

AI & Local Democracy – What Are We Talking About?

***Artificial Intelligence and democracy:
a political imperative for a participatory future***

I am a #WhyNotter and a ICSK

(I Collaborate to Share Knowledge)

- Computer scientist (*nobody is perfect*)
- Smart City and Smart Community
- Openness: Open Government, Open Source, Open Data, Open Innovation, Open Access, ...
- Former Councillor for Roma Semplice
- Honorary President of the Scientific Committee of the Ampioraggio Foundation
- Feminist (*I told you... nobody is perfect*)

My tags: Digital transformation, Open data, FOIA, Open source, Smart land, Participation, Inclusion, Reuse, Equal Opportunity, #3RE (*Resignation, Resilience, Rebellion*), AI & Biases, acronyms and acrostics,...



European AI ACT

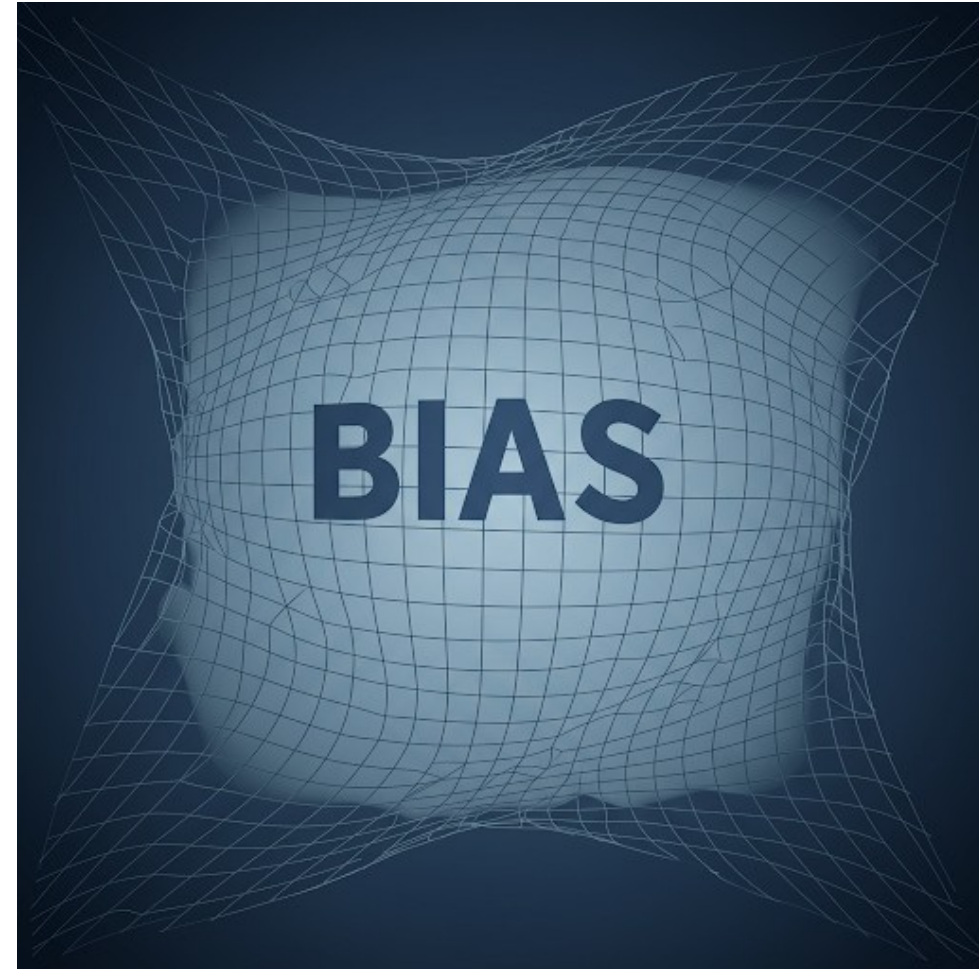
The EU AI Act is a groundbreaking regulation ensuring **safe** and **ethical AI use** in the EU.

It adopts a **risk-based approach**, imposing stricter rules on high-risk AI to protect fundamental rights, ensure **transparency**, and promote **accountability**.

By balancing innovation with risk mitigation, it positions the EU as a leader in responsible AI governance.

However, we must acknowledge the inherent risks 1

Biases: AI algorithms are trained on data, and if that data reflects existing societal biases, the AI will perpetuate and even amplify them. This can lead to discriminatory outcomes, particularly for marginalized groups.



However, we must acknowledge the inherent risks 2

Gender biases:

- AI systems used for recruitment may favor male candidates if trained on historical data that predominantly features male professionals.
- Facial recognition software can be less accurate in recognizing female faces, especially those of women of color, due to underrepresentation in training datasets.
- Voice recognition software may struggle to understand female voices due to a lack of diversity in voice samples.
- Advertising algorithms can display job advertisements for leadership positions mainly to men, while showing secretarial roles to women.
- AI used in medical diagnosis, can give skewed results, if the training data is predominately from male patients.

However, we must acknowledge the inherent risks 3

Other biases

- Racial bias: AI used in criminal justice systems may unevenly target minority communities.
- Socioeconomic bias: AI algorithms may perpetuate existing inequalities by favoring individuals from higher socioeconomic backgrounds.
- Age bias: many systems are created with younger people in mind, and older generations are not considered.
- Bias related to disabilities: lack of data related to people with disabilities, can cause systems to be not inclusive.



***When faced with social transformations
we can be overwhelmed by them
or try to understand and govern them!***

Italian Open Government Partnership

The commitment “**Promotion of inclusiveness and rights in access to technologies and the use of Artificial Intelligence**” deployment of AI technologies are carried out in a manner that is both inclusive and respectful of fundamental rights. This involves:

- **Bridging the digital divide**. Efforts to ensure equitable access to technology for all citizens, particularly those from marginalized or disadvantaged groups.
- **Protecting fundamental rights**. Safeguarding rights such as privacy, non-discrimination, and freedom of expression in the context of AI development and use.

Italian Open Government Partnership

- **Promoting ethical AI**. Encouraging the development and adoption of ethical guidelines and standards for AI systems.
- **Enhancing digital literacy**. Initiatives to improve citizens' understanding of AI and digital technologies, empowering them to use these tools safely and effectively.
- **Fostering inclusive innovation**. Supporting the development of AI solutions that address social challenges and promote inclusivity.

Expected results

- strengthening of **skills** for the implementation and management of participatory processes
- a **mapping of practices**, with particular attention to the dimension of gender, intergenerational and intersectional biases
- the shared definition of **ethical principles** for the use of AI;
- the formulation of **recommendations on the inclusiveness** of AI data and algorithms, to be delivered to the competent national bodies

How can AI enhance citizen participation and decision-making?

- Facilitate access to information: AI-powered platforms can provide citizens with easy access to complex government data and policies, making information more digestible and understandable.
- Enable online consultations: AI can analyze vast amounts of public feedback from online forums, surveys, and social media, helping policymakers understand public sentiment.
- Enhance civic engagement: AI-driven chatbots and virtual assistants can provide citizens with personalized information and guidance on civic issues.
- Data analysis for policy: AI can analyze large datasets to identify trends and patterns, aiding in evidence-based policymaking.

AI and democracy must go hand in hand because a truly participatory future starts with empowered citizens!



Thank you/



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