



Informatics Europe Working Group on Societal Impact & Ethics

Kick-off meeting 2022 05 03

Gordana Dodig-Crnkovic

<http://gordana.se/> & <http://www.gordana.se/work/presentations.html>

Chalmers University of Technology

<https://www.chalmers.se/en/staff/Pages/gordana-dodig-crnkovic.aspx>

Mälardalen University

http://www.es.mdh.se/staff/37-Gordana_Dodig_Crnkovic

Agenda

- Welcome
- Participants present themselves and their interest in participating in the WG
- Appointing of the chair and secretary (Dympna O'Sullivan appointed chair the group. Gordana Dodig-Crnkovic secretary for the meeting)
- Information from Dympna about ETHICS4EU project
- Discussion and definition of the general goals for the working group
- Defining a plan for the deliverables to be produced.

<https://www.informatics-europe.org/join-us/active-working-groups.html>

Group members

Name	Email	Affiliation	Country
Prof. Dympna O'Sullivan	dympna.osullivan@tudublin.ie	TU Dublin	Ireland
Prof. Monica Landoni	monica.landoni@usi.ch	Universita della Svizzera Italiana	Switzerland
Prof. Tatjana Welzer Družovec	tatjana.welzer@um.si	University of Maribor	Slovenia
Prof. Brendan Tierney	brendan.tierney@tudublin.ie	Technological University Dublin	Ireland
Prof. Tiziana Catarci	catarci@diag.uniroma1.it	Sapienza Università di Roma	Italy
Dr. Thomas Alessandro Ciarfuglia	ciarfuglia@diag.uniroma1.it	Sapienza University of Rome	Italy
Prof. Gordana Dodig-Crnkovic	dodig@chalmers.se	Chalmers University of Technology	Sweden

The above members attended the meeting 03 05 2022.

Group members

Name	Email	Affiliation	Country
Prof. Damian Gordon	Damian.x.Gordon@TUDublin.ie	Technological University Dublin	Ireland
Prof. Ernst Wit	wite@usi.ch	Universita della Svizzera Italiana	Switzerland
Prof. Ugo Lopez	ugo.lopez@uniba.it	Università degli studi di Bari Aldo Moro	Italy
Dr. Ayushi Rastogi	a.rastogi@rug.nl	University of Groningen	Netherlands
Prof. Manana Khachidze	manana.khachidze@tsu.ge	Iv.Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University	Georgia
Yannis Stavrakakis	ioannis.stavrakakis@tudublin.ie	Technological University Dublin	Ireland
Dr. Andrea F. Curley	andrea.f.curley@tudublin.ie	Technological University Dublin	Ireland

IE WG Societal Impact and Ethics – From Informatics Europe Web Page

We are living in an exceptionally exciting time in history, witnessing and participating in radical changes in societies, closely connected to major advancements of emergent technologies.

The drivers of the development are in the first place intelligent and cognitive technologies, but equally important: information technology, nanotechnology, biotechnology, automatic/autonomous transportation, robotics, radically new medical technologies, new educational technologies - the list goes on, and fields overlap and are mutually dependent.

As professionals within Informatics/Computing/Computer Sciences and related fields, we are best equipped to help create a deep understanding of emergent technologies.

IE WG Societal Impact and Ethics

As Informatics community, we need to ensure that socio-technological systems in the domain of informatics impact society beneficially, and ethically. This is especially important when it comes to emergent technologies, and particularly for the new artificial intelligence and cognitive technologies in all phases of their development, from the design to implementation and in different applications. Current EU Artificial Intelligence Act: The European Approach to AI, presents a basis for the discussion.

Equally important for us as a community of educators in Europe, is to help introduce the teaching of ethics and social aspects at technical universities in Europe. [ETHICS4EU project](#) provides a foundation for continuing work on ethics education. Implementation of the ETHICS4EU results should be done through the various departments.

Ethics4EU Project Presentation (by Dympna)

<https://www.informatics-europe.org/social-impact/ethics-cs-higher-education.html>

Informatics Europe leads several activities looking into the arising ethics issues in computer science higher education and more.

The Ethics4EU Project: Informatics Europe is currently a partner in the [Erasmus+ Project Ethics4 EU - Ethical Computer Science Education for Europe](#), running from 2019 to 2022. Having received a near half-million Euros funding, the Ethics4EU Erasmus+ transnational project aims to develop new curricula, best practices and learning resources on digital ethics for computer science students. It follows a 'train the trainer' model for up-skilling computer science lecturers across Europe. Lead by TU Dublin, Ethics4EU's project partners are Mälardalen University, Institut Mines-Telecom/Télécom SudParis, Informatics Europe, and DLEARN. Informatics Europe supports the project with general dissemination and communication activities, and a particular emphasis on building an online community of practice, initiated by a working group of Informatics Europe members.

To learn more about this project, visit the [Ethics4EU website](#) and follow the project on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) , and [LinkedIn](#).

Ethics4EU (Erasmus+) - objectives

- To identify gaps in computer science lecturers' knowledge of ethics
- To develop a common understanding of pan-European values in ethics in technology
- To develop a repository of open and accessible online curricula, teaching and assessment resources (bricks) to support computer science ethics
- To produce practical guidelines and instructor guides for the teaching of computer science ethics
- To develop a sustainable European Community of Practice in computer science ethics
- To develop an online training programme through the HubLinked Global Labs model for computer science lecturers in ethics

Ethics4EU - partners

- Technological University Dublin, Ireland
- European Digital Learning Network, Italy
- Informatics Europe, Switzerland
- Mälardalen University, Sweden
- Institut Mines-Telecom, France

Ethics4EU – outputs

- Research report on European values in Digital Ethics
- Research report on State of the Art of Teaching Ethics in Computer Science programmes
- Curriculum for teaching ethics in Computer Science
- An open access online learning resources database of teaching and assessment strategies for teaching ethics in computer science
- An instructor guide to aid the delivery of material from the online resources database
- An online community of practice to facilitate discussion and experiences in delivering computer science ethics which will complement the online resource database and instructor guide
- A staff training and development programme for staff in computer science faculties with a number of deliveries (comprehensive online course, online CPD course and a blended learning version suitable for the classroom)

Next steps, building on the previous ones

- Follow up project after ETHICS4EU on inclusion, HCI, users with cognitive impairments. Co-design, inclusivity
- Discussion and definition of the general goals for the working group
- A short-term plan

Projects we Identified as Relevant for WG

- Road map of existing initiatives (that includes possible synergies with other WGs of Informatics Europe). What has been done and what is being done currently. State of the art/state of the practice
- “Teaching the teachers” and teaching practicing engineers (CPD, Continuing Professional Development) who already work in industry, especially with advanced technologies such as AI. Possible theme of a webinar with Andrea Curley of TU Dublin.
- Developing a course on ethical and socially-aware AI

Projects we Identified as Relevant for WG

- Webinars: We can prepare webinar serie where group members present actual topics and we invite other WGs for discussions
- Define thesis (MsC, PhD) topics that would address ethics and social aspects of Informatics
- Involve philosophers, law scholars, ..

Open issues and steps ahead

- Question of overlap with other Working Groups in Informatics Europe <https://www.informatics-europe.org/join-us/active-working-groups.html>
- Enlarge the WG directly and indirectly
- More ideas from absent members?
- Next meeting – Doodle coming for June, starting with 20.6.