Statement from the TUM Institute for Ethics in Artificial Intelligence

Artificial intelligence has the potential to improve people's lives in the long term. However, it needs clear rules to develop this potential and create an AI ecosystem that brings the benefits of technology to the whole society and economy. Thus, we must focus on and promote building **trustworthy** and **responsible** and **explainable** AI.

- **AI and ethics**

The time for analyzing how AI is deployed -whom it affects, how it affects them, and what its broader social and economic impacts are- is now. AI will continue to transform society substantially. The most pressing question is how this transformation will take place and what the repercussions will be. To support the effective and safe advancement of AI technologies that will benefit all parts of society, ethical concerns associated with the use of AI need to be adequately addressed.

- **AI and the COVID-19 crisis**

AI is a powerful tool that has the ability to amplify current positive efforts, but also entrench and increase harms and discrimination if not used responsibly. The 2020 COVID-19 crisis underlined the urgent need to discuss the ethical considerations in the use of AI and develop operational ethical frameworks in the field of AI. For more on this topic read also the IEAI's Research Brief on Ethical Implications of the Use of AI to Manage the COVID-19 Outbreak.

- **The role of academic research**

Academic research must play a fundamental role in designing tools and implementing ethical frameworks and guidelines for the development and use of AI-based technologies that can help governments, companies, NGOs and other actors navigate and arrive at sound and justifiable responses on how to address ethical issues related to the use of AI. Visit the IEAI's research page to learn more about IEAI's current key research areas.

- **Bringing together all the important players**

The various uses of AI, as well as the ethical challenges related to them, require multi-disciplinary and multi-stakeholder engagement, as well as collaboration at the European and international level. Defining ethical guidelines, regulatory limits, and metrics for success also demands multi-cultural exchange. There is an urgent need to build bridges between disciplines and step up multi-level action. After all, challenges related to AI ethics are not only technological problems and do not have purely technological solutions. For more on this topic read also the "AI4People's Ethical Framework for a Good AI Society: Opportunities, Risks, Principles, and Recommendations" and the "Report on Good AI Governance: 14 Priority Actions, a S.M.A.R.T. Model of Governance, and a Regulatory Toolbox".

- **IEAI's inter-, multi-, and transdisciplinary research approach**

The Institute for Ethics in Artificial Intelligence (IEAI) explores ethical issues related to the use and impact of AI-based technologies. The Institute has an approach that promotes active collaboration between the technical, engineering and social sciences, while also actively courting interaction with a wide group of international stakeholders from academia, industry and civil society. This approach enables to comprehensively address a growing group of ethical challenges arising at the interface of technology and human values. Learn more: https://ieai.mcts.tum.de/

AI without ethics "won't fly"
Prof. Christoph Lütge
Director of the Institute for Ethics in Artificial Intelligence