Preventing the potential discriminatory effects of the use of artificial intelligence in local services

Intercultural cities webinar

"AI advances important goals, such as efficiency, health and economic growth but it can also have discriminatory effects, for instance when AI systems learn from biased human decisions... AI system invents new classes, which do not correlate with protected characteristics, to differentiate between people. Such differentiation could still be unfair, however, for instance when it reinforces social inequality."

Discrimination, Artificial Intelligence and Algorithmic Decision-making,
Study by Prof. Frederik Zuiderveen Borgesius for ECRI, December 2018

Municipalities provide a wide range of public services to their citizens and increasingly this is supported by technologies including Automated Decision Making (ADM) tools and Artificial Intelligence (AI) solutions. The deployment of IT tools in public services has brought new challenges and potential risks of bias, prejudice towards certain categories of citizens, and discrimination. Such risks were, for example, detected in the Dutch SyRI system used by national and local authorities to detect housing or social security fraud, smart water meters in several cities in Europe or AI applications used in staff recruitment.

Some cities - like New York - have already implemented measures to prevent such irregularities, others are only starting to consider what steps should they take. Intercultural cities develop policies and expertise in social inclusion and equality, prevention of discrimination, and raising awareness around important societal challenges. It is useful for decision-makers to also understand the potential biases and risks of AI, and learn about ways of mitigating such risks. The experience of advanced cities could help build trustworthy and ethical AI.

On behalf of the Intercultural cities programme and ePaństwo Foundation, we invite you to take part in a 2.5-hour webinar about the challenges Artificial Intelligence and Algorithmic Decision-making present for local authorities, in particular in relation to (anti-) discrimination, inclusion, and the fight against hate speech. The webinar will be held on 21st September 2020 at **13:00 CET**.

Agenda

1. **13:00-13:30 -** General introduction (what is ADM, legal background, EC plans for regulation).
2. **13:30-14:00 -** New technologies. Old and common problems - mapping where discrimination may occur.
3. **14:00-14:30 -** How to safeguard against discriminatory ADM through public procurement?
4. **14:30-15:00** - How we should use Algorithmic Impact Assessments (AIA) to flag risks before implementing AI?
5. **15:00-15:30 -** How to set up a framework that will help to spot problems while using ADM?

The workshop will be led by **Krzysztof Izdebski, Policy Director of ePaństwo Foundation**, and author and editor of "alGOVrithms. Are Citizens Governed by Computer Programs?"