

Part 4

Impact Assessments

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Impact assessment (IA) is a structured a process for considering the implications, for people and their environment, of proposed actions while there is still an opportunity to modify (or even, if appropriate, abandon) the proposals. It is applied at all levels of decision-making, from policies to specific projects.

Data Protection Impact Assessments (DPIA) are a legal requirement of the GDPR for all potentially high-risk activities, including “**new technologies**” and “**innovative processes**”

AI would fall under both requirements –
a DPIA is encouraged for all AI projects which involve personal data



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About

NEWS & COMMENTARY

The Untold Number of People Implicated in Crimes They Didn't Commit Because of Face Recognition

The sheer scope of police face recognition use in this country means that people have almost certainly been — and will continue to be — misidentified, if not arrested and charged for crimes they didn't commit.

Source: Garvie, C. (2020) The Untold Number of People Implicated in Crimes They Didn't Commit Because of Face Recognition, American Civil Liberties Union. Available at: <https://www.aclu.org/news/privacy-technology/the-untold-number-of-people-implicated-in-crimes-they-didnt-commit-because-of-face-recognition/>

- Issues of inaccuracy, particularly exacerbated when the data relates to people belonging to minority groups (see **Fairness and AI module**);
- Lack of accountability and explainability: records not kept or accessible following a match, giving no recourse to individuals;
- Keeping track of lawful basis of processing;
- For archives management, specifically, the use of algorithms for the appraisal of archives also needs to be addressed from an ethical standpoint, as human biases can be built into the algorithms in question.

Part 4 - Readings

On issues of global governance:

Digital Platforms Require a Global Governance Framework (2019) Centre for International Governance Innovation. Available at: <https://www.cigionline.org/articles/digital-platforms-require-global-governance-framework>

On impact assessments as a framework for auditing:

Kazim, E., Denny, D. M. T. and Koshiyama, A. (2021) 'AI auditing and impact assessment: according to the UK information commissioner's office', *AI and Ethics*. doi: [10.1007/s43681-021-00039-2](https://doi.org/10.1007/s43681-021-00039-2).