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Regulators take up the AI gauntlet

Policy makers are rising to the challenge of designing rules and regulations that promote human-centric AI which is transparent and trustworthy.

As global understanding of the massive scale and impact of digital transformation increases, policymakers have realized the need for ethical standards and guidelines to curb any potential adverse impacts from new technologies in relation to privacy and loss of control of personal data.

Rising to this challenge, in April 2019 the European Commission presented its Ethics Guidelines for Trustworthy Artificial Intelligence following a stakeholder consultation launched at the end of 2018. These guidelines, which are considered elsewhere in this publication, focus on the need for AI applications to have ethical purpose and technical robustness.

In May 2019 the OECD group of high-income nations approved the first ever inter-governmental standard on AI. Drawing on that recommendation, the leaders of the G20 adopted human-centric AI principles at a summit in Osaka, Japan in June: 2019. The OECD has identified five complementary principles for the responsible stewardship of trustworthy AI aiming to ensure it benefits people and the planet, and AI systems respect the law and human rights. AI must also be transparent and secure and that organizations using AI should be held accountable for their proper functioning.

The need for human-centric values

The OECD Principles and the EU's Ethics Guidelines for Trustworthy Artificial Intelligence have been supplemented by initiatives from governments, universities and industry. There has been such a rapid proliferation of ethical standards and government models that they now number in the hundreds.

Noteworthy national efforts include the American AI Initiative in the US, the Advisory Council on the Ethical Use of Artificial Intelligence and Data in Singapore, and the Beijing AI Principles in China. Ethics for AI has also been made a national priority in Canada.

Although each country has differing priorities, the need for a human-centric, values-based approach to AI is common across all these initiatives. The challenge now is how to make these principles concrete.

As a major participant in the digital economy, Atos is closely involved in this debate with stakeholders of all kinds. Based on our vision of Corporate Digital Responsibility, we are committed to helping develop transparent, accountable and trustworthy AI systems that put humanity at their heart.

To foster public trust and confidence in AI technologies and fully realize their potential, we are committed to a human-centered approach to AI.

G20 Ministerial Statement on Trade and Digital Economy,
June 2019