

Report from the SOLAIR Conference 2022 Artificial Intelligence for the Safer World: EU – US – IL Perspective

On 3–4 November 2022, the Institute of State and Law of the Czech Academy of Sciences organized the fifth international SOLAIR Conference 2022 (Society, Law, Artificial Intelligence and Robotics). The purpose of the conference in 2022 was to bring together representatives from the European Union, the United States, and Israel to discuss how to best utilize and regulate artificial intelligence so it would help us to achieve safer world. The key topics were safety, security, and cybersecurity both from the perspective of policy and regulation.

The conference was organized jointly by the Institute of State and Law of the CAS, the Czech Technical University, the Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic, the Ministry of Finance of the Czech Republic, the Czech Academy of Sciences, UNIDROIT, Atlantic Council, CEDMO, Microsoft, Amazon, and Amazon Web Services. The event was organized under the auspices of the Prime Minister of the Czech Republic Petr Fiala, the President of the Czech Academy of Sciences Eva Zažímalová, the Minister of Finance Zbyněk Stanjura, and the U.S. Embassy Prague. The conference was organized as part of Czech Digital Week and it was also an official event related to the Czech Presidency of the Council of the European Union.¹

The conference attracted more than 80 participants, of which more than half were from abroad. In addition to prominent speakers representing the European Commission, the US Department of State, the Israeli Ministry of Justice, and Czech ministries, the conference also brought together representatives of international organizations, academics and representatives of large technology companies.

On the first day, the conference was opened by introductory speeches of **Eva Zažímalová** (President of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic), **Vojtěch Petraček** (Rector of Czech Technical University), **Věra Jourová** (Vice-President of the European Commission), **Ivan Bartoš** (Deputy Prime Minister for Digitization and Minister for Regional Development), and **Petr Očko** (Deputy Minister of Industry and of Trade).

Introductory remarks were followed by an online keynote by **Gerald Spindler** (Georg-Augustus-Universität Göttingen) who gave the opening statement on the recent developments related to European AI regulations.

The following keynote panel featuring **Irina Orssich** (Head of the Artificial Intelligence Policy Sector at the European Commission, DG CONNECT), **Ruth Berry** (US Department of State), **Cedric Sabbah** (Ministry of Justice of the State of Israel), and **Alžběta Solarczyk Krausová** (Institute of State and Law, CAS) focused on regional perspectives reflected in international, supranational and national AI policies. The purpose of the keynote panel was to introduce AI policies and regulatory trends in the European Union, the United States of America, Israel, and in the Czech Republic and highlight the common aspects and values in these approaches. The aim of the panel was to provide the grounds for consequent discussions on how to remove regulatory barriers while maintaining a high level of safety of AI systems.

The next keynote panel moderated by **Vít Strátecký** (Faculty of Social Studies, Charles University) framed the AI technology in the context of securing national safety and joining forces in the international context. **Robert Strayer** (Information Technology Industry Council), **Leehe Friedman** (Executive Director of Impact 8200, Israel), and **Cornelia Kutterer** (Senior Director, Respon-

¹ See Czech Digital Week. In: *Czech Presidency of the Council of the European Union* [online]. 2022 [2023-02-05]. Available at: <<https://czech-presidency.consilium.europa.eu/en/presidency/czech-digital-week/>>.

sible Tech & Comp, European Government Affairs, Microsoft) introduced the US, Israeli and European points of view.

The following discussion panel featuring **Marek Havrda** (Deputy Minister for European Affairs) and **James Waterworth** (Amazon) dealt with specific question on use of AI in business applications. The debate focused mainly on how AI systems can be applied to add to effectivity and safety in business and overall in working environment.

In a consequent special brief session, **Tomáš Pojar** (Advisor to the Prime Minister for Security) provided high-level remarks on several aspects strategic security related to specific uses of AI.

The aim of the first afternoon panel was to look in the future and suggest where the AI policies and regulations may go. **Irina Orssich** (Head of the Artificial Intelligence Policy Sector at the European Commission, DG CONNECT) elaborated on activities of the European Commission in evaluating the current I policies and legislative proposals. **Daniel Všeťečka** (Director of the Digital Economy Department, Ministry of Industry and Trade) summarized and evaluated Czech activities in drafting the national AI policy and suggested potential future steps in adapting the Czech approach. **Franco Spicciariello** (AWS) spoke about the impacts of future AI policies and regulations on business.

The last panel of the first day brought together speakers that introduced several interesting projects. **Lily McFeeters** (Office for Cyber Security and digital policy, US Department of State) presented special programs and activities of the US Department of State on raising awareness, facilitating discussions, and connecting AI policy makers. **Monika Hanych** (Ministry of Justice of the Czech Republic) spoke about specific problems related to AI and fundamental human rights protection. **Hamza Hameed** (UNIDROIT) provided the audience with updates on the UNIDROIT project on Digital Assets and Private Law.

The second day of the conference was divided into three specialized panels. The first panel was opened by captivating presentations. **Rand Waltzman** (Deputy Chief Technology Officer and Senior Information Scientist at the RAND Corporation) spoke about how AI can be used to manipulate people and make disinformation more efficient. **Anzhelika Solovyeva** (CEDMO) then introduced activities of CEDMO while focusing also on the role of AI in fighting disinformation. **Tomáš Ščerba** (White & Case) presented selected issues related to the Cyber Resilience Act framing it in the context of AI use.

The second panel was organized as a specialized workshop titled “Online AI-Based Personalization and Human Rights.” **Alžběta Solarczyk Krausová** (Institute of State and Law, CAS) presented on the topic of the impact of online personalization on the fundamental human rights. **Miloslav Konořík** (University of West Bohemia) gave a presentation on the topic “Explainable Machine Learning for Detecting Advertisement.” **Silvie Cinková** (Charles University) engaged the audience with an interactive presentation focused on the analysis of the overlap of privacy protection principles, specifically the use of cookies in the Czech Internet environment.

The final panel focused on inspiring ideas and future trends related to AI use and developments. **Julian Mueller-Kaler** (Atlantic Council) provided interesting socio-economical insights on the power competition, trust in democratic institutions and elections. **Jana Pattynová** (Pierstone) spoke about future legal issues related to Metaverse. Finally, **Hananel Hazan** (Tuft’s University) introduced the audience with research on future use of biology in the field of AI.

The fifth year of the conference was very fruitful as it provided participants with engaging presentations and stimulating discussions. The conference was preceded by a special side event – an international seminar titled “*Revising the National AI Policy: Best Practices and Strategies*.” The seminar was organized by the Institute of State and Law, CAS, on 9 September 2022. The speakers (Gerald Spindler, Leehe Friedman, and Alžběta Solarczyk Krausová) focused on selected best practices from the world in formulation of national AI policies and strategies, on the Israeli approach of forming

and coordinating Israeli national approach to secured information systems and artificial intelligence, and on problematic aspects of the proposed regulation of artificial intelligence (the AI Act). The seminar was attended by representatives from the Ministry of Industry and Trade as well as representatives from academia and business.

The next SOLAIR Conference 2023 will be held in Prague on 7–8 September 2023 in the premises of the Czech Academy of Sciences.

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