

AI4Citizens

**Legal, Ethical, and Societal Considerations of
Implementing AI Systems for Privacy-Preserving
Crowd Monitoring to Improve Public Safety**

Background

The rapid expansion of artificial intelligence (AI) systems and their increasingly sophisticated potential to support the detection of security threats and crime in public spaces offer vast advantages for law enforcement in their efforts to enhance public safety. At the same time, ethical, societal and human rights considerations must be safeguarded at every stage, as these systems also pose significant risks to fundamental rights and may promote an environment of increased surveillance.

Responsible AI innovation serves the core functions of law enforcement to protect the community, prevent and investigate crime, and ensure justice, helping to enhance the trustworthiness of both law enforcement and technology for the benefit of a safe, just, and secure society. Transparency, privacy and accountability are the cornerstones of this approach.

AI4Citizens is an initiative by the UNICRI Centre for AI and Robotics and BI Norwegian Business School, funded by the Research Council of Norway, which explores the opportunities and challenges associated with developing privacy-preserving AI solutions for public safety. Building on these findings, the AI Centre aims to translate its multidisciplinary research into **actionable recommendations for law enforcement and other public safety entities on effective strategies to promote transparency and foster public trust.**

Start / duration



March 2024 - 23 months

Partners



- United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI), Centre for AI & Robotics (AI Centre)
- BI Norwegian Business School
- Research Council of Norway
- Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU) – the project owner
- University of Agder (UiA)
- Oslo City Kommune
- Nordic Edge Smart City Innovation
- Oslo & Øst Police, among others

Target audience



- decision-makers in law enforcement agencies and other entities concerned with public safety
- the global law enforcement community
- individuals and communities that interact with or have an interest in high-risk AI systems
- private sector developers of AI systems, academic institutions, civil society organizations, human rights advocates, the other institutions concerned with community engagement

Objectives

The project strives to address the critical importance of building and maintaining public trust through human-rights preserving solutions as an integral element of AI innovation for public safety, by:

- promoting meaningful engagement between law enforcement agencies and the communities they serve on AI-related issues
- providing law enforcement agencies with the knowledge to build trust and confidence in the responsible use of AI systems for public safety
- empowering stakeholders with greater awareness of existing approaches to ensuring safety and security while safeguarding fairness, privacy and other fundamental rights
- exploring issues related to transparency, public perceptions and trust in the development and implementation of AI in a human rights-compliant and ethical manner
- enhancing the knowledge of decision-makers in law enforcement and other stakeholders responsible for public safety regarding the societal and trust-related challenges associated with the use of AI systems
- contributing to the overarching goal of implementing AI applications in a nuanced and refined manner, ensuring that associated legal, societal, and ethical challenges are duly addressed.

Learn more:

