



## **D8.1 OEI - Requirement No. 1**



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Brief abstract	Deliverable D8.1 refers to the involvement of an Ethics Advisor in the project. Jan Romportl has been appointed and introduced as independent Ethics Advisor (EA) by the entire consortium in January 2024 during the kick-off meeting and following the decision-making rules established by the consortium.

## Disclaimer

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## Document history

Version	Date	Main Changes	Authors
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## Abbreviations

AI	Artificial Intelligence
CV	Curriculum vitae
EA	Ethical advisor
EC	European Commission
FIT CTU	Faculty of Information Technology, Czech Technical University in Prague

## Executive Summary

This deliverable discusses the process of selecting the Ethics advisor of our project and introduces the candidate selected. The choice of the advisor was guided by the need to work with someone with deep knowledge of ethics, focus on Artificial Intelligence, Man-Machine Interaction and speech technologies. EA is a distinguished AI researcher, entrepreneur, consultant, and executive with over twenty years of experience in the mentioned fields (see Annex CV Jan Romportl).

The expertise of the selected EA fits with the request from the European Commission (EC) of the role of Ethics advisor. The consortium members received the contact of the EA to be able to contact him in case of need to consult anything regarding his role in the project PoliRuralPlus.

## Introduction

The Czech Technical University in Prague, Faculty of Information Technology (FIT CTU), as the coordinator of the PoliRuralPlus project, undertook a comprehensive and careful process to select the Ethical Advisor for the project. Recognizing the critical importance of this role, especially in a project that extensively deals with big data and advanced AI technologies, including Generic AI, the selection process was designed to be thorough, transparent, and based on merit.

The selection committee was composed of an expert and admin team (Pavel Kordik, Petr Simanek, David Pesek, Karel Charvat, Petra Ritschelova), including the Technical Manager. This team brought together a diverse array of expertise, ensuring that the selection process was informed by a wide range of perspectives, including technical, ethical, and practical considerations of AI and big data usage.

The process began with a broad call for applications, reaching out to a wide pool of qualified candidates. The aim was to attract individuals with a strong background in ethics, particularly in relation to AI and big data.

The committee then proceeded with a rigorous evaluation of each applicant. This evaluation involved a detailed review of their professional qualifications, previous experience, and contributions to the field of AI ethics. Particular attention was given to their independence, to ensure that the selected Ethic Advisor would be free from any potential conflicts of interest with the project coordinator, FIT CTU, or any consortium members.

After careful consideration, these candidates were then interviewed by the committee, allowing for an in-depth discussion of their views, approaches, and how they envisioned their role in the project.

The final selection was made based on these comprehensive evaluations and interviews, ensuring that the chosen Ethical Advisor was the best fit for the unique demands and scope of the PoliRuralPlus project. This process underscored FIT CTU's commitment to ethical excellence and responsible innovation in the project, reflecting the high standards expected by the European Commission and the broader scientific community.

# Annex

Annex 1 CV Jan Romportl

Annex 2 Declaration of Independence for the Ethics Advisor in PoliRuralPlus Project 101136910

## REFERENCES

1- Horizon Europe, EU Grants, AGA - Annotated Grant Agreement, EU Funding Programmes 2021-2027, version 1.0 - draft, 01042023,

[https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/guidance/aga\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/guidance/aga_en.pdf)

# Annex 1

## Curriculum vitae

**Ing. Mgr. Jan Romportl, Ph.D.**



### **Professional Summary:**

Jan Romportl is a distinguished AI researcher, entrepreneur, consultant, and executive with over twenty years of experience. His career spans across academic and commercial sectors, with a focus on Artificial Intelligence, Man-Machine Interaction, speech technologies, and philosophy. Jan is dedicated to ethical AI development and actively involved in initiatives to minimize existential risks associated with advanced AI technologies.

### **Professional Experience:**

#### **CEO, Elin.ai (2022 - Present)**

Leading Elin.ai, Jan focuses on ethical machine learning and AI safety. His role includes providing consultancy and advisory services in AI integration and ethical AI practices.

#### **Chief Data Scientist, O2 Czech Republic (2015 - 2022)**

As the Chief Data Scientist at O2 Czech Republic, Jan led the establishment and growth of Dataclair.ai – the Centre for Artificial Intelligence Excellence. He was instrumental in integrating AI and big data solutions in various sectors, with a strong emphasis on ethical machine learning and privacy.

#### **Founder and CEO, Dataclair.ai (2015 - 2022)**

Jan founded and managed Dataclair.ai, which specialized in creating AI solutions for industries such as telecommunications, finance, and healthcare.

### **Academic Career:**

Jan's extensive academic background includes research and teaching in AI, man-machine interaction, speech technologies, and philosophy. He served as the Head of the Department of Man-Machine Interaction at the New Technologies Research Centre, University of West Bohemia, and was a senior researcher at the Department of Cybernetics. He continues to be an active member of the Department of Philosophy at the same university. Jan cooperates with the Centre for Theoretical Study of Charles University and with Czech Effective Altruism Group.

### **Education:**

Jan holds Ph.D. in Artificial Intelligence, Master's Degree in Cybernetics and Control Engineering, and another Master's Degree in Philosophy. His academic career is highlighted by a visit to Oxford University's Future of Humanity Institute.

### **Community Involvement:**

Jan is actively involved in the AI community. He organizes the Prague AI Safety Meetup and contributes to the Czech AI Safety and Alignment community. He is also engaged in global movements focused on minimizing existential AI risks.

### **Personal Interests:**

Beyond his professional life, Jan is a dedicated runner, PADI divemaster, and private pilot. He is deeply interested in Philosophy and is a lifelong enthusiast of Atari and vintage computers.



January 31, 2024, Prague

To: Whom It May Concern

Subject: HORIZON-CL6-2023-COMMUNITIES-01-2

**Declaration of Independence for the Ethics Advisor in PoliRuralPlus Project 101136910**

On behalf of the Czech Technical University in Prague, Faculty of Information Technology (FIT CTU), as the coordinating entity of the PoliRuralPlus project, I hereby declare the following:

The role of the Ethics Advisor in the PoliRuralPlus project is of paramount importance, especially considering the extensive engagement with big data analytics and advanced applications in Artificial Intelligence (AI), including Generic AI.

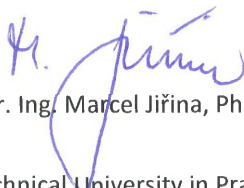
In recognition of the cruciality of ethical considerations in such technologically intensive and data-centric endeavors, we emphasize the absolute independence of the Ethics Advisor from all spheres of influence within the project consortium.

This declaration asserts that the appointed Ethics Advisor Ing. Mgr. Jan Romportl, Ph.D. operates with complete autonomy, free from any direct or indirect influence, control, or oversight by the Project Coordinator, FIT CTU, as well as any other consortium members involved in PoliRuralPlus. The Ethics Advisor is selected based on rigorous criteria of expertise, impartiality, and a proven track record in ethical oversight of complex projects involving AI and big data.

The independence of the Ethics Advisor is fundamental to ensuring unbiased, objective, and ethical guidance throughout the project's lifecycle. This role is not only a regulatory requirement but a commitment to uphold the highest standards of ethical conduct in research and innovation, particularly in areas with profound societal implications such as AI and big data utilization.

We affirm our dedication to maintaining the integrity and independence of this role, recognizing its critical contribution to the responsible and ethical progression of the PoliRuralPlus project.

Sincerely,



doc. RNDr. Ing. Marcel Jiřina, Ph.D.  
Dean  
Czech Technical University in Prague  
Faculty of Information Technology  
(Project Coordinator, PoliRuralPlus)

Annex CV Jan Romportl