

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

RESPONSIBLE AI

Since its erection in 1979, the Alcatel-Lucent Foundation has promoted "research on technical and economic developments and communication perspectives". Artificial Intelligence (AI) is a key technology which holds the promise of unlocking human capabilities at an unprecedented scale. However, report after report has highlighted the outcries of AI being biased, unfair, with lack of transparency and accountability, and producing an unsustainably large carbon footprint. Previous research has mainly focused on safety and privacy, and only recently on sustainability, while paying little attention to the other points of criticism.

Against this background, the Alcatel-Lucent Foundation is calling for research proposals of up to

100.000 € PER PROJECT

for a maximum duration of 1½ years each. A total of up to three projects will be supported.

The funds are meant

- » to develop methods to define, detect, and correct potential bias (both in data and model) in AI systems, or
- » to build a holistic framework for AI explainability and transparency (why explain? explain to whom? how and when to explain? which techniques to use?), or
- » to design concepts for data literacy in AI education with special focus on privacy, fairness, and transparency, or
- » to research in detail how AI is perceived by the general population and what reservations it faces.

The call for proposals is deliberately designed as a broad ideas competition in order to support as diverse and innovative projects as possible.

Universities and independent research institutes are eligible to apply as long as they are exempt under tax law. Non-exempted institutes can only be supported as part of cooperation projects. Personnel, material and travel expenses can be applied for. Flat-rate overheads are not covered.

Decision criteria are primarily the project's originality and innovativeness, the validity of its methodology and the assessment as to whether the objectives set can be achieved within time.

The required documents are to be sent in pdf format by e-mail to

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UNTIL OCTOBER 3, 2022.

Application documents (15 pages maximum) should include

- » a summary of the state of research,
- » a clearly formulated objective,
- » detailed descriptions of the methodology,
- » work and time schedules,
- » a short (!) list of the applicant's main publications relevant to the project, and
- » brief (!) descriptions of the scientific careers of all applicants,

Applications can only be considered if they are complete.

The Foundation's Board of Trustees decides on the allocation of research funds.

Legal action against the decision of the Board of Trustees is excluded.

