Net4 Society

Collaborative online Brokerage event:

"Artificial intelligence in Horizon Europe calls: an interdisciplinary challenge"

Flash Presentation

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UNIVERSITÀ DI TORINO

C P S CULTURE POLITICA SOCIETÀ
Dipartimento Culture, Politica e Società

Com4T.EU
COMMUNICATING FOR TRANSITIONS IN EUROPE

MagIA

Our expertise /project idea

We work on **AI for public purposes**, with a specific focus on **public communication and citizen engagement**.

Our approach brings together **AI-driven solutions**, **democratic innovation**, and **anticipatory governance**, grounded in the principles of **Trustworthy AI**, **AI for Social Good**, and **human-in-the-loop oversight**. We address the growing impact of AI on public administrations and governments across the EU, with particular attention to **accountability, democratic legitimacy, and societal impact**.

To support this mission, we work extensively with **policy foresight and horizon scanning**, using anticipatory methods to inform **evidence-based and future-oriented policymaking** in contexts of technological and institutional uncertainty.

Our **interdisciplinary team** combines expertise in **political science, sociology, communication and media studies, social psychology, AI ethics, and digital governance**, allowing us to treat AI as a **technical, institutional, and communicative phenomenon**.

We operate within a **multistakeholder consortium model**, bringing together **academic institutions, civic tech organizations, EU governance bodies, civil society actors, and SMEs**. This configuration enables us to address complex public challenges and to **co-design, test, and scale human-centred and accountable AI solutions** for public administration and citizen participation.

Our work is anchored in the **Jean Monnet Chair Com4T.EU** and the public engagement project **MagIA.news**, which serve as **living labs** for experimenting with **Trustworthy, human-in-the-loop AI** in public communication and democratic innovation.

Topics of interest

We are currently working on (and eager to explore further):

1. Civic AI and Democratic Participation
Design and governance of AI systems that support citizen participation, strengthen public trust, and improve institutional responsiveness, with attention to privacy, accountability, and democratic legitimacy.

2. Cognitive Impacts of AI on Political Judgment and Critical Thinking
Examination of how AI systems influence perception, reasoning, and decision-making among policymakers and citizens, including effects on **critical thinking**, attention, trust calibration, bias, and the overall quality of democratic judgment.

3. AI in Governance and Human Oversight
Analysis of AI use in public decision-making, addressing the risks of delegating political judgment to automated systems and developing **human-in-the-loop** and accountability frameworks that preserve democratic control.

4. The Agentic State and Hybrid Governance
Exploration of hybrid human–AI governance models for large-scale public services, with a focus on **generative and agentic AI**, including **multi-agent systems**, distributed agency, and the conditions required to ensure transparency, fairness, contestability, and democratic accountability.

5. AI, Media Systems, and the Public Sphere
Study of how generative AI is reshaping institutional communication and media dynamics in the EU, and its implications for public trust, transparency, and democratic engagement.

Role in the STEM-SSH collaboration

We provide **SSH expertise** that ensures AI systems developed within the project are **human-centred, democratically governed, and socially legitimate**.

Our contribution focuses on **bridging AI development with public institutions, citizens, and democratic norms**, supporting the design, deployment, and evaluation of **Trustworthy, human-in-the-loop AI** for the public sector.

Our role across the project lifecycle

1. Upstream: problem framing, risk identification, and use-case definition grounded in democratic values and public need
2. During development: participatory co-design, ethical oversight, and governance of AI system
3. Downstream: impact assessment, public communication, regulatory alignment, and trust-building

Core SSH contributions

1. Qualitative analysis (content analysis, expert interviews, ethical audits) to assess AI impacts on governance and public trust
2. Participatory methods (co-design workshops, citizen engagement tools, scenario building) to involve stakeholders in AI development
3. Policy and regulatory analysis to align AI systems with democratic principles and EU governance framework
4. Longitudinal studies to track AI integration and its effects on political engagement, public perception, and critical thinking

Contact us!

Marinella Belluati marinella.belluati@unito.it (University - Italy)
Sara Pane sara.pane@unito.it (University - Italy)