University of Applied Sciences and Arts Northwestern Switzerland
School of Business

Module D4 – Local Session 6 (Data Ethics)
<mark>Instructions for Students</mark>

Task 1 – Apply the Data Ethics Canvas to your project

➔ Individual work
➔ Time allocated: 120 min
➔ Setting: At the beginning, please decide for which project (e.g., work-related task, research, your master thesis…) you focus on the ethical perspective. It will be your basis for applying the Data Ethics template from the Open Data Institute (ODI).

Objectives and Conversion:

1. Exploring a tool to consider the ethical dimensions of your data
2. Experimenting with the tool "Data Ethics Canvas" to reduce risks related to ethical and/or moral dilemmas
3. Prepare your data to pass an IRB ethical review

Relevant sources: see provided presentation in lecture six or any source regarding Data Ethics Canvas, either from secondary sources on the slides, on moodle or on the web.

Steps

1. Read up about the ODI Data Ethics Canvas documentation

The ODI template and the documentation are found on moodle. You will find a good overview of Data Ethics and why you should be bothered with it in the documentation.

What is data ethics?

In a paper for the Royal Society in late 2016, researchers Luciano Floridi and Mariarosaria Toddeo define data ethics as:

"The branch of ethics that studies and evaluates moral problems related to data (including generation, recording, curation, processing, dissemination, sharing and use), algorithms (including artificial intelligence, artificial agents, machine learning and robots) and corresponding practices (including responsible innovation, programming, hacking and professional codes), in order to formulate and support morally good solutions (e.g. right conducts or right values)."[4]

2. Read and fill in the ODI template

The template consists of 15 groups that shall be answered when revising your project from a data ethics perspective. Using the template and brainstorming for each colour group, the questions relevant to your project is suggested. Please transform the answers to your handbook. Regarding your handbook, it is recommended to structure the answers the same way as the colour from the template:

➢ Data sources – ethical and legislative context (PINK)
➢ Your reasons… - Minimising negative Impact (ORANGE)
➢ Engaging with …- Sharing data with others (GREEN)
➢ Ongoing…- Your Actions (BLUE)

You do not have to answer all the questions, just the ones that you deem relevant to your project, revealing ethical dimensions in the data you are working with. The ultimate goal is to make the ethical dimensions visible.