Programme

9.00 - 10.00   **Welcome coffee**

10.00 - 11.00   **Introductory panel**

*Speaker 1: Prof. **Jean-Pierre B^{on} Schenkelaars** (EUMASS President)*
*Speaker 2: Prof. Dr. **Frank Vandenbroucke** (Belgian Minister for Social Affairs and Public Health)*
*Speaker 3: Mr. **Antoine Kasel** (Head of Cabinet, Commissioner Schmit)*
*Speaker 4: Ms. **Giulia Barbucci** (former VP of the EESC, rapporteur on AI)*

*Moderator / master of ceremony : **Emilie Harnie***

11.00 - 12.00   **Keynote speakers**

*Prof. Dr. **Koenraad B^{on} Debackere** (Professor, KU Leuven)*
*Mr. **Stijn Broecke** (Senior Economist and AI Expert, OECD)*

12.00 - 12.15   **Q&A**

12.15 - 13.15   **Lunch**

13.15 - 14.15   **Panel 1 AI and Data in Social Security**

*Speaker 1: Dr. **Michal Czerniawski** (European Parliament, Administrator for the LIBE Committee)*
*Speaker 2: Ms. **Tugce Schmitt** (Maastricht University, Researcher Value-Based Health Care)*
*Speaker 3: Ms. **Anastasiya Kiseleva** (VUB and CYU, Researcher in Health Law and Technologies, AI Policy Expert)*
*Speaker 4: Ms. **Margarita Akritidou** (European Data Protection Board, Legal Officer)*

*Moderator : Prof. Dr. **Timo Minssen** (University of Copenhagen, Managing Director of the Centre for Bioscience Innovation Law (CeBIL))*

14.15 - 14.30   **Q&A**

14.30 - 15.30 **Panel 2 Addressing Challenges of Implementing AI in Social Security and Work Capacity Assessment**

*Speaker 1: **Jordan Maris** (European Parliament, Senior Policy Advisor on Digital Policy to MEP Karen Melchior)*
*Speaker 2: Prof. Dr. **Stephen Gilbert** (TU Dresden, Else Kröner Fresenius Center for Digital Health, Professor of Medical Device Regulatory Science)*
*Speaker 3: Prof. Dr. **Paul Quinn** (VUB, Director of the Health&Ageing Law Lab (HALL))*
*Speaker 4: Mr. **Pedro Facon** (NIHDI, Deputy CEO)*

*Moderator : Ms. **Anastasiya Kiseleva** (VUB and CYU, Researcher in Health Law and Technologies, AI Policy Expert)*

15.30 - 15.45 **Q&A**

15.45 - 16.15 **Coffee break**

16.15 - 17.15 **Panel 3 Benefits and Future Potential of AI in Work Capacity Assessment**

*Speaker 1: Dr. **Giovanni Briganti** (Chair of AI & Digital Medicine, Lecturer on Digital Health, Lead of AI4Health at AI4Belgium)*
*Speaker 2: Prof. Dr **Tetiana Klymchuk** (International University of Catalonia, Senior Data Scientist and AI Expert)*
*Speaker 3: Dr. **Bart Desmet** (NIH (National Institutes of Health), Computer scientist)*
*Speaker 4: Dr. **Tina Manoharan** (Vice President, ex Philips, Global Leader Data/AI & Digital Innovation)*

*Moderator : Dr. **Hrvoje Vrazic** (Austrian Social Insurance, Senior HTA Researcher, member of the European Commission´s Coordination Group on Healthcare Technology Assessment (HTA))*

17.15 - 17.30 **Q&A**

17.30 - 18.00 **Conclusion**

*Mr. **Manuel Paolillo** (Director-general, policy coordination and international relations department, Belgian Ministry of Social Security)*

Under the auspices of

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Shaping Tomorrow: AI in Social Security and Work Capacity Assessment

6th of March 2024 | 09.00 - 19.00 at the Residence Palace

Introduction

With the support of the Belgian Presidency of the Council of the European Union (1 January to 30 June 2024), the **European Union of Medicine in Assurance and Social Security (EUMASS)** in collaboration with the Belgian Ministry of Social Affairs (**Federal Public Service FPS**) and the National College of Insurance Medicine (Belgium) are organising the event on **AI in Social Security and Work Capacity Assessment**. The event aims to facilitate the interdisciplinary dialog to unpack the opportunities that AI promises to bring in this sector and at the same time to ensure that the technology is safe, trustworthy and human-centered.

EUMASS with its deep-seated history of fostering collaboration and advancements in the field, has persistently worked towards enhancing the landscape of social security in the European context. As we venture further, it is imperative that we carry forward the mantle of innovation and inclusivity that has been the cornerstone of EUMASS's endeavors.

The conference is poised to be a seminal event, underlining the synergy between AI and the principles enshrined in **the European Pillar of Social Rights (EPSR)**. The EPSR, instituted through a strong foundation of interinstitutional agreements, represents a firm commitment by the European Union to foster a more inclusive and socially equitable community. Initiated in 2017, it was embraced by several EU institutions including the Parliament, Council, and Commission, setting a visionary roadmap for a socially inclusive Europe. By exploring the opportunities and potential risks associated with AI, EUMASS is effectively steering the conversation towards a future where technology is harnessed to foster inclusivity and social protection, thus echoing the pillar's focus on innovation for social good.

In recent years, the EU has demonstrated its strong commitment to strive for a balanced approach to regulating AI: to preserve for the EU's technological leadership and to ensure that new technologies are developed and function according to Union values, fundamental rights and principles [1]. The European Commission highlights: ***'AI should be a tool for people and be a force for good in society with the ultimate aim of increasing human well-being.'[2]***

In pursuing the described commitment, the European Commission issued the Proposal for the AI Act – the legislation for a harmonised EU approach to regulating AI, based on EU values and fundamental rights and aimed to give people and other users the confidence to embrace AI-based solutions, while encouraging businesses to develop them. Since April 2021, the legislative proposal has been heavily discussed. In December 2023, a political agreement on the AI Act was reached. In the words of Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission, this historic moment transposes European values to a new era of AI-driven, but human-centric innovations [3].

As we stand on the cusp of a new era, the upcoming event "Shaping Tomorrow: AI in Social Security and Work Capacity Assessment" could not have a better timing. While the use of AI promises to improve many sectors, social security and welfare are the areas where AI can change the lives of many people, if applied carefully, ethically and responsibly.

[1] The EC Proposal for the Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council Laying Down Harmonised Rules on Artificial Intelligence (Artificial Intelligence Act) and Amending Certain Union Legislative Acts as of April 21, 2021, COM/2021/206 final (EC Proposal for the AI Act), Explanatory Memorandum,

[2] Ibid.

[3] European Commission, 'Commission welcomes political agreement on Artificial Intelligence Act' (Official Press Release, December 09, 2023), available at: <https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_23_6473> accessed December 15, 2023.

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EUMASS seeks to build on its substantial legacy by **facilitating an exchange of ideas, experiences, and strategies among experts and policymakers** from various spectra. It sets the stage for the collaborative development of European policies that are both innovative and effective, echoing the EUMASS commitment to forging pathways that uphold the dignity and rights of every individual.

A focus on AI & Work Capacity Assessment in Social Security

In the vast realm of social security, myriad topics demand our attention and scrutiny. Yet, as we stand at the crossroads of technological evolution and societal needs, one area beckons for a more nuanced exploration and relevant for EUMASS: the assessment of work capacity. Determining an individual's ability to participate in the labor market, and at what level, is not only pivotal for the well-being of the individual but also has broader implications for social security systems at large. With the advent of AI and its potential applications, the traditional paradigms of work capacity evaluation might be on the brink of significant transformation. As we venture deeper into this digital era, there's an imperative need to narrow our focus and delve into the specific challenges and opportunities that AI could bring to work capacity assessments within social security.

Work capacity assessment stands as a foundational pillar within social protection systems, determining an individual's ability to participate in the labor market and at what capacity. In our increasingly digitized world, the rapid advancements of artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning might offer clinicians new tools. These AI tools can process vast amounts of data swiftly, potentially bringing forth new insights and changing our approach to complex health issues.

AI might have significant potential to assist clinicians in medical decision-making capacity assessments, providing additional insights into an evaluation process that currently might lack universal objective standards. It could transform an assessment traditionally reliant on human experience and observation into a more data-driven approach. However, despite the potential promises of AI, there could be significant concerns, including the changing role of human evaluators.

While powerful, AI tools might remain highly susceptible to biased inputs, possibly leading to skewed decisions. This raises questions not only about autonomy but also about accountability for the final decision regarding capacity. In this context, we aim to explore the ethical considerations of using AI for capacity assessments. While AI might not be ready to replace doctors in determining medical decision-making capacity just yet, these new technologies could hold significant near-term potential as tools to screen patients, reveal latent biases, and guide subsequent steps after a capacity determination has been made.

Objectives of the Conference

The full-day symposium provides an extensive and dynamic program. It will start with the keynote speeches and be followed by the panel discussions of speakers representing various groups of stakeholders: professionals and organisations in the social security sector deploying and using AI, tech and innovations companies who develop the technological solutions, regulators and citizens.

Central to this symposium's objectives is a deep dive into the intricacies of **work capacity assessment through the lens of AI.** As the world shifts towards more data-driven approaches, understanding how AI can enhance, complement, or even challenge traditional methods of work capacity assessment becomes paramount.

The symposium aims to foster a robust dialogue around the potential benefits, ethical considerations, and practical implications of integrating AI into work capacity evaluations. By bringing together experts from various fields, the symposium seeks to pave the way for innovative, ethical, and effective solutions that uphold the integrity and objectives of social security systems.

Following the symposium, a comprehensive set of conclusions will be meticulously formulated, encapsulating the collective wisdom and expertise of the event's participants. These outcomes will play a pivotal role in shaping the future direction of EUMASS's initiatives in the realm of work capacity assessment. Not only will they serve as a roadmap for EUMASS's subsequent endeavors, but they will also offer invaluable guidance for broader European institutions. By distilling the essence of the discussions and recommendations from the symposium, EUMASS aspires to inspire and inform policy frameworks and practical applications at both the organizational and European institutional levels. The overarching ambition is to ensure that advancements and innovations in AI for work capacity assessment are in harmony with European values, safeguarding both the well-being of individuals and the integrity of social security systems.

Shaping Tomorrow: AI in Social Security and Work Capacity Assessment

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The key themes of the panels:

- **Panel 1.** AI and Data in Social Security

  The focus of the panel is to address the inseparable bond between progress in the field of AI and fair access to data of high quality.

  The quality of AI is based on the quality of data that is used for algorithmic training, testing and validating. The accuracy of algorithmic decision-making also highly relies on the representativity of the population sampled in different datasets, as well as on the completeness, uniqueness, accuracy, validity, timeliness and consistency of the data. Panelists will discuss the importance of data quality and accessibility for making AI-powered progress in social security and welfare possible, the relevant issues and potential solutions. Specifically, what is particularly pertinent for work capacity assessment in this regard? Discussions will also encompass the challenges and potential solutions in ensuring data integrity and relevance.

- **Panel 2.** Addressing Challenges of Implementing AI in Social Security and Work Capacity Assessment

  The central question of the panel is: how to guarantee that the development and use of AI in work capacity assessments within the social security and welfare sector is trustworthy and reliable? To address the posed question, panelists will focus on challenges of various nature that the technology may pose to the relevant stakeholders, as well as regulatory pathways to address them. Policymakers, developers, deployers and users in the area of AI will discuss how to ensure transparency, safety, quality, accountability and fairness of the technology and involved human actors, while preserving the environment for innovations, social and economic advancements in the EU.

- **Panel 3.** Benefits and Future Potential of AI in Work Capacity Assessment

  This panel seeks to address the pivotal question: How might AI reshape the landscape of work capacity assessments within the social security and welfare sector over the next 5 years?

  Panelists from diverse backgrounds will delve into the following sub-questions:

  - How could AI applications specifically streamline and enhance the accuracy of work capacity evaluations, benefiting both professionals and claimants?

  - In what ways might AI developers tailor their solutions to meet the unique needs of work capacity assessments, ensuring they are both reliable and user-friendly?

  - Ultimately, how could the integration of AI into work capacity assessments bolster fairness, transparency, and inclusivity, ensuring that evaluations are both comprehensive and devoid of biases?