DATA INNOVATION RISK ASSESSMENT TOOL

Are your partners, if any, compliant with at least as strict standards and basic principles regarding data privacy and data protection as outlined in this checklist?

☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Don't Know
☐ Not Applicable

Comments:

Part 6: Risks and Harms

Any risks and harms assessment should take into consideration the context of data use, including social, geographic, political, and religious factors. For example, analysis of the movement of vulnerable groups during humanitarian emergencies in conflict-affected zones could also be used by non-intended users of data to target them with discrimination or persecution.

Any Risk, Harms and Benefits Assessment should consider the impact that data use may have on an individual(s) and/or group(s) of individuals, whether legally visible or not, and whether known or unknown at the time of data use.

When assessing your data use, consider how it affects individual rights. Rather than taking rights in opposition to each other, assessing the effect of data on individual rights in conjunction is recommended wherever possible. Use of data should be based on the principle of proportionality. In particular, any potential risks and harms should not be excessive in relation to the positive impacts (expected benefits) of data use. In answering questions 6.1 and 6.2 below also consider any potential risks and harms associated with (or that could result from) every "No" answer or "Don't Know" answer that you selected in the Sections above.
.

6.1 Risks: Does your use of data pose any risks of harms to individuals or groups of individuals, whether or not they can be directly identified, visible or known?

Risks should be assessed separately from harms. Note that not all risks may lead to harms. In answering this question, it is important to concentrate on the likely risks. Types of risks may vary depending on the context. For example, some of the risks that should be considered include data leakage, breach, unauthorized disclosure (intentional or unintentional), intentional data misuse beyond the purposes for which the data was obtained/or intended to be used by your organization, risk of re-identification or singling out, data not being complete or of good quality, etc.

Note that typically data analytics result in the production of a new data set. Such an outcome should be considered as a risk as well, and must be separately assessed for risks, harms and benefits before any further use/disclosure. Also, consider bias as a risk that can be produced as a result of data use. (In many cases, bias can negatively affect an individual(s) or group(s) of individuals and lead to harms).

If you have identified potential risks, please ensure to employ the necessary mitigation measures to reduce such risks to a minimum. Ensuring proper data security is one of many strong mitigation measures (see Section 3.6). If you do not know what kind of risks exist or whether the risks are likely, it is recommended that you perform a more comprehensive Risk, Harms and Benefits Assessment (as a Step 2).

☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Don't Know
☐ Not Applicable

Comments:

6.2 Harms: Is your project unlikely to cause harm to individuals or groups of individuals, whether or not the individuals can be identified or known?

No one should be exposed to harm or undignified or discriminatory treatment as a consequence of data use. An assessment of harms should consider such key factors as i) the likelihood of occurrence of harms; ii) the potential magnitude of harms; iii) the potential severity of harms.
The assessments should account for potential physical, emotional, or economic harms, as well as any harms that could result from infringement of individuals' rights.

Note that the risks of harms may be higher for sensitive data. Decisions concerning use of sensitive data may involve consultation with the individual(s) or a group(s) of individuals concerned (or their representative), where reasonably practical, to mitigate any risks. If you do not know what kind of harms exist or you have identified significant harms, try to perform a more comprehensive Risk, Harms and Benefits Assessment (as a Step 2 mentioned in the introduction section).

☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Don't Know
☐ Not Applicable

Comments: