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Inauguration of the Chair "Trustworthy and Responsible Artificial Intelligence"



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FRANCE – Crédit Agricole S.A., École Polytechnique and the École Polytechnique Foundation are launching the International Chair for Teaching and Research in Trustworthy and Responsible Artificial Intelligence (AI), with the aim of contributing to the development of secure, ethical and robust AI-based systems. The new Chair was inaugurated on 26 March 2024 by Laura Chaubard, Director General and Acting President of the École Polytechnique, Olivier Gavalda, Deputy CEO of Crédit Agricole S.A. in charge of Universal Banking, and Jean-Paul Cottet, Delegate general of the École Polytechnique Foundation.

Supported by Crédit Agricole's DataLab, the programme will aim to contribute to the development of systems based on trustworthy artificial intelligence¹ that are ethical, robust, secure, and sustainable. Sonia Vanier, researcher at the Computer Science Laboratory of the École Polytechnique (LIX*), is the head of the Chair.

The research project has two main focuses. On the one hand, it will focus on new ways of improvement for more reliable AI systems, using a hybrid approach between several disciplines and drawing on different research communities: symbolic AI, operations research, connectionist AI and machine learning. Integrating the reasoning and values derived from the trade knowledge of operational teams

¹ In the words of Margrethe Vestager, Executive Vice-President for a Europe fit for the Digital Age: https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_21_1682

into these systems will enable the construction of models leading to accurate and coherent decisionmaking in relation to use cases. To achieve trustworthy AI, it will be necessary to detect and correct the biases present in the training data and at risk of being reproduced by the AI. Another key point will be to develop models whose progress can be easily interpreted, with results that can be explained to users.

On the other hand, the project aims to achieve more environmentally responsible AI. The latest technologies, such as recent generative AI models and large language models, require more and more data, computing time, and IT and energy resources. In this context, the project aims to limit this environmental impact, through the implementation of AI with a lower environmental impact, and the design of AI algorithms for applications with a positive impact, for example to optimise the energy consumption of (connected) buildings.

"This Chair, launched with Crédit Agricole S.A., will create a multi-disciplinary working group bringing together academic researchers and industrial experts to address the new challenges of Artificial Intelligence. The synergy between the teams at our LIX laboratory, our academic and industrial partners, and our students will allow us to develop new approaches to make the most of the power of AI while preventing risks. AI is turning our world upside down, and we are only at the beginning of these technological revolutions, which are not to be feared but understood," adds Sonia Vanier, the scientific director of the new Chair.

* LIX: a joint research unit CNRS, École Polytechnique, Institut Polytechnique de Paris, 91120 Palaiseau, France

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