (director and two managers)	€248.763,00	€243.017,32
3.2. Coordination meetings	€9.000,00	€10.571,30
3.3. Travelling Secretariat	€6.000,00	€8.527,83
3.4. NEF – cost contribution	€40.000,00	€40.000,00
3.5. Desk rental	€13.460,00	€11.169,90
3.6. Unforeseen	€10.000,00	€10.534,65
Sub-total staff and coordination	**€327.223,00**	**€323.821,00**
Reserve	€35.000,00	
TOTAL BUDGET	**€3.178.334,86**	**€2.345.955,80**
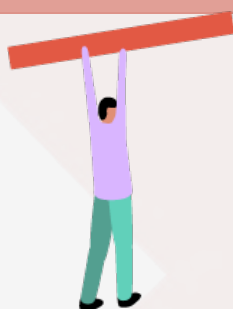
* The gap between the budgeted and paid grants is due to delays in grantees requesting grant instalments. This money is being carried forward to 2024, and all awarded grants will be disbursed.

Annex

Overview of our grantees

Access Now	April 2021 - June 2024	Belgium	€242.989
Ada Lovelace Institute	November 2022 - November 2024	UK	€88.000
Algorithm Audit	November 2022 - November 2024	The Netherlands	€79.700
AlgorithmWatch	April 2021 - June 2024	Germany	€293.338,25
ANEC – The European Consumer Voice in Standardisation	April 2021 - July 2024	Belgium	€156.772,80
Centre for Democracy & Technology (CDT Europe)	November 2022 - October 2023	Belgium	€40.000
Danes je nov dan (Today is a new day)	November 2022 - November 2024	Slovenia	€107.200
European Digital Rights (EDRi)	April 2021 - June 2024	Belgium	€284.000
Equinox Initiative for Racial Justice	October 2023 - December 2024	Belgium	€30.000
European Network Against Racism (ENAR)	April 2021 - June 2024	Belgium	€120.000
Eticas Foundation	November 2022 - November 2024	Spain	€247.196
EuroMed Rights	November 2022 - November 2024	Belgium	€120.000
European Council of Autistic People (EUCAP)	November 2022 - November 2024	Czechia	€42.600
European Disability Forum (EDF)	November 2022 - November 2024	Belgium	€185.600
European Patients' Forum (EPF)	April 2021 - June 2024	Belgium	€202.500
European Sex Workers' Rights Alliance (ESWA)	April 2021 - June 2024	The Netherlands	€206.666
Fair Trials (FT)	November 2022 - November 2024	UK	€144.933

Forum of European Muslim Youth and Student Organisations (FEMYSO)	November 2023 - December 2024	Belgium	€30.000
Foxglove	April 2021 - June 2024	UK	€200.706,30
Friends of the Earth Europe & FIAN International & Centre for Agroecology, Water and Resilience at Coventry University (CAWR)	April 2021 - June 2024	Belgium	€175.000
Fundación Ciudadana Civio	November 2022 - November 2024	Spain	€60.000
Gesellschaft für Freiheitsrechte (GFF)	November 2022 - November 2024	Germany	€132.000
Global Health Advocates (GHA)	November 2022 - November 2024	France	€145.706
Glitch	April 2021 - June 2024	UK	€309.982,32
Health Action International (HAI)	April 2021 - June 2024	The Netherlands	€270.000
Hermes Center and the Good Lobby Italy	January 2024 - December 2024	Italy	€30.000
Homo Digitalis	November 2022 - November 2024	Greece	€108.000
Irish Council for Civil Liberties (ICCL)	April 2021 - June 2024	Ireland	€284.000
Mnemonic	April 2021 - December 2024	Germany	€224.983
Moje Państwo Foundation	April 2021 - May 2023	Poland	€98.666
Novi Sindikat	September 2023 - September 2024	Croatia	€30.000
Panoptykon Foundation	April 2021 - June 2024	Poland	€135.166
The Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants (PICUM)	April 2021 - June 2024	Belgium	€270.000
SHARE Foundation and Politiscope	November 2022 - November 2024	Serbia/Croatia	€194.000
Statewatch	January 2024 - December 2024	UK	€29.453
Superrr Lab	January 2024 - October 2024	Germany	€26.500
Systemic Justice	November 2022 - November 2024	The Netherlands	€250.000
Who Targets Me	September 2023 - March 2024	UK	€29.825

Detailed list of our grantees

**Access Now** (April 2021 - June 2024)

€242.989

Access Now defends and extends the digital rights of people 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 to account.

With the support of the European AI & Society 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, with a strong focus on remote biometric identification and AI used in migration. Their coalition positions were widely adopted in the European Parliament's position on the AI Act, and partially made into the final legal text. One of their most significant achievements has been to mainstream the debate about prohibiting harmful AI systems in the AI Act, which they achieved by working in coalition with a variety of other civil society organisations.

Ada Lovelace Institute (November 2022 - November 2024)

€88.000

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. The Ada Lovelace Institute is committed to developing, testing and proposing practical, regulatory and legal accountability mechanisms to rebalance power in data and AI systems.
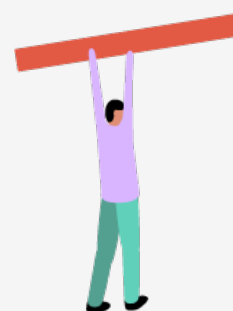
Europe is leading the world in approaches to data and AI regulation that foreground fundamental rights and societal benefits. Much work remains to be done to ensure that AI and data regulation empowers people and creates a regulatory and economic ecosystem that justly and equitably delivers the benefits 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 past year Ada's work in Europe has focused on the European AI Act, AI liability, and AI standards setting processes to ensure that they embed fundamental rights. The organisation has established itself as a partner to key EU institutional stakeholders, becoming a go-to resource for multiple policymakers and providing state of the art research and briefings.

Algorithm Audit (November 2022 - November 2024)

€79.700

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.

In 2023, the grant has enabled Algorithm Audit to conduct two new case studies, including examining risk profiling for welfare distribution carried out by the municipality of Rotterdam, and establishing guidelines for ethical algorithms in this field.

AlgorithmWatch (April 2021 - June 2024)

€293.338,25

AlgorithmWatch is a human rights organization that fights for a world where algorithms and Artificial Intelligence (AI) do not weaken justice, democracy, and sustainability, but strengthen them.

To achieve this mission, they

- develop and use tools to unpack and analyze the use of algorithmic decision-making processes and their effects on humans and societies;

- explain the characteristics of and power structures behind these complex algorithmic decision-making processes;

- develop effective frameworks governing the use of algorithmic systems, based on their research and scientific evidence;

- publicly call out misuses as well as discriminatory and other kinds of negative impacts of algorithmic systems on human rights and the public good, and campaign for effective transparency and accountability mechanisms;

- build a community of people and organizations from different backgrounds, cultures and disciplines to collaborate towards these goals;

- promote the broader debate on whether there should be limits to the use of computation-based approaches to human problems, and on how they irreducibly differ from non-computation-based approaches.

AlgorithmWatch has established and deepened relations with other important stakeholders, first and foremost the civil society organisations in the AI core group, but also politicians, high-level administration officials, academics and other organisations both in Germany and across Europe.

They've been successful in their advocacy efforts towards the EU, notably, achieving prohibitions on biometric facial recognition and establishing sustainability and transparency requirements in the AI Act, among others. At the Council of Europe, AlgorithmWatch has been a leading civil society voice, co-coordinating the inputs of civil society organisations on the AI Treaty negotiations.

ANEC – The European Consumer Voice in Standardisation
(April 2021 - July 2024)

€156.772,80

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 at both 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 secured the inclusion of an ANEC-provided over-arching framework of the consumer product lifecycle into the submitted new work item proposal on AI Trustworthiness. ANEC was also able to influence the content of the draft Standardisation Request on Artificial Intelligence issued by the European Commission in terms of inclusiveness of the standardisation process. To raise awareness and capacity building on standardisation at large, ANEC successfully held capacity building webinars for ANEC staff and civil society experts. These provided an introduction on how AI-enabled technology works and its impact on a wide range of consumer products and services, what to consider when building advocacy positions and the role of standards. By engaging an AI Officer, ANEC has been able to actively participate in the CEN-CENELEC JTC 21 AI Task Group on Inclusiveness, coordinate and communicate comments to influence ballots, conduct outreach work to encourage the involvement of civil society organisations and build their capacity to engage.

Centre for Democracy & Technology (CDT Europe)
(November 2022 - October 2023)

€40.000

CDT Europe advocates for the promotion and protection of democracy and human rights in European tech law and policy. They work to increase equality and amplify voices in European-level law and policy debates. CDT champions policies, laws, and technical designs that protect against invasive, discriminatory, and exploitative uses of new technologies. In their work, CDT advocates for online platforms to be more transparent, accountable and respectful of human rights, as well as curtailing government censorship and enabling all people to access and share information of their choosing without harassment or undue interference.

With the help of the grant, CDT facilitated a dialogue between civil society and decision makers at a crucial stage of negotiations in the EU AI Act. They organised a series of inter-institutional discussions and a technical exchange between civil society and relevant institutional experts within the EU and Member States. As a result, CDT was able to contribute in-depth technical expertise and deepen civil society coordination in their response to the AI legislation. CDT also helped to share knowledge and analysis on the legislative processes through their AI newsletter.

Danes je nov dan (Today is a new day) (November 2022 - November 2024)

€107.200

Danes je nov dan 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.

As the home of the UNESCO-backed International Research Centre on Artificial Intelligence, and with its prolific AI/ADM research programmes and the forthcoming implementation of its 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, Danes je nov dan is building expertise and organising on this topic to be able to shape the debate.

Danes je nov dan empowers a diverse coalition of NGOs to build expertise and become a key stakeholder in debates regarding the future of AI in Slovenia. They engage in standard setting, advise the government on digital policies, convene organisations in the region, and are building a database of AI/ADM applications in the Slovenian public sector, among other activities.

European Digital Rights (EDRi) (April 2021 - June 2024)

€284.000

The European Digital Rights (EDRi) network is a dynamic and resilient collective of 50+ civil rights organisations, experts, advocates and academics based across Europe who are 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 & Society Fund contributed to sustaining the work of the EDRi policy team leading on AI Act advocacy, as well as supporting coalition-building and network coordination by providing the necessary core support for other teams. Thanks to the funding extension, EDRi could offer direct financial support to the work of EDRi members and partners active in the EU AI Act coalition. Finally, the Fund's support meant EDRi could dedicate resources to expanding the knowledge base on AI and bias by commissioning research. EDRi's advocacy and civil society coordination efforts resulted in the European Parliament widely adopting civil society proposals in the European Parliament's position on the AI Act. Their work methods include direct advocacy to EU institutions and governments, campaigning and public awareness and, importantly, coordinating civil society organisations in their advocacy efforts around fundamental rights issues and AI regulation.

Equinox Initiative for Racial Justice
(October 2023 - December 2024)

€30.000

Equinox Initiative for Racial Justice is a people of colour-led initiative working to advance rights and justice for all people in Europe. They address racism at the EU level by ensuring that racialised people are at the centre of decision-making on policy and legislation in the EU. Equinox builds knowledge to counter digital surveillance in a way that is rooted in racial justice by centring modes of resistance and working towards systems of care that meet the needs of racialised people.

The Ecosystem grant supports Equinox in organising a civil society convening at the intersection of digital, racial and migrant justice, which supports connections between activists across Europe. It also supports Equinox in building its own capacity, and that of other racial justice organisations, to engage in legislative proposals and advocate for a positive vision of how resources can be redistributed away from discriminatory and surveillance technologies.

European Network Against Racism (ENAR)
(April 2021 - June 2024)

€120.000[1]

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 the European level and drive progress towards racial equality in all EU Member States. ENAR works to bring an end to structural racism and discrimination, strengthen the sense of safety and security for racialised people, and strengthen the resilience and solidarity of the network and wider anti-racism movement across Europe. ENAR strives to create safe spaces for racialised people and civil society organisations, and amplify the anti-racism voice in Europe.

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1   ENAR started their work later than initially planned, therefore their grant is relatively smaller.

The grant has enabled ENAR to recruit a dedicated person working on AI and anti-racism to lead their policy and advocacy work. Through organising roundtables to convene racial justice organisations and experts in the field of AI, ENAR has built the capacity of their network across Europe to engage on AI technologies in the context of anti-racism work and identify how racialised groups experience harms related to data-driven processes. They've worked closely with other civil society organisations on the European AI Act, contributing expertise on anti-racism and migration.

Eticas Foundation (November 2022 - November 2024)

€247.196

Support from the AI & Society Fund has allowed Eticas to consolidate, increase and make more visible its policy and advocacy efforts for responsible algorithms, including its initiatives with civil society organisations and work at the policy level in Spain and the EU. The grant has enabled Eticas to disseminate its work and experience on algorithmic audits (both internal and adversarial), publish a guide on adversarial audits, and run 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 enlarged the team, allowing it to go beyond individual projects and initiatives to implement a strategic communications and impact strategy.

EuroMed Rights (November 2022 - November 2024)

€120.000

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. EuroMed Rights explores how these technologies are funded, developed and deployed, and how they are implemented with regards to fundamental rights 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 of their work is on the EU, on Member States at external borders, and countries on the southern shore of the Mediterranean.

Their work on AI focuses on two main themes: the use of AI in asylum procedures and the use of AI in monitoring migration flows. EuroMed Rights works to increase transparency on the actors who develop and manage AI technologies for border management and the kind of data collected, and to ensure that policies regulating the use of AI technologies in border management are based on human rights and increase accountability around the EU budget used on AI technologies for migration and asylum. The grant has increased the capacity of EuroMed Rights and its members at the intersection of AI and migration, and supported the production of two new reports on how AI and technology have been ingrained in EU migration and external border management in the Mediterranean. From being denied entry in a country, to being subjected to violations and refoulement, their impact on the right to asylum, on safe and legal pathways for migration, and migrants' human rights is incalculable.

European Council of Autistic People (EUCAP)
(November 2022 - November 2024)

€42.600

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. In the framework of the grant, EUCAP is conducting 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 is being 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 is also engaging in networking and seeking opportunities for partnerships beyond the scope of their grant to bring more of the positive potential and strengths of autistic people into the field of AI.
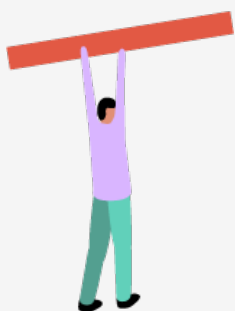
European Disability Forum (EDF) (November 2022 - November 2024)

€185.600

With this project, the European Disability Forum (EDF) is working to make sure that European and national legislation regulating AI systems includes accessibility requirements and protects people with disabilities from discrimination and the violation of their rights. EDF does this through multidimensional advocacy work at both the European and national levels. At the European level, EDF is building and strengthening partnerships with organisations working on the AI Act, and contributing expertise from disability justice. Complementing this, EDF is conducting advocacy 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. These efforts have resulted in the European Parliament adopting accessibility requirements into their position on the European AI Act. Another important aspect of their work involves building the disability movement's knowledge of, and capacity in, AI. EDF has been empowering member organisations through knowledge and regranting to develop understanding of 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.

European Patients' Forum (EPF) (April 2021 - June 2024)

€202.500

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 & Society Fund has helped EPF inform and empower the EPF team and members on AI in healthcare, putting them on a better footing to enact change in healthcare policy. The EPF team has been able to develop knowledge on AI, as well as create 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 the patient community benefits from the capacity building to enact effective 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)
(April 2021 - June 2024)

€206.666

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 aims to challenge repressive laws and policies that impact sex workers' human rights, in particular in regard to access to health and justice.

Support from the European AI & Society Fund has been used to kick-start its programme on the Digital Rights of Sex Workers. Digitalisation and the consequent impact of new technologies have changed sex work and brought up new threats that ESWA has been working on identifying and building strategies to counter. With the European AI & Society Fund's support, ESWA has organised capacity/movement building meetups, as well as a members' Congress, which brought together 200+ sex workers and allies from 20 countries in Europe and Central Asia, and featured 27 workshops, a public conference and an event at the European Parliament over four days in October 2022. They have also conducted advocacy and alliance building activities, 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 to uphold sex workers' rights and interests through EU policy developments such as the EU AI Act, the DSA, Europol, the Directive on Combating Domestic Violence and Violence Against Women, and CSAM regulation, at times making sure that harmful proposals for sex workers have not ended up in the legal texts.

Fair Trials (FT) (November 2022 - November 2024)

€144.933

Fair Trials (FT) ensures that European legislation on AI (whether at 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. FT'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 & Society Fund supports FT's work to: 1) Develop policy recommendations from the ground up via dialogue with affected people that builds on FT'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.

Forum of European Muslim Youth and Student Organisations (FEMYSO) (November 2023 - December 2024)

€30.000

The Forum of European Muslim Youth and Student Organisations (FEMYSO) is a pan-European network, with a mission to empower Muslim youth and build a diverse, cohesive and vibrant Europe. They use their voice to represent the rights and civil liberties of young Muslims in policymaking.

The Ecosystem grant supports research, capacity building and advocacy around cases of anti-Muslim bias in algorithmic systems. FEMYSO will develop a database and a report compiling case studies of AI and Islamophobia in Europe that will be a useful knowledge-building and advocacy resource for the community.

FEMYSO will also organise a series of regional trainings across Europe to build the capacity of young Muslim communities and youth organisations to lead on advocacy on safer AI. This will bring Muslims as a group that is affected by deployment of discriminatory AI closer to the development of tech policies.
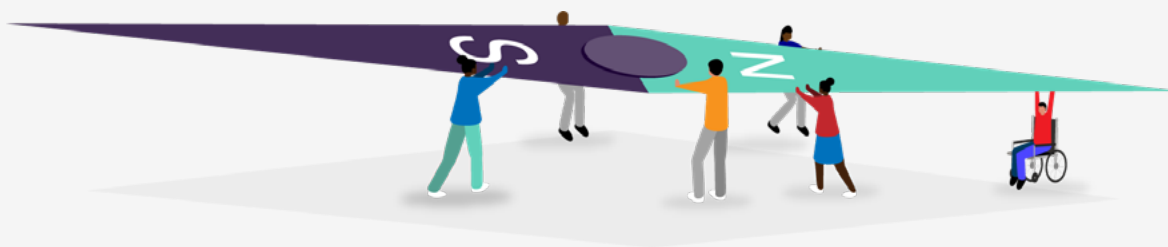
Foxglove (April 2021 - June 2024)

€200.706,30

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 & Society Fund helped Foxglove reach new allies within Amazon's UK 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.

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 and their outsourcing company Sama for forced labour, human-trafficking and union-busting. The judge ruled to protect the jobs of more than 200 content moderators who Facebook had sacked due to them organising and demanding better working conditions, as well as ruling that despite its harmful outsourcing model, Facebook was the true employer of the content moderators.

In addition, the European AI & Society 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 was also able to support the unionisation of content moderators, co-host the world's first social media content moderator summit in Germany, and support the development of a manifesto with demands addressed to tech corporations.

Friends of the Earth Europe & **FIAN International** & **Centre for Agroecology, Water and Resilience at Coventry University (CAWR)**
(April 2021 - June 2024)

€175.000

Friends of the Earth Europe (FOEE) is the largest grassroots environmental network in Europe, uniting more than 30 national organisations. FOEE works towards environmental, social, economic and political justice, equal access to resources and opportunities on the local, national, regional and international levels, and seeks 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 & Society 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 notable 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 it. Without listening to small-scale food producers, such legislation risks further cementing inequalities and discrimination that are already damaging food systems and ecosystems at large.

Fundación Ciudadana Civio (November 2022 - November 2024)

€60.000

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 & Society Fund's grant, Civio is continuing the development of these skills in a structured and strategic manner, as opposed to their current best-efforts basis. Funding enables 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 also supports 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 is making the impact and consequences of AI visible to people, identifying and empowering affected communities, and holding decision makers to account.

Gesellschaft für Freiheitsrechte (GFF)
(November 2022 - November 2024)

€132.000

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 & Society Fund, GFF is strengthening 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. GFF is taking 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. The grant has supported GFF to prepare the groundwork for the DSA enforcement, including preparing cases under the DSA, and researching the use of AI and algorithms on platforms (and beyond).

Global Health Advocates (GHA) (November 2022 - November 2024)

€145.706

Global Health Advocates (GHA) is a French civil society organisation which carries out political advocacy in France and with EU institutions to ensure that policies and resources are effectively addressing health inequalities. The grant is helping 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. GHA conducted a mapping of French policies on AI to understand the strategies developed by France regarding AI and innovation in the health sector. They have also developed a briefing paper to inform decision-makers on the risks of AI in health and raise their awareness on the necessity of regulating AI, so that technologies bring benefits to the whole population. The Fund's support also enabled GHA to publish a series of blogs on AI regulation in healthcare, promoting the public interest and serving as a useful resource for decision-makers.

Along with other healthcare organisations, GHA is actively collaborating within the "tech and health coordination network". The grant has also supported GHA in establishing other partnerships and exploring initiatives that are being developed at the global level on AI and health.

Glitch (April 2021 - June 2024)

€309.982,32

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 European AI & Society Fund's capacity building grant enabled Glitch to recruit and onboard a Head of Policy, Research and Campaigns, thereby adding capacity, expertise and strategic oversight to the team. The grant 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. Through the scoping analysis of the AI Act, Glitch identified 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 including ENAR and EDRi, and is supporting sector efforts on emotion recognition and predictive policing prohibitions.

Health Action International (HAI) (April 2021 - June 2024)

€270.000

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.

Given the vast influence of the industry, it has become apparent how important it is that the civil society voice for human rights and public health is at the table to balance corporate interests. The grant from the European AI & Society Fund has enabled HAI to find its voice, establish expertise in the area, and increase awareness of issues at the intersection of AI policy and health as their capacity grows.

HAI has been able to analyse the impact of the EU AI Act on AI in healthcare and have developed a report and diverse advocacy materials. As a result of their work, the impact of the use of AI in healthcare, which was sorely neglected in policy discussions, has received more attention. HAI also organised a webinar to debunk some of the MedTech arguments on regulation and are writing direct responses to articles published by the industry to refute false claims.

Alongside, the grant has enabled HAI to grow a network of organisations, through meetings and public talks. 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 has also enabled them to join the EMA's Pharmacovigilance Risk Assessment Committee Multistakeholder Drafting Group for a Reflection Paper on Digital Support to Risk Minimisation Measures and Their Effectiveness Evaluation.

Hermes Center and **the Good Lobby Italy**
(January 2024 - December 2024)

€30.000

The project is a joint endeavour between the Hermes Center and the Good Lobby Italy. The Hermes Center protects people's digital rights, through the publication of research and investigations, support and dissemination of open and free software, and continuous advocacy and awareness raising activities. The Good Lobby is a non-profit civic start up committed to equalising access to power for a more democratic and inclusive society. They support grassroots participation and civic lobbying to counter the disproportionate power and negative influence of powerful corporate lobbies.

In this joint project, The Good Lobby Italy and the Hermes Center are building compelling narratives and public campaigns around the risks of AI and the impacts of the European AI Act in Italy. They will organise an exhibition to bring new people into the debate and politics of AI and surveillance technologies. They will also run a social media campaign to mobilise people for change.

Homo Digitalis (November 2022 - November 2024)

€108.000

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 at 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, especially with regards to migration and surveillance, enjoying victories, recognition and an important network of allies.

With the support of the European AI & Society Fund, Homo Digitalis hired a full-time Director of AI for two years, and set up the framework necessary for transitioning to a full-time organisation and strategizing sustainable future growth. The grant has also helped to increase visibility to broader audiences in Greece, both towards authorities in the digital sector, but also to build connections with experts and people from new fields. Homo Digitalis has been active in talking to media, promoting AI-related work in a more regular manner and giving talks at events.

The grant also supported Homo Digitalis to secure several sources of additional funding.

Irish Council for Civil Liberties (ICCL) (April 2021 - June 2024)

€284.000

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 European AI & Society 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 were also at the forefront on advocating for the inclusion of general-purpose AI systems in the regulation and establishing additional requirements for them.

ICCL Enforce has quickly established itself as an expert and been invited to brief all major European Parliament political groups on AI and fundamental rights matters. Their recommendations have been taken on board by the European Parliament and partially reflected in the final text of the AI Act. ICCL Enforce is also working with the European Parliament and the Council to strengthen the Liability Directive.

Mnemonic (April 2021 - December 2024)

€224.983

Mnemonic works globally on the collection, preservation, and verification of open-source content for human rights investigations, accountability, and memorialisation. To enable this, Mnemonic pairs technical expertise and tool development, with conducting advocacy on content moderation policies of social media companies that impact Mnemonic's archiving and investigative work.

The support provided by the European AI & Society 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 algorithmic decision making (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. Recently, Mnemonic has continued its efforts on over-removals and risk assessments, but also focused on access to data provisions for CSOs. The European AI & Society Fund also supported Mnemonic in increasing its organisational capacity to engage in the EU legislative process and gain further visibility within the European civil society space by engaging with coalitions.

Moje Państwo Foundation (April 2021 - May 2023)

€98.666

Moje Państwo Foundation's mission is to strengthen citizens' rights 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 & Society 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 contributions to consultations or letters addressed to EU bodies were 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.

Novi Sindikat (September 2023 - September 2024)

€30.000

Novi Sindikat is a trade union in Croatia dedicated to advancing workers' rights. Novi Sindikat serves as a unified platform for workers to voice their concerns, and negotiate for living wages and enhanced benefits. In 2023, while closely collaborating with platform workers, Novi Sindikat took a proactive stance in organising and representing the interests of platform workers in response to reWolt protests.

With the Ecosystem grant, Novi Sindikat supports collaboration between trade unions advocating for and supporting the implementation of the EU Platform Workers Directive, empowering them to engage in collective bargaining in the AI-driven world of work, and effectively protects workers' rights. The project also equips trade unions with the necessary knowledge and digital literacy skills to effectively navigate the complexities of AI applications in workplaces, such as exploring issues related to data recovery as means to reverse current power imbalances at work.

Panoptykon Foundation (April 2021 - June 2024)

€135.166

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

The grant by the European AI & Society Fund enabled Panoptykon to engage in advocacy at both the EU and national level as well as engaging in informal dialogue with industry and academic stakeholders who influence political processes in the European Parliament and the Polish position in the Council. They commissioned a survey that confirmed EU citizens' support for arguments formulated by civil society in the debate on the AI Act, and hired a specialised lobbying agency (AWO) to help design and carry out effective political communication in Brussels. Panoptykon recruited a new member of staff (initially as an external expert) with more than

a decade's experience in the field of human rights and technology, and who supported their work on the AI Act in 2023. Panoptyokn's work has influenced positions on the AI Act adopted by the European Parliament and the Polish government in the Council, namely empowering people to complain when they've been affected by AI systems.

Panoptykon has also played an active role in organising the civil society ecosystem to define alternatives for toxic recommender systems that social media companies deploy to trap people's attention.

The Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants (PICUM)
(April 2021 - June 2024)

€270.000
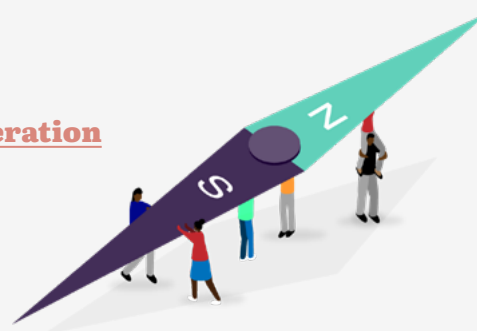
The Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants (PICUM) is a network of 158 organisations across 31 countries that seeks, through advocacy, to challenge criminalising approaches to migration and promote policies and practices that recognise human mobility as a normal reality, and guarantee all people their human rights regardless of migration or residence status.

Since the beginning of the grant, PICUM has deepened partnerships with actors from digital rights and other sectors in collective advocacy on the AI Act, in particular on migration and AI. This has involved collaboration on briefings, open letters 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 AI Act, 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. They have actively participated in collective advocacy on the AI Act and in shaping a shared analysis and approach, emphasising the importance of focusing on technology's impact on communities in view of a prevailing context of criminalisation.

SHARE Foundation and **Politiscope** (November 2022 - November 2024)

€194.000

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 currently lack capacity to implement AI systems in ways that take human rights into account. At this critical juncture, when vital legislation is being developed, SHARE Foundation and Politiscope have joined 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.

One of the primary achievements of SHARE Foundation's advocacy efforts was the withdrawal of the Draft Law enabling public algorithmic surveillance and preventing further threats to human rights and freedoms in Serbia. SHARE Foundation is continuing to advocate for a ban on mass biometric surveillance and is engaging with revisions of the legislation, as well as acting in other discussions at a national level.

Politiscope has been actively involved in AI public advocacy at the national level in Croatia and initiated communication with public bodies responsible for drafting and implementing EU tech regulations and policies. They also actively participated in public consultations on the new act regulating agencies for debt collection; they proposed transparency measures for the use of ADM or AI systems. While some recommendations on transparency of data protection were partially adopted, those related to ADM/AI transparency were rejected.

Statewatch (January 2024 - December 2024)

€29.453

Statewatch produces and promotes critical research, policy analysis and investigative journalism to inform debates, movements and campaigns on civil liberties, human rights and democratic standards. Statewatch seeks to provide information, analysis and tools for civil society in the UK and the EU to hold the state to account and achieve positive social change.

Statewatch's Ecosystem grant project will investigate the EU's deployment of potentially harmful AI systems for border control, migration and security. The goal of this project is to increase democratic scrutiny and oversight of the EU's ongoing activities to operationalise AI use by border guards, law enforcement and migration authorities. The use of AI is currently being encouraged through an AI roadmap managed by a working group of eu-LISA, the EU's justice and home affairs IT systems agency. Statewatch will communicate their findings and engage with the Members of the European Parliament to increase their awareness and to demand change and democratic accountability.

Superrr Lab (January 2024 - October 2024)

€26.500

SUPERRR is a community and a lab. They develop visions and projects to create more equitable futures by researching technologies, building networks and shaping new narratives. SUPERRR challenges existing paradigms by bringing new perspectives and stakeholders to the discussion. SUPERRR has led extensive work with social media content moderators and data workers in Germany and Kenya.

SUPERRR's project aims to secure fair working conditions and rights for frontline AI workers who are oftentimes exploited by wealthy tech companies. The project will enable SUPERRR to identify levers to improve AI workers' working conditions through policy engagement on the Supply Chain Act (EU) and enforcement of the Digital Services Act (DSA).

SUPERRR will conduct research to map and understand the landscape, gaps and opportunities for change in tech policy and regulations and directly engage with AI data workers to contribute to policy initiatives and form demands.

Systemic Justice (November 2022 - November 2024)

€250.000

Systemic Justice works to radically transform how the law works for communities fighting for racial, social, and economic justice. Centring affected communities in joint litigation, Systemic Justice works to help broaden access to judicial remedies for those fighting for justice and equality. This will help dismantle the power structures that sustain and fuel racial, social, and economic injustice.

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.

Who Targets Me (September 2023 - March 2024)

€29.825

Who Targets Me works on online political advertising transparency and accountability. They develop software tools that explain the uses of digital political ads and increase transparency, research how campaigns use them, and advocate for better ad transparency from tech platforms and in law.

The Ecosystem grant supports new research and advocacy on the use of generative AI in political advertising. The project explores the (potential) use of generative AI in political advertising on online platforms, the associated risks and the necessary safeguards and legislative frameworks.

It enables the organisation to shape policy responses, as well as platforms' approaches, and to highlight areas of risk as the platforms compete to offer new AI-powered features.

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