

## REQUEST AN ETHICS OPINION TO CER-Salle

The purpose of this form is to request the La Salle Campus Barcelona Research Ethics Committee (CER-Salle) to issue an opinion in relation to research projects or works with a scientific basis, including Final Degree Projects or Master's Thesis, based on the evaluation of its ethical implications.

Complete this form electronically and email it from your institutional email account, along with the supporting documents required for evaluation. Before filling in the form, it is advisable to read the entire form to be clear about what will be requested and in which sections it will be requested. Keep in mind that since this is a form prepared in Word, you can adjust, if necessary, the size of the answer spaces. In any case, do not modify the statements or remove any section.

Once the documentation is received, the CER-Salle can ask the applicant to amend, complete or expand the information provided when it contains errors, omissions or is not sufficient for the correct evaluation of the project. Likewise, the CER-Salle can ask for information from the principal researcher of the project or the director of the work in case of disagreement with the applicant. It can also ask the applicant to attend the CER-Salle meeting in which their application is discussed to answer the doubts arising from the evaluation and to promote constructive dialogue about possible improvements.

The applicant has the right to be informed about the status of his application and the expected resolution deadline. Once evaluated, the CER-Salle will issue an opinion that will be sent directly to the applicant, which may be Approved, Conditionally Approved or Not Approved, and against which no appeal may be lodged.

APPLICANT	
Name and surname	Jonathan Thangadurai Selvaraj
Institutional email	<a href="mailto:j.t.selvaraj@student.vu.nl">j.t.selvaraj@student.vu.nl</a>
Research group	Human-Environment Research (HER)

PROJECT OR WORK <sup>1</sup>				
Title	Aligning AI in Business Practices with Corporate Sustainability Goals			
Period	Start (01/02/2024): End (01/08/2024):			
Is the project submitted to a call?	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	If so, which one?	
Is the applicant the principal investigator (PI) of the project or the director of the work?	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	If not, who is the IP?	
			If not, what is the role of the applicant?	
Other aspects that may be indicated to contextualize the request and the project or work	Jonathan is a students of the Master Erasmus program Software Engineering for the Green Deal, under the supervision of Leticia Duboc.			

<sup>1</sup> If the request is part of the activity of a wider project, such as a consortium made up of several sub-projects, the information indicated in the form and the opinion correspond that it will issue the CER-Salle will be limited only to the project or sub-project corresponding to our entity, not to the entire project. In any case, the relationship between the project or sub-project corresponding to our entity and the project or sub-projects of other entities must be contextualized in this section of the form.

Answer the following questions for a preliminary orientation of which aspects of the project or work may be susceptible to be evaluated from the point of view of ethical implications.

PRELIMINARY QUESTIONNAIRE			
Is the participation of human beings outside the research team planned in some of the planned tasks (for example collection of samples or opinions, to carry out tests or validations, etc.)? <sup>1</sup>	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	NOT apply <input type="checkbox"/>
If so, is it planned to collect personal data that can identify these people (including indirect identification through images or audio)?	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	NOT apply <input type="checkbox"/>
If so, are they part of any group that requires a permission (e.g. schools, associations, etc.)?	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	NOT apply <input type="checkbox"/>
Is it planned to carry out tasks that involve or interfere with medical or therapeutic treatments?	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NOT apply <input type="checkbox"/>
If so, is there a participating entity that ensures the compliance with ethical principles of research with patients?	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	NOT apply <input type="checkbox"/>
Is it planned to use data collected in previous experiments (secondary use of information)?	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NOT apply <input type="checkbox"/>
If so, do you have the permission of the sources to do so?	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	NOT apply <input type="checkbox"/>
Is it planned to carry out tasks that involve the participation of animals?	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NOT apply <input type="checkbox"/>
If so, is there a participating entity that ensures the compliance with ethical principles of animal research?	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	NOT apply <input type="checkbox"/>
It is planned to carry out tasks that involve an action or intervention in outdoor spaces (public or private)	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	NOT apply <input type="checkbox"/>
If so, do you have the permission to do so?	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	NOT apply <input type="checkbox"/>
Is it planned to carry out tasks that involve developing countries (including the import or export of material or information)?	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NOT apply <input type="checkbox"/>
Are the tasks or their results likely to negatively affect ecosystems (people, flora, fauna, etc.)?	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NOT apply <input type="checkbox"/>
Are the tasks or their results likely to lead to military applications?	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NOT apply <input type="checkbox"/>
Are the tasks or their results likely to lead to malicious applications?	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NOT apply <input type="checkbox"/>

<sup>1</sup> If the first question is affirmative then you will need to fill in the *Questionnaire for research projects with personal data* and send it together with this form and the corresponding documents.

Indicate the observations that you consider appropriate in relation to the answers given in this section to clarify them.

<p>Regarding the question "It is planned to carry out tasks that involve an action or intervention in outdoor spaces (public or private)", we can visit the company we are interviewing if they prefer to do the interview in person and invite us. We understand the invitation will be a permission.</p>
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Briefly explain the following sections.

Background of the project or research work and motivation for carrying it out.
<p>This research project is motivated by the increasing role of AI in business practices. As businesses face growing pressure to contribute positively to environmental and social challenges, AI offers potential to innovate and improve sustainable business practices. This study seeks to understand the strategic integration of AI into business activities and its broader impact on sustainability and CSR initiatives.</p>
Hypotheses and objectives foreseen in the project or research work.
<p>The primary hypothesis is that AI can significantly support and enhance sustainability and CSR efforts within companies when strategically integrated. The objectives include mapping the current AI landscape, assessing AI alignment with sustainability strategies, and identifying ways to enhance AI's role in supporting CSR. The research aims to uncover actionable insights and frameworks that inform and guide companies in aligning operations with the emerging and evolving global sustainability standards.</p>
Methodology.
<p>A qualitative research methodology will be employed, involving case studies and semi-structured interviews with professionals from various industries. The study will analyse the deployment of AI tools in business activities, evaluating their impact on sustainability and CSR goals. This approach facilitates a deeper understanding of the dynamics involved in AI-driven business practices and their impact on sustainability.</p>
Composition and experience of the research group. Indicate if possible up to 5 related bibliographic references from the team.
<p>Jonathan is a student of the Erasmus Master Program Software Engineering for the Green Deal. Leticia Duboc, his supervisor, is a lecturer and researcher of La Salle. Ian Brooks, his co-supervisor is a lecturer and a researchers at the University of West of Bristol.</p> <p>Duboc, L., Penzenstadler, B., Porras, J. <i>et al.</i> Requirements engineering for sustainability: an awareness framework for designing software systems for a better tomorrow. <b>Requirements Engineering</b> (2020). <a href="https://doi.org/10.1007/s00766-020-00336-y">https://doi.org/10.1007/s00766-020-00336-y</a>. Impact factor: 2.275 (2021). Five years Impact factor: 2.882 (2021)</p> <p>L. Duboc, C. McCord, C. Becker and S. I. Ahmed, "Critical Requirements Engineering in Practice," in <i>IEEE Software</i>, vol. 37, no. 1, pp. 17-24, Jan.-Feb. 2020, doi: 10.1109/MS.2019.2944784.</p> <p>Penzenstadler, B., Duboc, L., Venters, C., Seyff, N., Wnuk, K., Chitchyan, R., Easterbrook, S., &amp; Becker, C. <i>Software engineering for sustainability: Find the leverage points!</i> <b>IEEE Software</b>, 2018</p> <p>Becker, C.; Chitchyan, R.; Duboc, L.; Easterbrook, S. ; Penzenstadler, B. ; Seyff, N. ; Venters, C. C. . Akinlin-Kocak S. <i>Requirements: The Key to Sustainability</i>. In <b>IEEE Software: Special issue on The Future of Software Engineering</b>, 2016.</p>
Where applicable, information on the facilities and instruments to be used.
<p>We will only use zoom or a voice recorder. The recording will be deleted as soon as the transcript is checked for correction.</p>
Expected benefits that this project or research work can bring to society.

<p>The expected benefits include providing companies with strategic insights into effective AI integration for sustainability and contributing to sustainable development goals. The research also will encourage responsible business practices and technological innovation that align with environmental and social well-being.</p>
<p>Possible undesirable or secondary effects that the project or research work may generate.</p>
<p>The questions are not personal, but about the sustainability strategy and the AI tools of the companies. We do not request any data from the AI tools. Only ask about the nature of data they process. We cannot think of any undesirable or secondary effects from the interview.</p>
<p>Where applicable, mandatory authorizations or reports from other institutions.</p>
<p>We will ask our volunteers if any further authorization is needed.</p>

Remember that if the first question of the preliminary questionnaire has been answered affirmatively, then you will need to fill in the *Questionnaire for research projects with personal data* and send it in together with this form and the corresponding documents.

<p><b>STATEMENT</b></p>
<p>I, Jonathan Thangadurai Selvaraj, declare that the above responses accurately describe the project or research work as it is conceived on today's date indicated below, and I agree to submit a new response if there is a change of the contents that I am now presenting.</p> <p>Date: 27/02/2024</p>