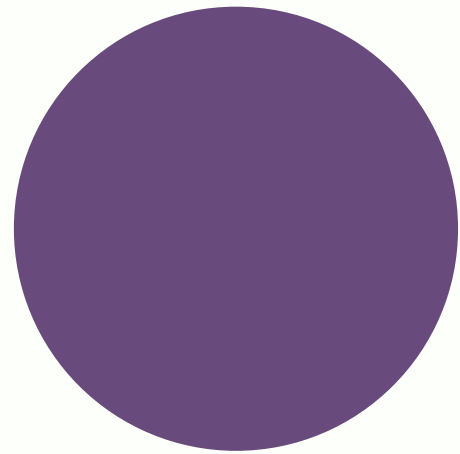


AI from the perspective of people with disabilities

**Kave Noori,
AI Policy Officer
European Disability Forum**



EDFs project on AI



1. Advocacy at the European level is key to influencing AI regulations.
2. Capacity building addresses AI's impact on human rights for disabilities.
3. Awareness-raising ensures understanding of the needs of people with disabilities

Thanks to the European AI & Society Fund

Opportunities with AI

Interactive learning material

- “Textbooks” that are adapted to different learning styles
- Understands that children may express themselves differently

Speech-to-text

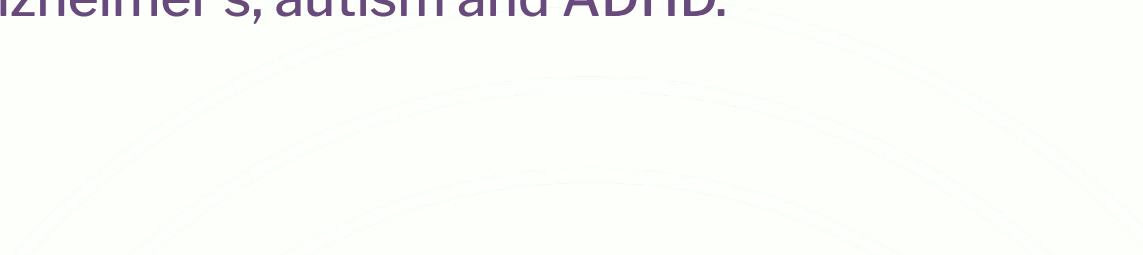
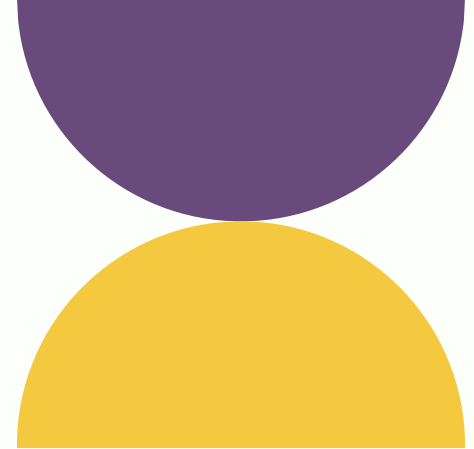
- Sometimes useful for the hard of hearing in certain situations where an interpreter is not available.

Be My Eyes

- App that offers audio descriptions for people with low vision

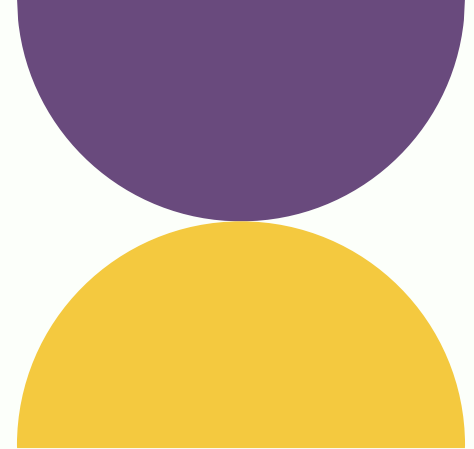
Planning assistant

- Supports people with Alzheimer's, autism and ADHD.



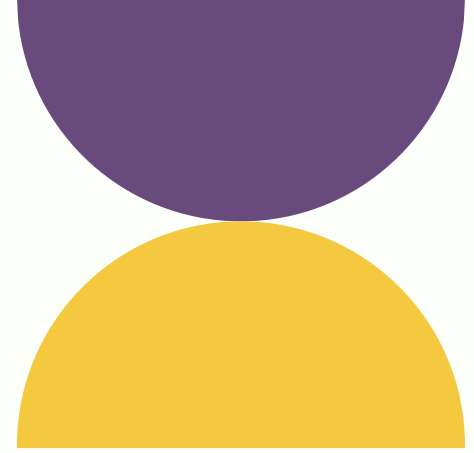
Risks with AI

- Lack of accessibility
- Lack of personalisation
- Violation of personal privacy
- Reduced quality of education
- Speech-to-text that does not recognise the way hard of hearing people speak
- 'Anti-cheating for home exams software' flags behaviours common among people with disabilities as suspected cheaters
- Software to detect if a text written by an AI has low accuracy
- Emotion recognition software interprets sign language grammar as aggression



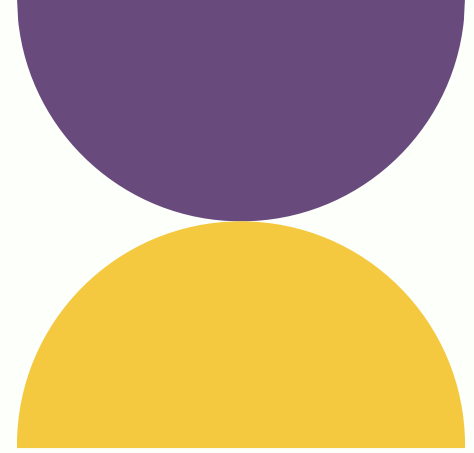
AI Act – the good sides

- Accessibility requirements for high-risk AI are mandatory.
- Both high-risk AI and general-purpose AI should undergo bias testing.
- Individuals have a right to get an explanation to the outputs of high-risk AI.
- A Fundamental Rights Impact Assessment is necessary before implementing high-risk AI.
- The AI Act represents a positive initial step.



AI Act – weaknesses

- It's a product safety law – not a human rights law.
- AI risk categories are primarily designed for the majority, leaving marginalized groups like people with disabilities under protected.
- Accessibility is not mandatory for general-purpose or low-risk AI.
- Human rights organizations cannot file complaints for individuals, placing a heavier burden on those wishing to raise issues.
- There are inconsistencies: emotion recognition is prohibited in workplaces and schools due to safety concerns but permitted in migration and policing, posing risks to human rights.
- There is significant secrecy surrounding use of high-risk AI in policing and migration. It leads to lack of accountability and transparency in serious areas. Increased risk of human rights violations.



The future

- The new US administration is pushing for deregulation.
- There are ongoing conversations in the EU about easing certain technology regulations.
- Safeguarding individuals from the dangers of AI relates to freedom, dignity, and equality.

