

LACIGF 12 Report

Title of the session: Session 12 – Automated Decision-Making and Artificial Intelligence: How Is the Region Preparing?

Session summary:

The moderator **María Paz Canales (Derechos Digitales, Chile)** raises the need to work on the regulatory framework that accompanies the process of regulation of artificial intelligence (AI) and guarantees the agency of the citizens of the region. The idea is that each one share experiences and perspectives on these issues.

Pollyanna Rigon Valente (Youth Observatory, Brazil) began by speaking that she is part of the Youth Observatory and wanted to talk about the technical landscape of AI: "Algorithms are opinions embedded in mathematics." Even if they don't want to, programmers will place their opinions in the algorithms they build and that there is a certain bias. She mentioned the successful cases of the famous AI algorithms made by Amazon, MIT, COMPAS and Microsoft, and how those were negatively affected. She commented an success algorithm case is not always a good thing: Amazon (its new employee evaluation algorithm was sexist); Norman (algorithm developed by MIT was changed in a psychopathic software); COMPAS (search software for prior evaluation of the people profile); and Tay Tweets (Microsoft Bot that became fascist). She argued that they are all closed source software, and that is why there is no possibility of analysis, which is an important detail. She raises a question: How can the technical community participate in the discussion of automated decisions? According to her, the free software community is a very united community, and with the open source, the scientific community can work individually on what they consider more ethical. When it comes to open source software, the community can adapt the software to a more regional reality and that has a different impact.

Javier Barreiro (Agesic Technology Director, Uruguay) spoke about the development of digital government made by Agesic and specifically since last year the work of improving public bodies is being carried out. The process began with an internal call to those interested within the agency, where they commented why they were interested in developing the strategy for digital government. They prepared a draft strategy. The first step was the definition of the principles that should take into account the public administration to work AI. The principles were developed (Governance, Capacities, Use, Sensitization) and put to public consultation (companies, citizens, academia, etc). All actors participate in this with their comments. He said there are many entities and actors with different principles. Facebook has its principles, and the State has other principles, for example; and we must understand the value of the human being and understand the value of the decision made. We need engagement of different actors to establish automated methods of decision making: who is in the academy, in the industry, in government and in civil society. The principles are shared broadly by Agesic, Facebook, OECD, among other institutions.

Paula Vargas (Facebook, Argentina) said that automated solutions can favor all sectors in all areas, but raises concerns that are very relevant: discrimination, transparency of algorithms, security of algorithms. Regarding the question "What is the ethical framework in which to operate this technology?", She proposes that intelligence should be governed by an ethical framework and a social law. Reflect on what are the mechanisms to mitigate the results. She said that Facebook uses a lot of artificial intelligence in many of its products (news feed, searches, facial recognition) and that it also uses AI data for the well-being of the community (helping health organizations, for example) and that AI is still used to moderate content on its platforms of 2.7 billion people (graphic violence, nudity and sexual activity, terrorist

propaganda, hate speech, spam, and false accounts). Regarding how Facebook builds technology that includes ethics in its products, she commented that if they don't take into account the amount of people need, if not representative, the algorithm will have an error. In the end, she commented on the lessons learned during this time working with artificial intelligence:

- Let them ask AI, and let her answer difficult questions;
- Think about what this product was made for;
- Document the process very well;
- This process is continuous monitoring;
- Identify the risks at each step of the implementation, not just in development;
- Ethical issues can be hard, of social impact, so the community must be involved.

Suggests that we should open scientific advances to the community to advance in the state of the art and that all automated decisions are not equal, we have to develop a taxonomy and work together.

Estelle Massé (Access Now) commented that in Europe a group of multistakeholder experts on AI issues was created having had two work axis: defining the framework of the European strategy; and evaluate what the AI challenges are going to focus on. She suggests The Good Place series to see the topic of ethics. She commented that when the debate on ethics begins, it is necessary to evaluate what kind of ethics it is necessary to take (she named four currents: virtuosity, consequentialism, nihilism, deontology), and that she is not asking for a specific technological regulation, but respect the basic concepts and the ethical standards. She said we should think about what kind of data we are going to include in this technology and what decision we are going to make. This should be clear and there is not much debate about whether it is a good option to use the AI tool first to solve problems, but we have examples of AI used in a debatable way. It is also relevant to question whether innovation is to be used, if that impact is desired, because once implemented it is more difficult to stop it, defining for example, sectors in which the risk is so high that it will be decided not to use AI in those contexts. In the end, she said we should not assume technology will always be beneficial.

Outputs and other relevant links:

Full session: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UaAiR15grsU>

Pollyana Rigon Presentation:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/18YW423d3olvKFiEauqf_W1dgr93oc-z9/view?usp=sharing

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