

Technology and AI in the Child Justice System – The implications for children’s rights

Introduction of the i-ACCESS MyRights project and
launch of the Policy Brief on Digitalization and
Children’s Rights in the Justice System

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i-ACCESS MyRights – AI driven support for smart justice with children in Europe

Dóra Kiss, Terre des hommes

- Explore the potential of AI to increase children's access to justice
- **Donor** – Justice Programme 2021-2027 of the European Commission
- **Implementation** – 2023 – 2024 in Romania, Greece and Bulgaria
- **Consortium** – Tdh Hungary, Tdh Hellas, Tdh Romania, Institute of Social Activities and Practices (SAPI), Lawren.io, KU Leuven, Noldus



Rationale & Approach

Access to **age appropriate** and **child friendly information** about the rights of children and available support services is inherent for accessing justice.

Two main pillars

- 1) design & development of an AI driven solution and promotion of national
- 2) EU level discussion and stakeholder engagement on the area of the potential and risks of AI and digital solutions in the child justice system

- Multi – stakeholder collaboration – diverse consortium, external experts
- Child centred approach child participation - Child Advisory Boards
- Safety by design and default - legal & ethical considerations – mapping, monitoring, evaluating



Legal & Ethical Considerations

To ensure strictest compliance with legal and ethical standards and principles related to child participation, use of AI, privacy and data protection

Legal & Ethical Framework and Risk Mitigation Strategy

- UN Child Rights Convention
- AI Act
- GDPR
- Ethical considerations

Hands on measures, including technical solutions

Balancing of conflicting rights – protection and participation



Next steps in 2024

- extensive **testing** of the chatbot in all three contexts and languages with adults and children
- during the testing we'll focus on **usability, child friendliness, content accuracy**
- piloting the chatbot in **real environment** with children
- based on the results of the testing phases, the **chatbot will be iterated** to better respond to the needs of children
- **child led awareness raisign campaign** with the Child Advisory Boards
- local and regional **awareness raising, dissemination and advocacy** activites and events



Children's rights in the digital environment

Dr Valerie Verdoodt, University of Ghent

non-discrimination
(article 2 UNCRC)

best interests
(article 3 UNCRC)

freedom of expression
(article 13 UNCRC)

freedom of thought
(article 14 UNCRC)

right to privacy
(article 16 UNCRC)

access to diverse
information + protection
against harmful content
(article 17 UNCRC)

right to play
(article 31 UNCRC)

right to protection from
commercial exploitation
(article 32 UNCRC)

life & development
(article 6 UNCRC)

right to be heard
(article 12 UNCRC)

Children's rights impact assessments

United Nations

CRC/IC/IGC/25



Convention on the
Rights of the Child

Distr.: General
2 March 2021

Original: English

Committee on the Rights of the Child

General comment No. 25 (2021) on children's rights in
relation to the digital environment

- 23. **States** parties [...] should mandate the use of **child rights impact assessments** to embed children's rights into legislation, budgetary allocations and other administrative decisions relating to the digital environment and promote their use among public bodies and businesses relating to the digital environment
- 38. States parties should require the **business sector** to undertake **child rights due diligence**, in particular to carry out child rights impact assessments and disclose them to the public, with special consideration given to the differentiated and, at times, severe impacts of the digital environment on children. They should take appropriate steps to prevent, monitor, investigate and punish child rights abuses by businesses.

What is facial recognition technology (FRT)?

Dr Birgit Schippers, University of Strathclyde

- Biometric technology
- Processes personal data
- Driven by advances in computing power & developments in machine learning (ML)
- Face verification ('1-2-1' recognition)
- Face identification ('1-2-n' recognition)
- Face analysis/categorisation

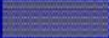
Biometric Mirror

Camera



Information Display

Session 5h7jk

Attribute	Value
Gender	MALE
Age	18
Ethnicity	CAUCASIAN
Emotion	SURPRISED
Kindness	HIGH
Happiness	AVERAGE
Commonness	AVERAGE
Responsibility	LOW
Attractiveness	

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COVER FACE-Exit

more information via <http://go.unimelb.edu.au/vi56>

Concerns

- Right to privacy (*Art. 8 ECHR*)
- Prohibition of discrimination (*Art. 14 ECHR*)
Bias/'intersectional inaccuracy disparities'
(*Buolamwini & Gebru 2018*)
- Right to freedom of expression (*Art. 10 ECHR*),
freedom of assembly (*Art. 11 ECHR*) & freedom of
thought, conscience and religion (*Art. 9 ECHR*)
- Right not to be subjected to a decision based solely
on automated processing, incl. profiling (*Art. 22(1)*
GDPR); *though see exemptions in A22(2)*
‘incompatible with the ideals and values of
a democratic society governed by the rule
of law’ (*Glukhin v Russia 2023*)



What should be done?

- Human rights-compliance across the technology lifecycle
- Democratic & legal accountability
- Ex ante risk & impact assessments, including democracy/community impact assessments
- Where appropriate: moratoria
- Shifting the lens from individual to collective rights



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Current project: *Children's rights and the monetisation of play in the digital environment*

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Thank you!

