ETHICAL AI SELF-ASSESSMENT GUIDE

The Global Observatory of Urban AI's guiding questions for city procurement and development of Urban AI and ADS systems

Fairness and non-discrimination

- Does the system have a clear task to perform? How has the task been chosen? Have citizens participated in it in any way?
- What technology was used? Does it employ publicly available tools?
- Is there a strategy or a set of procedures for avoiding bias in the AI system during the design? Does it include diversity and representativeness? Has the system been tested by targeting problematic use-cases?
- Is there a mechanism for citizens to report discriminatory or biased practices? Is there a strategy for investigating these issues?
- Is there a mechanism for monitoring the system lifecycle if the AI reproduces previously unnoticed biases?

Transparency and openess

- Is there a mechanism for citizens to report potential abuses? How is the quality of the input assessed?
- Is the system traceable? Are the decisions of the system transparent?
- Is the system explainable? Do citizens understand the system's decisions? How do they communicate whether they understand them or not?
- What mechanism does the city use to provide information to residents about AI systems deployed in the public space? How does the city provide information about risks and necessity of use?

Safety and cybersecurity

- What are the potential risks to AI systems? Are there measures in place to mitigate potential negative consequences?
- Is there a mechanism to monitor and evaluate the performance of the AI system? Is the AI system reliable and stable? How does performance affect its behaviour?
- How is the system updated? Has the administration considered how to keep the system up-to-date?
- Does the design consider potential vulnerabilities related to data poisoning, model evasion or inversion?

Privacy protection

- What data has been used to train the algorithm? Where is that data from? What is the rationale behind the chosen data?
- Which measures have been put in place to achieve privacy-by design systems?
- Who takes care of data? How is data processed? What are the safeguards?
- Does the system comply with data protection laws? How?
- What is the impact of the system on the individual's right to privacy, intimacy, dignity and integrity?

Sustainability

- What are the potential environmental impacts of the design and deployment of the AI system? Does the assessment consider the whole lifecycle of the system or only its design?
- How can cities reduce, compensate for and mitigate these impacts? What is the role of the city during the data lifecycle? Do cities have urban data centres?
- What is the impact of the system on the local community (local economy, social interaction, resident-administration interaction, people's rights and freedoms, etc.)?

Accountability

- Is the system auditable? How frequently is the system audited? Who audits the system? Will third parties do so or a taskforce from the local administration?

Cities Coalition for Digital Rights