

# FORSEE

| Forging Successful AI Applications  
| for European Economy and Society

# Introduction

- Forging Successful AI Applications for European Economy and Society
- Societies lack a shared understanding of what defines “successful” AI.
- FORSEE is a research project that aims to expand beyond visions that define AI strictly in terms of efficiency.
- An enriched notion of success can guide new regulatory initiatives or complement the existing regulatory framework.

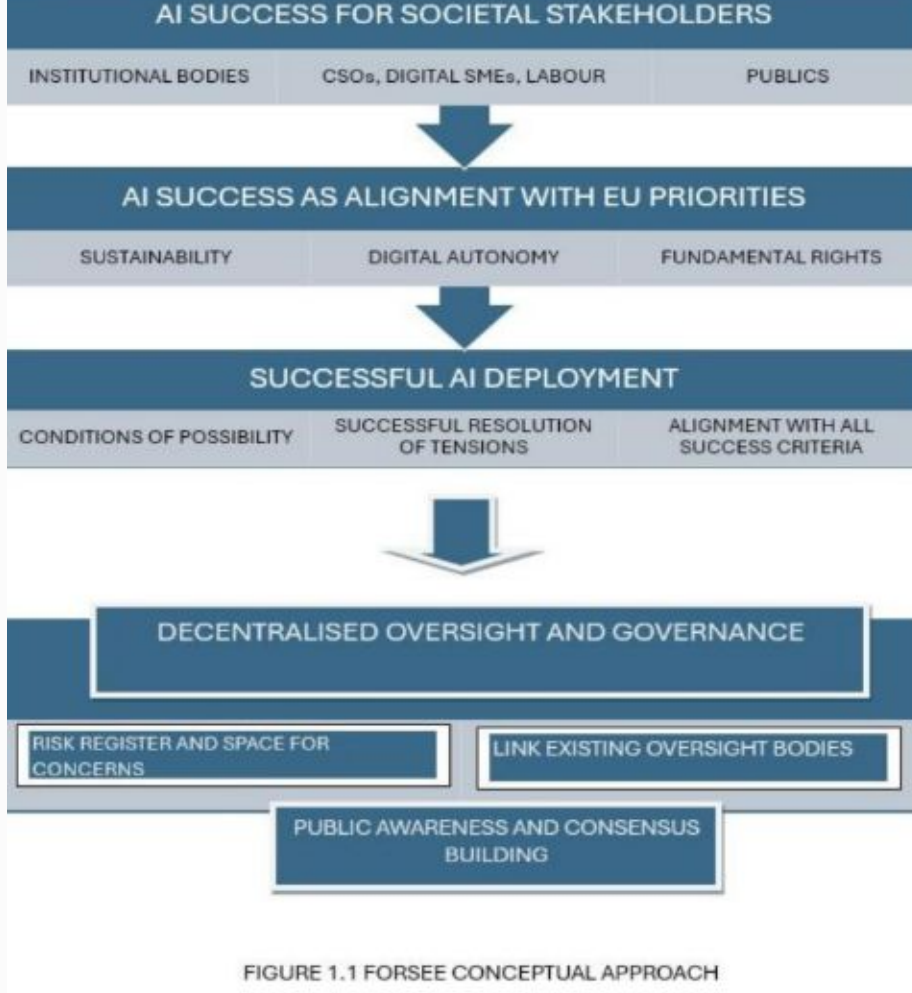


FIGURE 1.1 FORSEE CONCEPTUAL APPROACH

# WP3 - Lifeworld criteria of success

- From February 2025 to January 2026
- Research into SMEs, awards and prizes on AI innovation and CSOs
- Theoretical framework: Sociology of Expectations (SoE)
- Premise: Social positions shape positive and negative expectations regarding emerging technologies. Potential to highlight convergences and divergences
- 39 interviews + 3 workshops with SMEs
- 90 awards and prizes examined
- 91 survey responses + 3 workshops with CSOs

# Why CSOs matter in AI governance?

- CSOs...
- are recognised as essential to democratic EU governance, serving as instruments of democratic accountability to both states and technology companies
- provide specialised perspectives and contextual knowledge on how AI affects democracy, fundamental rights, and accountability.
- can amplify the perspectives of communities disproportionately affected by AI systems, including migrants, low-income populations, and people with disabilities, helping ensure governance frameworks are inclusive and accessible.

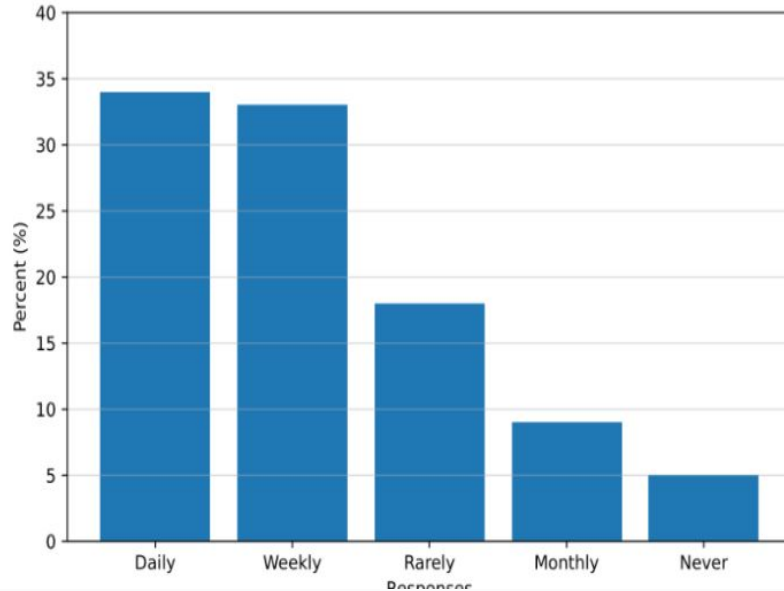
# Why we should keep talking about AI bias?

- AI systems have the potential to not only reproduce but reinforce structural oppression under the guise of neutrality or precision
- Bias can be introduced at every stage of the AI lifecycle and interact cumulatively to affect final outcomes.
- AI systems can discriminate against people with disabilities when training data and design assumptions fail to account for diverse physical, sensory, cognitive, or communication needs, leading to exclusion from employment, healthcare, education, and public services.
- New York City Bar Association: “The statistical nature of AI can lead to discriminatory outcomes in employment, credit, education, and access to services, as disabled people are least likely to fit the ‘average’ profile that these systems favor”

# CSOs perspectives on AI & Gender Bias

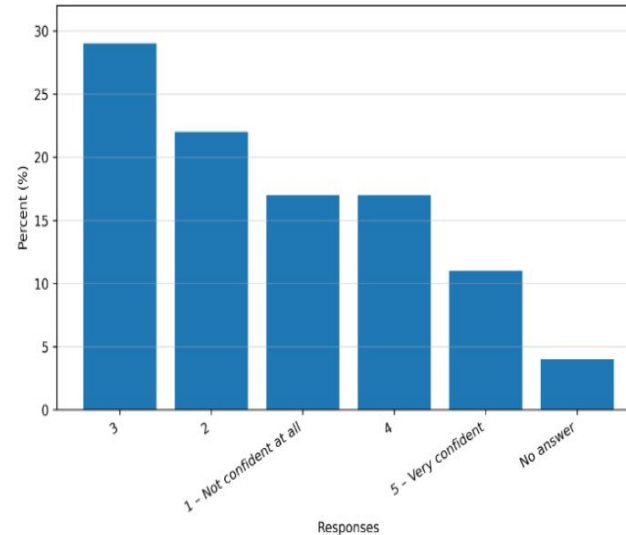
**Table 1**

*How often do you engage with AI systems?*



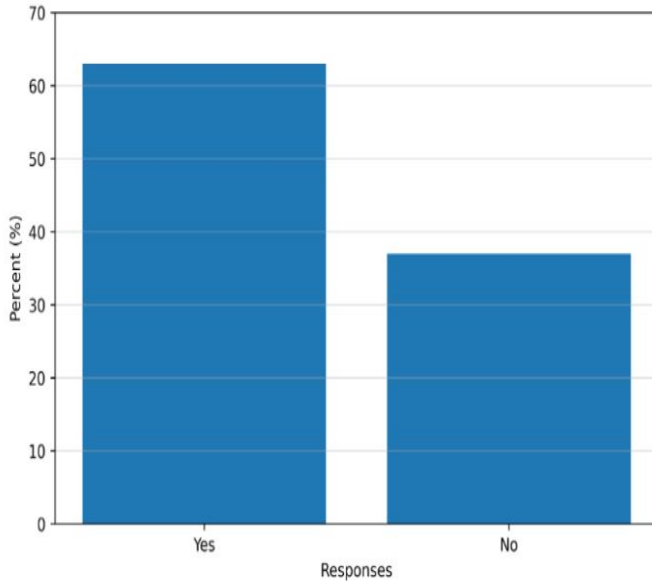
**Table 4**

*How confident do you feel in understanding how AI systems produce their outputs for your personal use? (1 = Not confident at all, 5 = Very confident).*

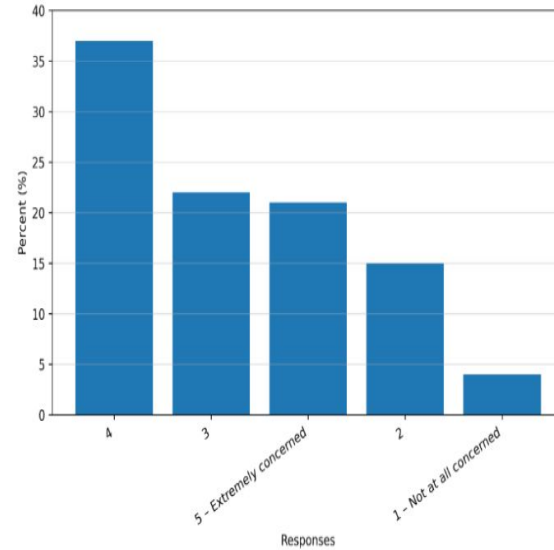


# CSOs perspectives on AI & Gender Bias

Are you aware of cases where AI systems have exhibited gender or LGBTQ+ bias?



How concerned are you about the impact of AI systems, in general, on gender and LGBTQ+ equality? (1 = Not at all concerned, 5 = Extremely concerned).



# CSOs perspectives on AI & Gender Bias

Table 18

Has your organisation engaged in any of the following educational activities to address gender and/or LGBTQ+ bias in AI systems? (Select all that apply).

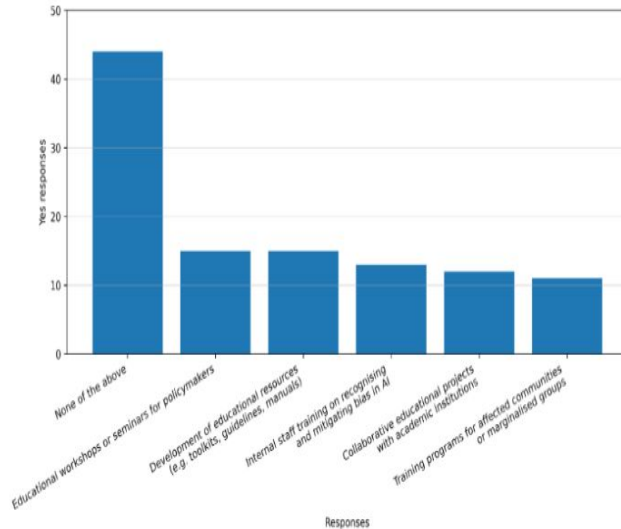
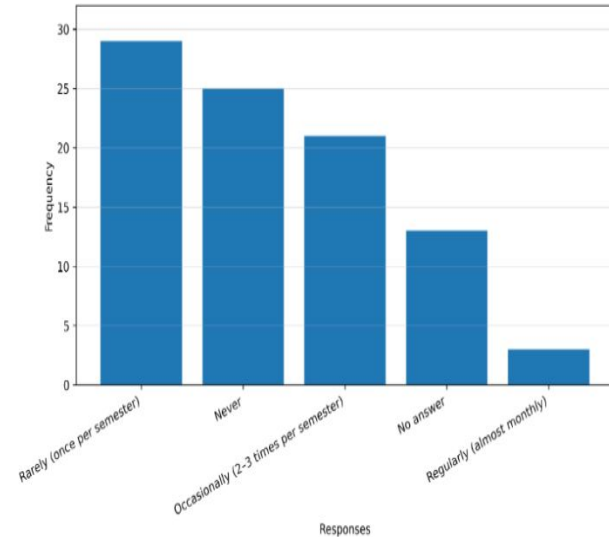


Table 19

How often does your organisation collaborate with women's rights and/or LGBTQ+ advocacy groups to address the gendered impacts of AI?



# Workshops with CSOs

- CSOs use AI (LLMs in particular) but do not trust them
- Mostly associate them with risks than benefits
- Concerns about democratic erosion
- Intensified political and commercial surveillance
- Lack of accountability from technology companies
- Limited trust in EU AI governance capacity
- Lack of funds → concern but inability to act.

# Workshops with CSOs

- CSOs are excluded from regulatory and deliberation spaces
- Big Tech over-represented → technical and/or market-driven priorities
- This clashes with EU's "multi-stakeholder approach" to governance.
- Marginalised groups sidelined
- Bias largely absent from regulation

# Workshops with CSOs

- Algorithmic content moderation undermines advocacy for marginalised groups
- Within social media platforms, reduced visibility or outright removal for “political” content.
- Even less opportunities for deliberation - contestation of decision.
- Dilemma for CSOs: Should advocacy for marginalised groups treated as “a-political” to navigate an algorithmically managed online environment?

# Workshop quotes

“When attending high-level events with government officials or parliamentarians, the conversation often only happens between the private sector and public sector. Other organisations are either not invited or not genuinely welcome. This creates a feeling of always running behind. By the time CSOs gather information, decisions or conversations are already underway.”

“One of the fundamental issues that needs to be raised is that, if you check the existing regulations, the AI Act, EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), child rights conventions, women’s rights conventions, and so on, none of them mention bias. Bias simply does not exist in these documents. I cross-checked and researched this, and I think it is fundamental.”

“It gets much, much harder now, and with the blocking of political ads, it has become almost impossible to do our work through these communication channels. Yet social media remains a hugely important way to reach people where they are.”

“I feel like a big barrier right now is the political climate, especially for NGOs. Most of our funding comes from the government, so targeting issues that are not currently in the political interest is pretty tough.”