Digital Single Market

POLICY

High-Level Expert Group on Artificial Intelligence

Following an open selection process, the Commission has appointed 52 experts to a new High-Level Expert Group on Artificial Intelligence, comprising representatives from academia, civil society, as well as industry.

About Artificial intelligence

Policies +

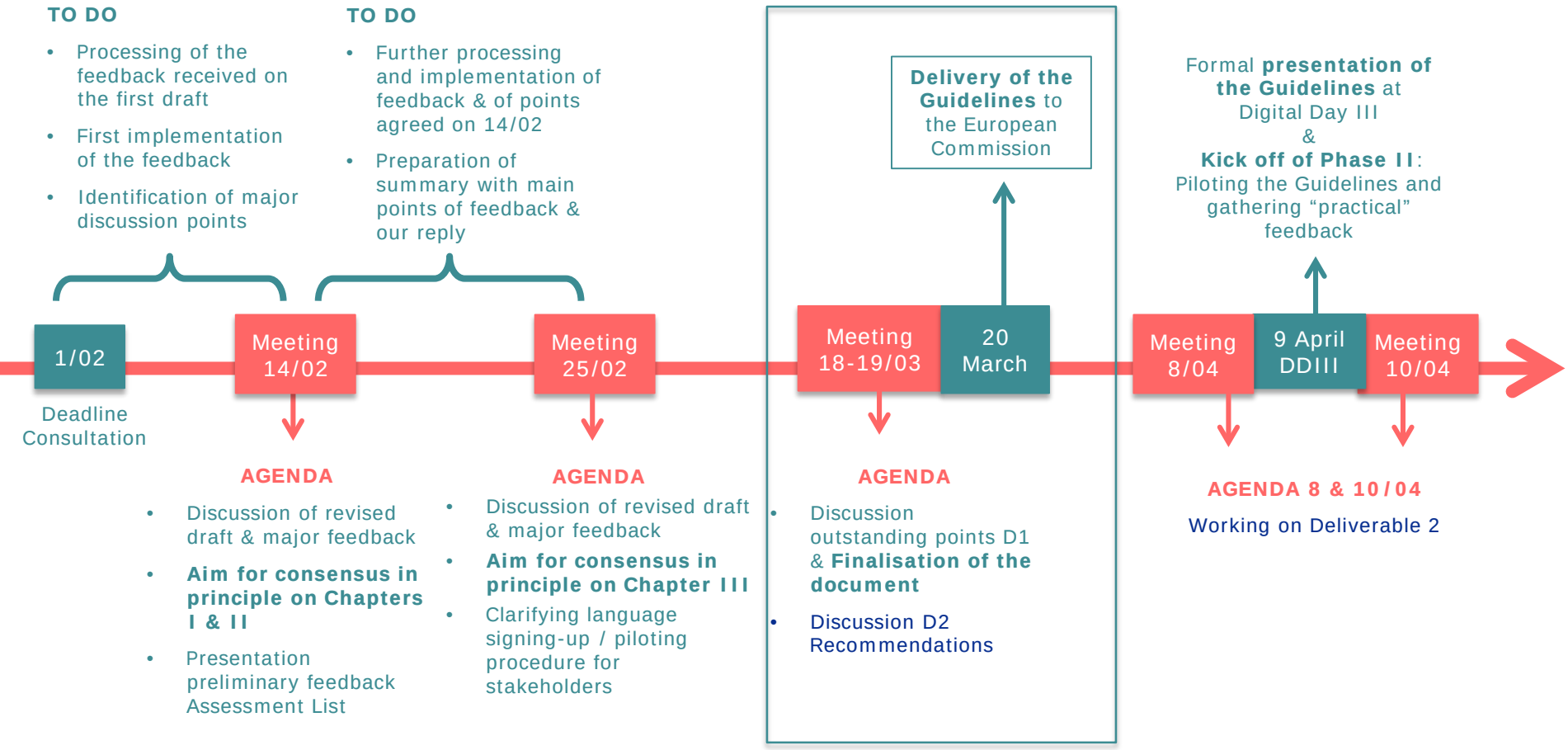
Blog posts

News

Events

Projects

Timeline Deliverable 1 - PHASE I



European Commission

Trustworthy HLEG?

Composition of the AI HLEG

Working Group 1

Product: draft AI Ethics Guidelines

Chair: Nozha Boujemaa

52 experts

Chair: Pekka Ala-Pietilä

23 companies

19 academia

10 civil society

Working Group 2

Product: Policy & Investment Recommendations

Chair: Barry O'Sullivan

ØOnly 4 philosophers in HLEG.

European Commission

„Ethics-washing“ Def.:

1. Organizing and cultivating ethical debates
    a. in order to delay,
    b. postpone,
    c. avoid,
    d. deter from,
    e. or substitute for policy making or regulation.

→ The current situation needs rules which are binding, enforceable and encompass the legitimacy of a full democratic process.

Introduction

- **AI technology is moving incredibly fast**
  - Challenge for regulators
- **We don't have all the answers**
  - Humility needed
  - Further research needed
  - Flexibility / adaptability of regulatory models needed
- **Ethics as a necessity and as key enabler for Business**
- **Interdisciplinary & multi-stakeholder approach is crucial**

European Commission

„Ethics-shopping“ Def.:

Regulatory patchworks may give rise to ‘ethics shopping’, resulting in the relocation of AI development and use to regions with lower ethical standards. Allowing the debate to be dominated by certain regions, disciplines, demographics or industry actors risks excluding a wider set of societal interests and perspectives.

European Group on Ethics in Science and New Technologies (2018). *Statement on Artificial Intelligence, Robotics and ‘Autonomous’ Systems*: 14. doi:10.2777/531856

January 20, 2019

Facebook and the Technical University of Munich Announce New Independent TUM Institute for Ethics in Artificial Intelligence

Deliverable 1: The Guidelines

- Intent
- Implementation
- Use Cases
- Red Lines

Guidelines should be:

- ☑ Practically implementable in a variety of situations
- ☑ Cover main domains where ethical guidance is needed

Ø There are no non-negotiable Red Lines any more.
Ø There CAN be situations in which no ethically acceptable trade-offs are available.

European Commission

Bad News

1. Ethics Guidelines are *strongly* industry-dominated.
2. No real normative substance on the level of *concrete* recommendations (e.g., Red Lines).
3. Many unsolved issues:
   a. „explicability“ (rhetorically glossed over by „traceability“, „auditability“, etc.),
   b. synthetic phenomenology (artificial consciousness),
   c. AGI (artificial *general* intelligence),
   d. (...)
4. Short-sighted.

Good News

1. Our current Ethics Guidelines are *much* better than anything China or the USA have.
2. Our current Ethics Guidelines are an *excellent* first step to begin a second phase of discussion and to velop it further.

What do we need?

1. Training: A whole new generation of experts in the Applied Ethics of AI.
2. Professional Research: A continued discussion of the Ethics Guidelines on a less biased and more professional (i.e., academic) level.
3. Dissemination of research results:
   a. *Communication* to the general public,
   b. Transfer to *education* system.

A positive proposal

1. Allocate 12,5% of the investment for
2. a European Ethics Hub plus
3. an education/dissemination-network across all European universities.

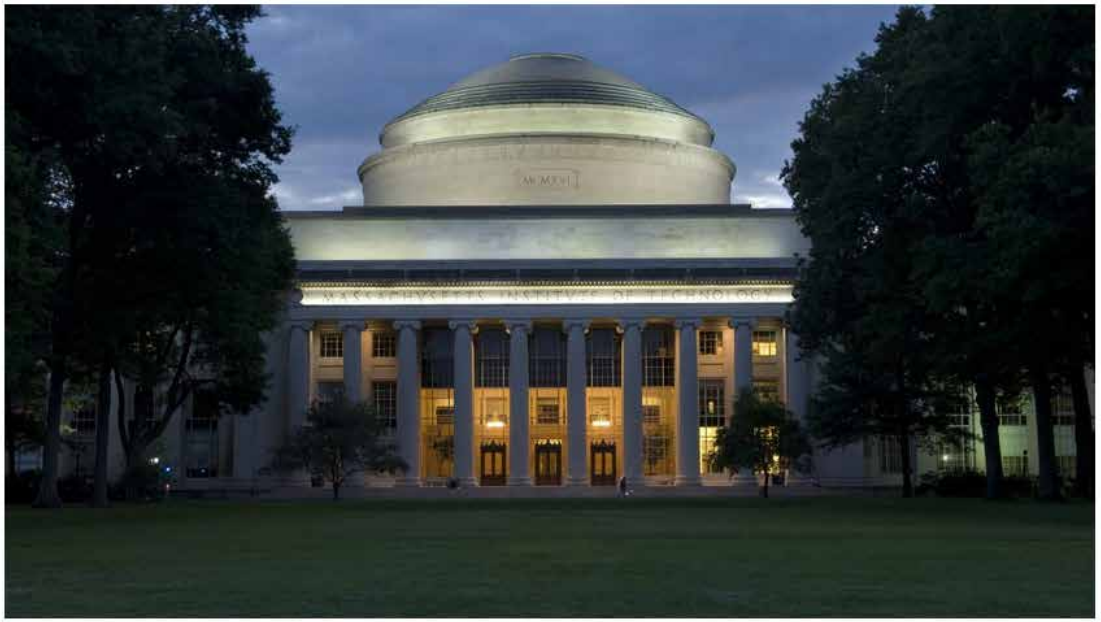
→ Continue the debate on an *academic* level.

MIT has just announced a $1 billion plan to create a new college for AI

One of the birthplaces of artificial intelligence, MIT has announced a bold plan to reshape its academic program around the technology. With $1 billion in funding, MIT will create a new college that combines AI, machine learning, and data science with other academic disciplines. It is the largest financial investment in AI by any US academic institution to date.

MIT Commits $1 Billion To Study Artificial Intelligence And Its Ethical Applications

PRAJAKTA HEBBAR - OCT 16, 2018



Photograph: Christopher Harting/ Image source: MIT

MIT on Monday announced a new $1 billion commitment to address the global opportunities and challenges presented by the prevalence of computing and the rise of artificial intelligence. According to a statement by the noted college, this is the single largest investment in computing and AI by an American academic institution.

The BIG question:

In this critical historic transition - can humankind‘s great spiritual, religious, humanistic, or philosophical traditions make a *substantial contribution*?

There is competition!

FINANCIAL TIMES
FRIDAY 18 AUGUST 2017
FT.COM

Silicon Valley

Silicon Valley is selling an ancient dream of immortality

Human beings are the only animals to have evolved an insight into their own death

THOMAS METZINGER

Death is not just something the Chinese have invented to make America less competitive. Empirical evidence and rational argument converge on the fact that all of us will eventually disappear for good

Silicon Valley tech evangelism and trans-humanism are merely the latest forms of culturally evolved self-deception. They present us with a new metaphysical placebo for existential palliative care. Will we upload ourselves into virtual reality? Perhaps a benevolent superintelligence can help us break through into a life beyond all suffering? Could the church of the technological singularity be right in proclaiming that immortality is nearer than we think?

It is tempting to dismiss scientifically inspired presentiments of immortality as arrant nonsense, but we should not underestimate the way ideas like transhumanism speak powerfully to our unconscious need for delusion. This is not only a new religion that does without God and churches — it also is a marketing strategy for new technology. A novel form of cross-promotion and co-branding, tech evangelism really aims at a deeper and more efficient penetration into the digital marketplace by offering mortality denial in the same package.

http://www.wayofthefuture.church/

Multi-millionaire engineer creates religion around AI-based worship

Technology · 1 hour ago

A Wired profile reveals that Anthony Levandowski founded a religious institution called Way of the Future, which aims "through understanding and worship of the Godhead, [to] contribute to the betterment of...