

Introduction for the Meeting

How to make Governments AI-Proof

How can we develop and implement standards for our stakeholders in the public domain

Plenary Opening

Government organizations increasingly use AI to support decision-making, policy-making and operations. For implementing a more standardized approach we need to understand and explain how AI – and especially algorithms - can effectively contribute to insights in underlying policies and decisions. For the legitimacy of public governance, the accountable use and transparency of AI and Algorithms is essential.

In the plenary opening, international experts will treat the current developments in the USA and Europe on how to create transparency and conditions for optimizing the opportunities of AI for governments. Speakers are invited to address the current challenges and opportunities within their own organizations. They are also invited to address the current opportunities for creating international standards which may work for both Europe and the United States and maybe even on a global scale.

The Workshops

In the workshops we will address issues in a more detailed way. Next to the speakers, the workshops will consist of Dutch participants which represent the following “overarching organisations” on this theme;

- The Research and Data support office of the Dutch Parliament
- The Ministry of Home Affairs (BZK); responsible for creating frameworks and standards for all the Ministries
- Inter-Provincial Organization (IPO); who recently finished a Data Agenda for the Provinces
- Municipal umbrella organization (VNG): responsible for creating AI agenda’s for municipalities
- The National Office for Statistics and Data (CBS); They are the main “public Data Holder” in the Netherlands
- The Netherlands Professional Organization for IT Auditors (NOREA); representing both private and public IT experts on these issues

All these organization represent - to a certain level – the main public stakeholders in their domain. All participants intend to create standards among their stakeholders in order to stimulate the use AI for policy development and decision making in an effective, transparent and accountable way. This implies the development of (among others):

- Guidelines and standards on modeling and the use of AI techniques
- Standards on data security, privacy and the legitimate use of data
- Developing organisational conditions for a structured and mature use of AI in policy making
- Working with the same Ethical and policy standards

In all working groups, these six organizations will have a spokesperson to address the main issues at stake.

Session 1: Actionability of Transparent algorithms

The first session treats the issue of how transparency can empower or inform the actions of other stakeholders in a way that they contribute to public value at the aggregate level, i.e. not just efficiency, effectiveness, or privacy, but the balanced total, having involved trade-offs and choices. This is key for societal acceptance of AI use by government, and may contribute to an actionable framework by which to assess algorithmic governance initiatives. In this session we will analyse transparency as providing public access to information about what the actions or decisions of a

government organization towards a multiplicity of stakeholders that are somehow affected by the use of algorithms, so called 'fishbowl transparency' but we also take a broader point of view. The complexity of algorithms makes it hard for policymakers to understand them, to monitor on possible bias and to take necessary action to safeguard proper use of AI for policy. Therefore it is important to develop principles and guidelines for transparency in the design of algorithms.

Session 2: Conditions for better public datasets for a proper use of AI

In order to use algorithms that embody and respect public values, we need data to be available and accessible. This is stimulated by the enactment of policies that enforce open source, auditable code. The quality of data in open data sets is an important prerequisite. For instance, training data needs to be representative and accessible, which can be challenging given that the public sector collects data for specific purposes, leading to datasets that may be biased by default. Securing values such as fairness in the data used, but also the capacity to engage with the limitations of data, are important for the responsible use of algorithms in policy.

Another question is how to achieve more harmonization in the formats with which datasets are created and stored so they can not only be exchanged effectively among stakeholders but also be used for AI purposes on a higher aggregate level.

Session 3: Internal organisational consequences and conditions for a more structured use of AI within government

The use of AI in policymaking has significant organizational and transformational consequences. This is further complicated by the fact that the development and deployment of algorithms happens in a world quite different from the actual use thereof in policy.

In this session we explore the organizational conditions necessary for a structured and mature use of AI in policy making. Elements that need to be treated are:

- How can we ensure that the insights into the nature of Algorithms is sufficient at both the senior policy level *and* the political level for making reliable judgements on its potential?
- If the use of algorithms leads to *ex durante* monitoring (sometimes real time) of policies, what may be the effect on the traditional accountability mechanisms in the policy cycle?

Session 4: Generating Evidence for policymakers through Data and AI

The creation of evidence for successful policy interventions through a structured use of data embodies an important contradiction; evidence on effective policy interventions is often developed on grassroots level, while structured evidence needs to be demonstrated preferably on an international – even universal – level.

Creating evidence through the **use of AI** in supporting policy in a responsible and transparent way is a risky endeavor. If we want to develop a more structured use of data for policy use we need to be able to create full transparency in the different (public) values that play a role, the trade-offs and choices being made and the organizational configurations through which these are made. Also, we need to be open on what algorithms and the data used are capable of.

Let's take a step back to the **use of Data** for evidence. Creating evidence, based on a structured use of public data needs a policy towards sharing these data. The current Covid 19 issues clearly demonstrate how complex it is to share data (and best practices) internationally between national data holding bodies. How complex it may be to collect data among citizens and share them for national use. How much hurdles do we need to overcome to share local and regional data to the national level and, even more, the other way around? All these processes need to be discussed if we want to get some insight in the current possibilities on creating evidence through big data and AI.