

An abstract painting featuring a large, expressive hand in shades of orange, yellow, and red, reaching down towards a blue and green keyboard. The background is a mix of warm and cool colors, creating a dynamic and textured composition.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

ETHICS IN THE EU'S AI ACT

29 JANUARY 2027

CALL FOR PAPERS

International Conference

Ethics in the EU's AI Act

(2nd Edition)

29 January 2027

Lisbon, Portugal

Call for Papers

Organized by

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Background

Revolutionary, perhaps even more than merely transformative, is the term that will most aptly characterize the role of artificial intelligence in contemporary societies. From healthcare to financial services, from labour markets to higher education, from law enforcement to the administration of justice and from the dissemination of information to democratic deliberation, the influence of artificial intelligence is increasingly pervasive across fundamental domains of social life.

It entails the reconfiguration of decision-making processes, a substantial change in the distribution of resources – including of wealth and of income – and a radical transformation of the knowledge production, dissemination and validation.

Even though the economic and social benefits are undeniable, no less significant are the ethical and legal challenges posed by artificial intelligence. AI systems frequently operate in ways that do not afford meaningful scrutiny and that raise serious concerns regarding transparency and explainability. Similar difficulties do arise on accountability, namely under the background of gradual replacement of human agency by agentic AI and of forms of human oversight that may either be absent, ineffective or even merely nominal.

The same can be said regarding privacy protection, amidst mass collection and processing of personal and sensitive data, as well as pervasive forms of monitoring, tracking and profiling of individuals.

Growing reliance on automated decision-making systems will afford the risk of reproducing and amplifying existing patterns of discrimination and social inequality, deep-seated in the human generated datasets that AI systems rely upon to operate. While generative AI lie at the source of growing concerns regarding misinformation and manipulation of public opinion, with the inherent risks to democracies and to the rule of law.

Such developments require substantial and in-depth critical reflection on the ethical implications of artificial intelligence, where accountability, fairness, privacy, autonomy, non-maleficence, trustworthiness, human dignity and the protection of fundamental rights will become centre stage.

It is against this backdrop that, prior to the enactment of any binding legal regulations in the EU, philosophers and ethicist were asked to develop detailed ethical principles intended to guide the development and deployment of artificial intelligence systems, in such a way that would foster the development of human centric and beneficial AI systems and mitigate the potential harms that such systems might bring about. These processes culminated in 2019 in the presentation by the High-Level Expert Group (HLEG) on AI, of the Ethics Guidelines for Trustworthy Artificial Intelligence.

In the recitals of the subsequent AI Act ethical principles that stem from the work of HLEG should guide the development of coherent, trustworthy and human-centric AI. This gives rise to a number of important questions concerning the nature of those ethical principles, their normative force, and how they can and should interact with the legal norms posited in the AI Act.

We are convening the **Ethics in the EU's AI Act (2nd Edition)**, and invite legal experts, philosophers, social scientists, computer scientists and other experts on related fields to critically discuss how ethics and ethical principles can shape and modulate the legal framework put in place by the AI Act and related legislation.

Building on the Ethics in the AI Act Workshop (1st Edition) held in Lund in October 2025, the conference provides a forum for transdisciplinary dialogue on the role of ethics and ethical principles in the governance framework of the AI Act, and on the ethical, regulatory and conceptual challenges arising from artificial intelligence, as well as the AI

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Act approach as a framework for a coherent, human centric and trustworthy AI governance.

The conference will be followed up by the publication of an open access edited volume later in 2027.

Interested researchers (including early career researchers and Ph.D. candidates) are invited to submit an abstract of 350-500 words, in English, **by 16th October 2026** and upload them to: ethicsandtheaiact.fd.sede@ucp.pt

Submissions should include a CV, with email and institutional affiliation.

Timeline

- **16th October 2026:** Deadline for submission of abstracts
- **30th October 2026:** Communication of acceptance
- **29th January 2027:** Conference in Lisbon
- **30th April 2027:** Deadline for submission of final papers for publication
- **31st May 2027:** Communication of acceptance for publication on an open access edited volume later in 2027.

Travel and accommodation will **not** be covered by the organization.