

Application of the General Data Protection Regulation on Household Social Robots

Doctoral (Ph.D.) Dissertation

(Dissertation submitted to preliminary debate)

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Abbreviations

ADM	Algorithmic Decision Making
AG	Advocate General
AI	Artificial Intelligence
CEE	Central and Eastern European
CJEU	Court of Justice of the European Union
CoE	Council of Europe
DPA/NSA	Data Protection Authority or National Supervisory Authority
DPbD	Data Protection by Design
DPIA	Data Protection Impact Assessment
EC	European Commission
ECHR	European Convention on Human Rights
ECtHR	European Court of Human Rights
EDPS	European Data Protection Supervisor
EP	European Parliament
EU	European Union
GDPR	General Data Protection Regulation
UDHR	Universal Declaration of Human Rights
OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
WP29	Article 29 Working Party
HSR	Household Social Robot
HRI	Human-Robot Interaction
IoT	Internet of Things
ML	Machine Learning
MS	Member State

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I. Introduction

Artificial Intelligence is probably one of the most popular topics of the last five years referred almost in any field. AI and robots today appear in healthcare, transportation (including interspace transportation), construction, goods and services delivery, financial services, education¹, in short, in every field of life. Indeed, there is a valid reason for that. AI-enabled health care technologies could predict in the treatment of diseases 75% better, and could reduce the clinical errors 2/3 at the clinics using AI compared to the clinics do not². AI-enabled technologies could handle repetitive jobs, therefore helps saving time and cost for businesses, employers, and employees. Industrial robots could execute such tasks with less or no risk, otherwise to be dangerous and risky for humans, such as landing on Mars or exploding a mine. Many more benefits could be listed, however, what we would like to point is that the era of human-robot (or AI) has started, engaging people to interact, cooperate, and benefit from these technologies. The human-robot cooperation would not be possible without an easily accessible and available Big Data, besides the developments and decreasing costs of hardware, and increasing engineering skills.

The AI market amounts to around USD 664 million and is expected to grow to USD 38.8 billion by 2025 according to the EU³, and expected to grow 190.6 billion by 2025, according to another forecast⁴. Either the industry or the governments invest on AI technologies, different in volumes, but still place the investment in their annual budgets

¹ “Sizing the prize: What’s the real value of AI for your business and how can you capitalise?”, [Online], PwC Global, Accessed from: <https://www.pwc.com/gx/en/issues/data-and-analytics/publications/artificial-intelligence-study.html> Last accessed: 19 January 2020

² “The AI effect: How artificial intelligence is making health care more human”, [Online], study conducted by MIT Technology Review Insights and GE Healthcare, 2019. Accessed from: <https://www.technologyreview.com/hub/ai-effect/> Last accessed: 20 January 2020.

³ Opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee on ‘Artificial intelligence -The consequences of artificial intelligence on the (digital) single market, production, consumption, employment and society’ (2017/C 288/01)

⁴ “Artificial Intelligence Market by Offering (Hardware, Software, Services), Technology (Machine Learning, Natural Language Processing, Context-Aware Computing, Computer Vision), End-User Industry, and Geography- Global Forecast to 2025”, [Online], Markets and Markets. Accessed from: <https://www.marketsandmarkets.com/PressReleases/artificial-intelligence.asp> Last accessed: 20 January 2020

completing their National AI Strategies⁵. Big-tech companies, such as Facebook, Google, Apple, Alibaba, have been announcing new AI projects at their research departments specifically designated for AI and robotics research. European Commission is to launch a new long term funding for 2021-2027 with a 9.2 billion Euro budget to support the so-called Digital Single Market that involves AI research and development activities⁶. AI and particularly Human-Robot Interaction presented by service robots have been increasingly reported by the news magazines since the beginning of 2000s⁷. Academia also pays significant attention to the topic. A number of scientific papers with the topic of Machine Learning has grown twenty times, while the robotics topic grew thirty times in 2019, both compared to 2010, in the arxiv pre-print repository⁸. Only in 2019, we participated in several scientific events organized around a topic that is not mainly focusing on AI, but also could host AI discussions during those events. AI, without a doubt, will continue to be a topic of a discussion in any field, let it be science and technology, legal, economy, medical researches, or ethics.

In this work, we do not differ AI and Robots since they are interrelated in AI concepts, and the present work should be read in a sense which we use the terms AI and robots interchangeably. Robotics could be a stand-alone technology without AI but currently, they are deeply engaged and almost meaning the same in the eye of technology, as the Figure 1. also shows. The reason why this integration might be that AI can perform more useful tasks in embodied than it could as a software⁹. By being in the real world, AI would be more intelligent and would be perceived as more real¹⁰ that is an important factor in acceptance by a human. Academia does not separate the AI from robots use in practice; for

⁵ Currently, there are 33 countries have adopted a national AI strategy. Source: Future of Life, National and International AI Strategies. Accessed from: <https://futureoflife.org/national-international-ai-strategies/?cn-reloaded=1> Last accessed: 28 January 2020.

⁶ Szczepański, 2019, p. 8

⁷ Mejía and Kajikawa, 2019, p. 122.

⁸ Perrault, et. al., 2019, p. 21.

⁹ Nath and Vineet, 2017, n.p.

¹⁰ Leroux et al., 2018, p. 60.

example, Edwards¹¹ et. al. does not differ a social robot and AI once used for education by highlighting the communication aspect of a social robot as a teacher simulating human to human interaction. Legal academia especially approaches AI and robots as they are the very same terms. For example, Prof. Ryan Calo, a leading robolaw scholar, identifies robots as embodied AI¹². From those, personal robots have a special place in academia in which referred without a distinction between the two terms. For example, Broman and Finckenberg-Broman highlight HRI as a meeting point both for AI and robots, and strongly suggest that they should be evaluated together from the legal point of view¹³. Furthermore, important global actors do not attempt to evaluate AI and robots separately in their official documents. United Nations approaches the robots from their autonomous feature where AI “enables them to perform complex tasks in changing environment without being teleoperated or controlled by a human operator”¹⁴. EU approaches the robots as “electronic persons”¹⁵, because of their intellectual capabilities and classifies AI as a software acting in the virtual world and as hardware embedded in advanced robots¹⁶. All these statements we experienced were particularly effective in our choice of the term in a frame of the present work but we also believe that a simple coffee machine completing repetitive tasks and presenting illusionary intelligence could not be (and should not be) a topic of a high level of analysis.

There are several types of robots classified mainly under two big categories: industry and service robots¹⁷. This work focuses on service robots in general but social robots specifically as a case analysis, on the first side. Type of robot is important to indicate

¹¹ Edwards, et. al., 2018, p.475.

¹² Calo, 2015, p. 532.

¹³ Broman, Finckenberg-Broman, 2017, p. 5.

¹⁴ United Nations Report of COMEST on Robotics Ethics, 2017, p. 4.

¹⁵ European Parliament’s Legal Affairs Committee, 2017, European civil law rules in robotics. (2015/2103(INL)), para. 59f.

¹⁶ European Commission, 2018a, p. 12.

¹⁷ IIFR *Executive Summary World Robotics 2017 Industrial Robots*
Accessed from: https://ifr.org/downloads/press/Executive_Summary_WR_2017_Industrial_Robots.pdf
Last accessed: 8 November 2019.

because the risks could easily differ from one type to another¹⁸. If the present work was done some years ago, it would be difficult for us to claim a certain future existence of social robots at homes. The reason for the statement would be based on poor tendencies in the industry for developing AI and robots for personal use. Famous humanoid and anthropomorphic robots of Boston Dynamics are developed and tested for military or industrial purposes rather than personal use. Most probably, self-driving cars and drones were those robots one may have heard most news about. However, besides the robotics designed for specific domains, personal household social robots are now increasingly catching the attention of the industry. For example, the Everyday Robot Project¹⁹ launched by the X Development (a subsidiary of Google) aims to create robots to serve in everyday life of humans in “whatever they needed, doing tasks haven't even dreamed up yet.” The robot in this project is being developed with Machine Learning which will integrate the data that the robot collects through its cameras and sensors. The project’s outcome is to make robots possible to work in unstructured environments in collaboration with humans and other robots. Facebook, not surprisingly, has been testing the LoCoBot²⁰ robot, an open-source low-cost robot that could navigate in physical spaces supported with AI navigating without needing a map²¹. Although the full appearance of social robots at households is not yet a phenomenon, they appear at households as cleaning robots such as vacuum cleaner, or as entertainment robots, such as toys, education, and research²². Such household robots are about 16 million available in the market and this number is expected to grow to 61.1 million units by 2022²³. The tendency followed in producing personal household robots show that people will meet these robots sooner or later.

¹⁸ Fosch-Villaronga, 2018, p. 95.

¹⁹ X Company official website. Available at: <https://x.company/projects/everyday-robots> Last accessed: 15 January 2020.

²⁰ LoCoBot official website. Available at: <http://www.locobot.org> Last accessed: 15 January 2020.

²¹ “Facebook has trained an AI to navigate without needing a map.”, [Online], MIT Technology Review. Accessed from: https://www.technologyreview.com/f/615078/facebook-has-trained-an-ai-to-navigate-without-needing-a-map/?utm_source=newsletters&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=the_download.unpaid.engagement Last accessed: 23 January 2020

²² IFR Executive Summary World Robotics 2019: Service Robots. [Online], Accessed from: https://ifr.org/downloads/press2018/Executive_Summary_WR_Service_Robots_2019.pdf Last accessed: 28 January 2020.

²³ Ibid., p. 3.

On the other side, the engagement of robots in different aspects of human life raises some considerations and risks, as every technology does so, besides their absolute usefulness. Consumers may face price discrimination as a result of their engagement with a social bot. They may have to pay the price of a robot deployed with a free app with their data without realizing the risks²⁴. Citizens might be under surveillance by robots appearing in public spaces. Patients may be under stressed when they give consent for their data to be processed to receive treatment. Individuals sharing their home life with a social robot may remain unclear liability issues that might be assign them, one day. All these risks as well as the benefits are based on the AI systems' ability to process data especially personal data in large sense.

Robots and AI technologies have been merging with many aspects of daily and professional life which requires scientists to adopt a multidimensional approach during the development and services of this technology. The topic is interdisciplinary by its nature giving as a fact that AI's involvement with people's individual life is significant and there is a need for evaluating the risks with an interdisciplinary approach. This work adopts a socio-legal approach with a practical point of view, meaning that we are to present a work evaluating the practice of the GDPR on personal social robots, not a dogmatic-legal analysis. Since the present work focuses on the problems regarding social robots and EU data protection legislation, we shall next present the EU's position to the topic, briefly.

1. Related EU Documents

The EU has been putting a significant effort into discussing the regulation of AI and robotics technologies at a strategical, ethical, and legal point of views. Data Protection and privacy is the very first area where the EU is being called to review the current legal implications and there are already several papers generated upon the request of the EU Institutions, mainly of the EP, in the last 2 years. The very early report with this regard was prepared in 2016 for the EP Science and Technology Options Assessment-STOA group²⁵ identifying seven legal areas that robotics technologies which they call as Cyber-physical

²⁴ Free apps and services that those companies offer, not surprisingly, collect more personal data than the paid apps. AGCOM, 2017, p. 27.

²⁵ European Parliament, 2016, p. 7-10.

systems, would make it necessary to review: Transport, trade, civil liberties, safety, health, energy and environment, and horizontal issues. While concerns related to data processing were addressed almost in all the areas, the civil liberties area was dedicated only to data protection. It was a remarkable observation, that the very first concern referred was related to home-care robots such as healthcare robots that could collect and process personal data. Furthermore, algorithmic transparency, risks arising from using a robot for household activities, data ownership, and share, the relationship between data controllers and data processors, and data accessibility for research activities were some of the issues identified as challenges. The report was finalized with a recommendation which is to safeguard issues pro-actively and in a human-centric way with the help of law, and especially data protection legislation. The EU data protection community heard this call and dedicated the 38th International Conference of Data Protection and Privacy Commissioners meeting in 2016 with a special focus on AI and privacy challenges²⁶. This meeting gave a specific attention to the transparency and explainability in the AI systems. The meeting report raised important questions in this sense, such as “Who is the data controller for an autonomous machine with self-learning capabilities?” that could be faced with practical AI applications. While the topic was discussed superficially in those days, upcoming works of the EU became evidential on the EU’s wish to take some more tangible steps to understand the topic and raise solutions for.

In 2018, the EC published the EU AI strategy delivering three pillars for AI transformation in the EU: “increasing public and private investments in AI, preparing for socio-economic changes, and ensuring an appropriate ethical and legal framework”²⁷. The strategy document could be one way to understand how the EU analyses the differences and similarities, as well as the gap level between the MS in terms of AI readiness. In the pillar of ethical and legal framework, the AI strategy puts data protection and privacy as a challenge to be tackled. The EU seemed to take the lead in all these three pillars and started establishing the operative aspects of the pillars, for example, High-Level Expert Group on Artificial Intelligence- HLEG was created by the EC to receive policy recommendations

²⁶ EDPS, 2016, p. 9.

²⁷ European Commission, 2018b, p. 1.

related to AI regulation, including data protection. The very first and most significant contribution of the HLEG was to define the term AI according to the EU's perspective.

In 2019, the EP paid significant and increased amount of attention to understand the topic and several EP Committees requested reports and briefings from variety of experts. These reports are important to see at what stage the EP is thinking on the regulative issues since there is no significant policy step has not yet been taken. Among those, a report requested by the EP's Committee on Industry, Research and Energy summarized that privacy is one of the obstacles setting the EU back from having a strong place in the world giving as a reason that strong privacy rules pushes back big companies to invest in EU on AI development projects.²⁸ In the comprehensive European industrial policy on artificial intelligence and robotics reports, the EP calls the EC to take necessary legislative steps, either is a revision or lawmaking, to solve this problem²⁹. Moreover, the EP points a specific topic to pay attention as such is the necessity to ensure “unambiguous and informed consent “ and the responsibility of AI developers to develop and follow procedures for valid consent”³⁰. From the consumers' point of view, data protection is again one of the areas of concern, since principles such as purpose limitation and data minimization are not that rules easy to comply with AI technologies.³¹ In this case, the reports point that there is a need for building trust towards AI technologies both from the investors' and the consumers' point of view, and data protection could be an eligible point to start from.

Besides the regulation of AI technologies, the EP paid specific attention to understanding the regulation of robotics, too. To identify issues specific to the regulation of robotics, some of the subject-specific events were held at the EP. For example, “Robots in Healthcare: a solution or a problem?” workshop was held on 19 February 2019 under the auspices of the EP to provide information and advice for members of the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety Committee on robots in healthcare. The workshop report

²⁸ Delponte, L., 2019, p. 16.

²⁹ European Parliament, 2018, para. 110.

³⁰ Ibid., para. 129.

³¹ Sartor, 2019, pp. 4-5.

refers to the challenges in the EU health care sector per increasing needs of people to health care services and identifies robotics as a solution³². Especially, care and socially assistive robots were mentioned as some of the most interesting applications in health care³³. Report hosts the minutes of the presentations given in the workshop, each pointing data protection, and privacy issues one of the obstacles before these technologies³⁴. For the present work, the most remarkable report was prepared upon the request of the EP Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection, (IMCP) evaluating social robots in specific³⁵. The report refers to chatbots and social robots as an example of successful subfields of AI since they can engage people with more interaction. Surely, this report also refers to privacy and data protection issues as a risk category. This report encouraged the EP to draft a resolution currently published and calling the HLEG to review the GDPR, besides other legislation, whether it could respond to issues arising from AI and ADM, and that it could ensure a high level of consumer protection³⁶.

Until now, we must be able to prove that there is a technology called AI and it is happening even now, and there are problems about what AI brings in human's life, especially, a risk to their privacy and data protection rights, at least, as identified by the EU. This work aims to analyze the GDPR from the applicability to the household social robots point of view to bring empirical results which may give a starting point for those efforts put by the EP. The regulation should not be understood only as a legal regulation, in our view; ongoing solutions offered for AI technologies such as ethics by design is not a purely legal solution. The adopted interdisciplinary approach from the beginning of this study served us to point some different tangible aspects of the defined problems that could be taken into account by not only the legal-AI researchers but also by the social scientists. In the following, the problems subjected to this work and the methodology to approach these problems will be presented with this interdisciplinary approach.

³² Dolic, Castro, Moarcas, 2019, p. 8.

³³ Ibid. p.7

³⁴ For example, Dr. Kathrin Cresswell noted four barriers decreasing the number of benefits of health care robots and one of them, not surprisingly, is the ethical and legal challenges. Ibid., p.12.

³⁵ Przegalinska, 2019, pp. 4-6.

³⁶ European Parliament, 2020, p.3, para D.

2. Methodology

“Researchers and engineers in artificial intelligence should take the dual-use nature of their work seriously, allowing misuse-related considerations to influence research priorities and norms, and proactively reaching out to relevant actors when harmful applications are foreseeable.”³⁷

In general, the aim of legislators during the law-making procedure should be solving the present legal, social or practical problems and preventing the future’s unwanted problems. To reach this aim, they first create awareness on the legal problems based on facts and data at hand and set the legislation following this analysis. Although law-making procedures may follow different paths and they could be affected by different internal or external dynamics, the basic outcome of legislation should not be only related to the current problems, but also the probabilistic future. However, untraceable developments in technology bring not only social and cultural challenges, but also legal ones, and neither politicians nor the law-makers could respond to those challenges as fast as the changes occur. Amending a single piece of national law may sometimes take a year, or translation of an EU law may take some years (as this was the case with the GDPR), but until then, new legal questions may arise which invalidate the effectiveness of the about-to-be-current law. For this reason, 21st-century lawyers should not only deal with the current problems but also should have an ability to foresee at least the medium-term future scenarios, so that they could prevent possible future problems within the present legal texts. Such an approach is easily observable in the GDPR; the EU lawmaker evaluated the present situation at hand together with the close future scenarios which are very likely to happen, as the articles of the GDPR and several guidelines delivered by the EU agencies point out. However, the rise of AI technologies both in public and the private sphere has happened so sudden, even the most current data protection legislation, the GDPR, seems to be lacking to answering some of the questions (as will be analyzed in the further chapters) that were previously may not have been thought by the legislator. Whether the questions and hypotheses subjected to the analysis of this work have ever been considered by the EU

³⁷ Brundage, et. al., 2018, p. 51.

legislator during the GDPR-making is an important question, the answer is negative, due to the volume and content of the documents generated by the EU Institutions point so. For this reason, this work adopted a futuristic approach supported by expert opinions to prepare lawyers as well as lawmakers to foresee and regulate the possible problems regarding data protection in the age of AI technologies in the EU.

2.1 Motivations Behind the Chosen Methodology

Science and technology develop cumulatively, meaning that not only the results of the prior researches are of the utmost importance to start a new project, but the problems defined and the methodologies used could be a useful source for a new project. The same goes for the forecasting methods, as Armstrong stated³⁸, that any researcher attempting to use forecasting methods should first check the prior works. There are several pieces of literature referred to in this work regarding methodology (see, Scenarios Used in the Legal Literature title), however, one of them presented below is directly related to the topic of this work (robots and law) implementing a well-thought method similar to what we were planning before conducting this research.

Presented at the WeRobot 2019 conference that has been organized since 2012 every year in the US, Ballard and Calo's paper ensured³⁹ that our work is not a piece of a Science Fiction, but is a way to take guard against the future's possible legal problems of letting social robots enter in our homes from today. They propose an appropriate method for shaping the Robolaw⁴⁰, saying that we could prevent unintended consequences of future legal problems with the help of a foreword thinking way⁴¹. This way of thinking could be operationalized with forecasting methods that contain several futures research methods that are applicable both qualitatively and quantitatively. For their analysis, they applied the design fiction, scenario planning, and the futures wheel methods which results could then

³⁸ Armstrong, 2009, p. 2.

³⁹ Ballard and Calo, 2019, p.3. The paper is referred as "draft" most probably because it is missing only the conclusion part. Otherwise, the implementation of the method, scenarios, and analysis of the scenarios are visibly completed.

⁴⁰ This is a term used for robotic legislation. There are other terms being used, such as *lex robotica*. People who efforts to develop robolaw is called as robot legist or robotist.

⁴¹ Ballard and Calo, 2019, p.3.

be translated into qualitative research, as this work considered the design fiction and scenario planning methods.

2.2. Futures Methods, Law, and Robotics

Ballard and Calo's work is not the only single paper this work is based on. The literature review conducted during the course of this work showed that other similar works are focusing on Robolaw, and even more specifically on the data protection aspects of robotics. They are few in quantity but give enough background information to understand the applicability of futures methods in the field of law and robotics. For example, Safeguards in a World of Ambient Intelligence⁴² project was based on four dark scenarios helping to identify impacts of AI technologies on privacy and data protection. The approach followed in the project was to construct four scenarios each differently based on a specific technology and the risk that technology would raise against the right to data protection. In light of the scenarios, the authors questioned the difference between the public and private space in the age of AI technologies, and the role of data protection which is being challenged by the technology together with the shortcomings of the data protection law following Directive 95/46/EU. This project and the paper gave special attention to transparency, consent and technology-specific regulation issues with the help of the scenarios.

Going on with the examples, Mulligan⁴³ conducts a comprehensive investigation of robots' liability through several questions, but also with a short scenario. In that scenario, a gardening robot capable of learning new behaviors starts acting unexpectedly and unforeseeably which leaves out the question of the liability of the programmer of the robot. Through this small scenario and with the support of the analysis, the author simply points out a possible robot liability in a very rational and logical approach to a possible close future case.

A more updated work⁴⁴ reporting the EU funded projects points out the fact that the existence of futures methods in the legal field is already a known method. De Andrade

⁴² Ahonen, et al., 2008

⁴³ Mulligan, 2018, p. 11.

⁴⁴ de Andrade, 2012, 338

collected those projects where scenario-planning also was used to forecast legal changes based on technological developments. His work proves, first, availability of futures methods for legal planning; second, he strongly recommends using futures methods for legal research, but especially, in the law-making procedure. Although his paper was not investigating the data protection and robotics topic straight-forward, it is an important work reinforcing the idea of the applicability of the futures research method in the legal field.

Effectivity of using futures research methods during lawmaking procedure related to the regulation of technology was proven by Weber, Gudowsky, and Aichholzer⁴⁵. This work particularly implemented a method called technology assessment study in the Austrian Parliament on the topic of Industry 4.0 and reached to a conclusion that foresight method could boost lawmakers to adopt more interdisciplinary and deeper insight for answering technology related legislation needs.

This work uses futures methods to help lawmakers to foresee challenges related to data protection in AI systems which have otherwise never been realized before. In this way, the law-maker could act before an unwanted consequence occur, since once personal data is included in AI systems, it is almost impossible to take (or delete or track) the data back from the system. We think that proactivity embedded in the GDPR should be more enforced, if there will be a revision on the GDPR and the application of this piece of legislation should also be based on proactivity, too.

The development of this study was mainly based on academic literature and the publications generated by stakeholders which constituted the input of the study. Further, scenarios and design fictions will be presented as they were the two methods used in the scientific papers above, and are the specific methods being used in this work, too.

2.3. Scenarios

Scenarios have been used for forecasting and by policy analysis researchers for more than 60 years. It was first introduced in research related to military and strategic planning

⁴⁵ Weber, Gudowsky and Aichholzer, 2019, p. 245.

conducted by the RAND Corporation and led by Herman Kahn⁴⁶. This method aims to connect present issues with the future through cause and effect links⁴⁷. The intention behind the scenarios is to assist either policy-makers or decision-makers to act now⁴⁸ instead of acting under emergency. This work carries a similar task; to provide some inputs for the EU lawmakers who have been heavily working on shaping the future of data protection legislation challenged by the AI technologies of today.

Since futures methods are part of a data collection method for social sciences, two types of scenarios which are the exploratory and normative scenarios⁴⁹ were defined based on years of practice. Introducing a desirable future is the basic aim of the normative scenarios where exploratory scenarios are constructed based on assumptions that may influence one of the several future possibilities. Such assumptions are easy to realize in the scenario presented in this work, too.

Three basic rules are pointing to the accuracy and validity of good scenarios, according to the literature: they should be plausible (but absolutely should not cause deception⁵⁰), internally consistent, and sufficient enough to persuade the policymakers to the reality of the case⁵¹. It is suggested, that from three to six scenarios are sufficient⁵², but this work will present a whole scenario consisting of several elements and questions, therefore each element could be perceived as a sub-scenario. Since these rules would be vague to conduct a whole Ph.D. research, the following examples under the “Scenarios used in the legal literature” title showed how this method practically was implemented.

A very important aspect of the scenarios is that they acceptably present probable future, but one should bear in mind that the alternative futures are always possible. Therefore,

⁴⁶ Glenn and Theodore, 2009, p. 1, Scenarios section.

⁴⁷ Ibid.

⁴⁸ Ibid. p. 5.

⁴⁹ Ibid. p. 6.

⁵⁰ Although the purpose of this work is not to design any technical product, an attention was paid to Coulton, Lindley and Akmal's (2016) work which pointed not to cross the line between real reality and the fictionally designed reality.

⁵¹ Glenn and Theodore, p. 11.

⁵² Ibid. p.9

involving experts in the scenario construction was crucial to ensure the representativeness of the scenario in this work. For this reason, face-to-face interviews were conducted with the legal experts to broaden the scope of the scenario which in the end helped to define better and more comprehensive solutions.

2.4. Scenarios used in the legal literature

Scenarios have been used in the literature either in robotics or in data protection related works, and sometimes referred even together within a single work. From those, two important papers were identified related to the subject of this thesis. Carlsen et. al. (2014)⁵³ focuses on the impact of autonomous robots on a society in which they assess the technological impact in the frame of a scenario. The scenario in this work was created in three steps; first prototype artifacts for autonomous robots (the artifacts are a service robot placed at malls, a fire-fighter robot, and a household robot for elder-care) were created. This step followed by creating a hypothetical case applicable to a society based on ethical and practical questions gathered out of those artifacts. Finally, measuring the reaction of the society on the questions were also raised. A multi-dimensional debate that the paper put further was based, first, on the robot's capabilities which pave the way for extensive surveillance at homes and public spaces. Another debate was focusing on the rights and conflicts from the aspects of replacing human force from the job market. Finally, each debate was framed within ethical discussions. In this way, the authors could define two types of groups in society according to their scenario interpretations⁵⁴: a skeptical society who wishes to control technology at any level, and a technology positive society who is liberal and approaches the robotic technologies with few restrictions. The scenario prepared in this work has many similarities with Carlsen et. al.'s work from several aspects. For example, it captures an artifact from the literature (personal household robot), then raises a hypothetical case that was created based on the current discussions in the legal literature (our scenario), and completes it with the expert interpretations as we also did.

⁵³ Carlsen, H. et al., 2014, p. 97.

⁵⁴ Ibid., p. 98.

The second paper related to the subject area of this dissertation belongs to Minkkinen who stated that lack of foresight methods in the policy-making process may cause a lack of future consciousness in the real policy.⁵⁵ Minkkinen proposed a new futuristic privacy model shaped by an institutional approach which, according to the study, should be based on the dynamics in understanding the privacy and historical processes. These processes should be defined based on the cultural norms and instruments together with the engines such as technology. A complete model what Minkkinen reaches present an entire scenario picking the Right to be Forgotten as an example. Comparing the GDPR and the Finnish interpretation of the GDPR in the field of security shows that foresight element was lack in the GDPR making process since the focus was to respond to the past and present challenges, not the future ones and not even open for a discussion to the future ones.⁵⁶ One aim of this thesis is to prove how the legal experts evaluate the same futuristic scenario differently even though the legal framework subjected to the interpretation supposed to be the same. Therefore, the lack of unique interpretation in real cases may challenge the GDPR's unified approach.

Besides the two works presented above, a mention must be made on "The Millennium Project"⁵⁷ in which almost all the futures research methodologies have been used for forecasting also with legal consequences. There are 15 global challenges defined based on a comprehensive evaluation of current problems and insightful solutions raised by more than 4.000 experts. The project is still on-going and technology-related questions are always embedded in almost every scenario. The project refers to a few privacy related questions under the Global Challenge 6 presented in the Figure 2., but the approach followed is much more comprehensive as it could be observable from the Figure 2.

A comprehensive investigation conducted in the literature proved that scenario planning in a Ph.D. work focusing on legal questions could be a sufficient method. To present a full scenario, the design fiction method was used in this for work data collection method.

⁵⁵ Minkkinen, 2015, p. 2.

⁵⁶ Ibid., p. 5.

⁵⁷ Official website of the program is accessible here: <http://www.millennium-project.org/> Last accessed: 20 January 2020.

2.5. Design Fiction

“Compared with the world just 20 years ago, we take a lot of things for granted that used to be the stuff of science fiction. Clearly, much can change in just two decades.”⁵⁸

Design fiction is, as the term’s father Bruce Sterling describes, “deliberate use of diegetic prototypes to suspend disbelief about change.”⁵⁹ It contains the word fiction because this method aims to present the other worlds that are different from the usual ones; the people whose lives are different from ours.⁶⁰ It focuses on a particular element, not using a prediction way, but raises questions to discover future, based on present implications.⁶¹ Design fiction pieces present a range of causality and cumulative events that follow one after another.⁶² It is a scientific research method that has been used by academic scholars aiming to put a clear picture of the future for further analysis.

In this case, the distinction between science fiction and design fiction (if there is any) should be mentioned to answer possible questions regarding the scientific validity of this method used in the present work. Science Fiction indeed used to be a part of the entertainment world mostly, and design fiction is a scientific method. However, today, items are shown as part of Sci-Fi literature evidentially become real, and become an ideal tool for the industry, as Dourish and Bell⁶³ proved. The relationship between scientific researches and Science Fiction evolved in a way the former comes after the latter and in this relationship, there is no space for evaluation of consequences of such technological developments on culture or power of states⁶⁴. What the authors propose as a solution is using fictional design to prevent undesirable consequences of technology. Besides Dourish

⁵⁸ Microsoft, 2018, p.3.

⁵⁹ Sterling B. (2013) ‘Fantasy Prototypes and Real Disruption’, [Online], Keynote-NEXT, Berlin, <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2VloRYPZk68>.

⁶⁰ Blythe, 2017, p. 5400.

⁶¹ Wong, Merrill and Chuang, 2018, p. 1360

⁶² Blythe, 2017, p. 5402.

⁶³ Dourish and Bell, 2014, p. 774.

⁶⁴ Ibid, p. 776.

and Bell's work, there are other examples indirectly referring to the design fiction literature presenting technology's effects on individuals' lives.⁶⁵ Julian Bleecker, a team member of the Near Future Laboratory where design fictions are turned out to be a prototype for the industry says, that "the science happens in between the fact and the fiction"⁶⁶, pointing out the fact that it may not always be easy to observe the difference if there is any⁶⁷. Design fiction scenarios are written in the present tense because they present things that are in the process of becoming and the scenario is a part of this process; it has some degree of reality⁶⁸. Turing's question was a topic of science fiction in the '50s, in the '80s when engineers gathered much more knowledge to answer Turing's question, it was one step further than fiction, and now, engineers work on designing intelligent machines bringing many consequences on individuals, as the present work proves so. This relation between Sci-Fi and design fiction gave us a margin of creativity within the borders of reality.

The design fiction method is heavily used in different law-related fields, such as ethics. The famous Trolley Problem⁶⁹ is based on design fiction which today is a discussion for the legal liability of robots, especially, self-driving cars. In such ethical discussions, the question to be placed is generally "what people should do"⁷⁰, but the present work is questioning how the law would and should answer particular fictional scenarios. This question is related to legal design which provides ex-ante design framework together with the quality in rulemaking standards assessing the impact of a piece of legislation proactively⁷¹ that is also referred to in the GDPR. One of the novelties of the GDPR is

⁶⁵ Coulton, Lindley, and Akmal, 2020, p. 20.

These works do not present scenarios but evaluate them to contribute design fiction literature, methodologies, to do and do not dos, but the scenarios the authors present considered in this work.

⁶⁶ Bleecker, 2009, p. 27.

⁶⁷ Ibid., p. 29.

⁶⁸ Blythe, 2009, p. 7.

⁶⁹ One of the best visual explanation on what the trolley problem is presented in the MIT's Moral Machine game where the players should decide instead of a self-driving car in certain accidental situations. See: <http://moralmachine.mit.edu> Last accessed: 25 January 2020.

⁷⁰ Baumer, E. P. S. et al., 2018, p. 19.

⁷¹ European Commission has a "better regulation toolbox" guiding the EU Institutions (but not limited to) on how to conduct an impact assessment of a particular EU legislation. See: https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/law-making-process/planning-and-proposing-law/better-regulation-why-and-how/better-regulation-guidelines-and-toolbox/better-regulation-toolbox_en Last accessed: 25 January 2020.

Article 25 emphasizing the system design and interpretation of the right to data protection together based on fictional assumptions. The philosophy behind Article 25 is to first imagine such systems that would be data protection-friendly, and then turn it into a product that ensures GDPR compatibility. Based on all practices that exist in the literature and on Article 25 of the GDPR, the design fiction method is a sufficient method to analyze the questions referred to in this work.

2.6. Scenario Design

The designed scenario in this work is a result of a comprehensive literature review on AI and law. After understanding the main problems referred to in legal academia regarding the use of AI technologies, the focus was made on data protection topic specifically. Reading the GDPR, the case-law of the CJEU and the legal and technical literature helped to raise new questions open for an interpretation and a debate with the experts. The Questions could be found in the Appendix. Since AI technologies have a broad definition, case of social robots were chosen and reviewed both academic and industrial point of view. Once the initial scenario was ready, it was shared with seven scholars⁷² for their evaluation based on a conversation⁷³. When the scenario reached its last draft, it was once again shared with the experts for their approval. Once they approved, the scenario was ready to be presented to the interviewees. During the interviews, the validity and reliability of the scenario were ensured with Questions number 1 to 3 in Appendix.

2.7. Expert Interviews

To ensure the validity of the fictional case and to collect data, this work invested in the interview method⁷⁴, which is one of the research methods used in legal sciences. Conversations were conducted with 16 experts from the four EU MS, specifically, the Netherlands, Italy, Hungary, and Finland. These four countries are chosen as a sample based on their geographical representation, meaning that the design of this work chose a

⁷² The author would like to thank to Attila Kertész, Anton Gradisek, Akif Berber, Bedrettin Gürcan, Dr. Marton Sulyok, Dr. Szilvia Váradi, Prof. Gordon Hunter and Zsuzsanna Mátrai for their contributions to develop the ideas in this scenario.

⁷³ This technique is called a strategic conversation. Ratcliffe, 2002, p. 23.

⁷⁴ Watkins and Burton, 2013, p. 67.

sample from Northern, Central and Eastern, Western and Southern European countries. Since the GDPR is a regulation and should be applied in every EU MS in the same way, no criteria were defined for the sampling method for legal research. Countries' AI readiness Index 2017 (the year that we chose the topic for the PhD research) was the last criterion taken into account for choosing the sample countries⁷⁵. Furthermore, experts are chosen based on the following criteria:

- Currently working at a law firm or an institution taking a role in the implementation or interpretation of the GDPR (DPAs),
- Have experiences regarding application of the GDPR,
- Have a professional interest in AI technologies (e.g. published a paper, gave a speech, analyzed a legal case),
- Have indicated to be a part of this work.

Contacting the experts was possible via our personal network, as also suggested in the literature⁷⁶. After contacting each expert, a series of visits were made to the Netherlands, Italy, Hungary, and Finland. All interviews were conducted face-to-face to ensure clarity of the scenario and the questions prepared and sent to the experts beforehand. It also allowed raising new questions paving a new way of pointing to new aspects of the scenario. The interview questionnaire could be found in Appendix I.

The interviews gave the insight to see what are the differences between the expert opinions and what major ways they approach the scenario. This is important from several aspects: when a case is brought, for example, before the CJEU, individual judges' opinions lead the case interpretation. There might be many reasons behind judges' decisions; from individual

⁷⁵ This index is being prepared by the Oxford Insights measuring the government's readiness on AI technologies from several aspects indicated in the policy papers of each country in the world. Criteria the index is referring to are collected under three main titles: governments' public service reform plans, economy and skills, and digital infrastructure. Measurements are made on the data collected from several resources, such as the Global Innovation Index, UN e-Government survey, World Bank, and OECD. See: <https://www.oxfordinsights.com/government-ai-readiness-index> Last accessed: 20 October 2019.

A note should be made here about the fact that AI Readiness Index 2019 reflects some differences among the countries subjected to this research compared to the same index made in 2017. For example, while it was the Netherlands leading in Western Europe in 2017, now it is Germany took over in 2019. Hungary stepped down from its position for two years. While Finland is stable in its leading position in Northern Europe, Italy stepped up among the Southern European countries. However, as it is early observable, none of these changes are that large to affect the research design in this work.

⁷⁶ Watkins and Burton, 2013, p. 75.

to cultural, to professional practices gained as a result of experiences. Therefore, expecting judges' consensus for the same case not only in different countries but even within the country is not a realistic view. Seeing how opinions of the experts differ or get closer to interpreting the same case within the same legal framework (GDPR) helps to improve the interpretation of legal documents. For this reason, we first gave our own evaluation on the available data (CJEU cases) and then asked for the expert opinions' on the questions deriving from our interpretation. Expert opinions were evaluated as another group of data besides the CJEU data we interpreted.

3. Data Evaluation

Several recommendations and principles are drafted in academia on how to find the best method for analyzing different types of data. According to that, the very first step is to analyze the data at hand to determine to apply qualitative or quantitative methods, or mixed of both, to a certain research. While quantitative methods may seem more favorable than the qualitative ones in academia, a condition for applying a quantitative method depends on the availability of data⁷⁷. Although quantitative methods could be applied also in the legal field, for instance, to help policymakers to understand society's approach to the robotics field⁷⁸, since personal robots have not yet been appeared at households (and since the autonomy question is still on the table) it is safe to say, that we are lack of a quantitative data. Existed case law and the guidelines cover some of the questions covered in this work and they will already be presented in the further sections.

A comparative approach to the experts' opinions influencing them during decision-making⁷⁹ helped to experience their worlds and critiques⁸⁰ representing a part of their legal culture. Many discussions referred in legal research methods on determining whether to focus on the similarities or to the differences between the legal systems (or expert interpretations, in the present case) is better than the other⁸¹, however, it is safe to state

⁷⁷ Armstrong, 2009, p.7.

⁷⁸ Mejia and Kajikawa, 2019, p. 121.

⁷⁹ Watkins and Burton, p. 124.

⁸⁰ Gonzatto, R. F. et al., 2013, p. 38.

⁸¹ Watkins and Burton, 2013, section 6.

that, this work is eligible to focus on both. Both the similarities and the differences among the expert opinions will be presented through this work, based on causal and action models. The causal approach assumes the interrelations between one phenomenon to another (e.g. GDPR-technology relationship) where the action approach focuses on the individual behaviors (experts' opinions on the jury process)⁸². The comparative method in this work is scientific or a theoretic one, rather than a legislative⁸³, meaning that there is no doctrinal analysis made during this research since the focus is on the practicability of legislation rather than how it was made.

4. Literature review

The literature used in this work is sourcing primary scientific literature with a special focus on evaluating personal data protection legislation on algorithms, Artificial Intelligence and robotics, especially, social robots. Further, documents related to the subject generated by the EU, and by public institutions, companies, and NGOs in the sampling countries reviewed to estimate in what level the countries are being prepared for regulating those questions raised in the literature.

Several online databases, namely, HeinOnline, ACM Digital Library, IEEE Xplore, EBSCO Academic, Wiley Online Library, CURIA, Springer, Taylor and Francis, were searched. Reports generated by the industry, namely, Google, Microsoft, IBM, and Facebook were also reviewed. Specific resources, such as, International Data Privacy Law, European Data Protection Law Review, Computer Law and Security Review, CJEU decisions and Advocate Generals' opinions, Foresight, IEEE magazines, Eurobarometer works, International Journal of Social Robotics, AI and Society, Futures. Article 29 Working Party guidelines and EDPS websites were reviewed every month. Keywords used in searching the documents were: data protection, consent, transparency, privacy, GDPR, AI and law, social robots, data protection, and robots. Refining options offered in the databases were used to limit the scope and year of publication. Special attention was given on the publications made by the time of GDPR making and after it entered into force.

⁸² Watkins and Burton, p.139-140.

⁸³ Lomio, Wilson and Spang-Hanssen, 2011, p.60.

Regarding AI and law literature, we realized that it is a phenomenon of the last 5 years, so we set the publication year in line with it.

5. Contribution to the Scientific Field

A novelty of this dissertation is vested on testing social robot's legal consequences precisely on data protection which has not yet been examined in academia⁸⁴. The success of the work, in our view, is that its ability to bring both future and legal questions together which reduces complex issues to easy to understand practices. It also brings a tangible roadmap to deal with the questions referred within academia. Through the analysis made here, our aim is to show possible practical challenges that may occur in case of data protection in the future, if no action is taken today. This work invites European lawmakers to evaluate the current data protection legislation from a concrete perspective represented in this work.

The output of the present dissertation, hopefully, could be an input for designing a better data protection framework related to AI in the EU, since the law is also about design, and creativity in legal thinking which could be presented in the well-designed scenario could lead to making a future-oriented, a techno-ready law.

⁸⁴ During this study, we found no research testing a theoretical legal case involving social robots and testing the consequences from the personal data protection point of view.

II. Right to Data Protection

Peter Sondergaard, former senior vice president of Gartner Inc., once said that: “Big Data is the Big Oil of the 21st century”⁸⁵. What makes data valuable is not its standalone meaning, but the meaningful expressions it gives once combined with other data. Accessing ready information is an easy task, but carving out information from restricted data neither time friendly nor guarantees accuracy. After the information explosion following the Second World War, information became a power with the help of technological developments and advanced electronic systems easing to acquire data on the specific field or to someone specific, paving the way to get them to know, even better than themselves.

Right to data protection originally derives from the right to privacy which the terms today still related, but also distinct at the same time. For example, there are scholars naming data protection as information privacy, as it is a typology of privacy⁸⁶. This work focuses more on data protection than the right to privacy, based on the data processing capabilities of the current technology since it is not possible to *process* privacy. Once profiling and surveillance technologies⁸⁷ entered in homes, data protection becomes both broader and more specific from the right to privacy⁸⁸. In a broader sense, the right to data protection is in balance with other fundamental rights such as freedom of expression⁸⁹. On the other hand, data protection is more specific since it applies only to those cases where personal data is processed. Based on the case-law of the two European courts, ECtHR interprets privacy in a broad meaning which involving data protection, but CJEU interprets the right to privacy and right to data protection separately⁹⁰. The ECtHR, even today, interprets the

⁸⁵ “Big Data Fades to the Algorithm Economy”. Peter Sondergaard, [Online], Forbes, Accessed from: <https://www.forbes.com/sites/gartnergroup/2015/08/14/big-data-fades-to-the-algorithm-economy/> Last accessed: 2 Febrary 2020.

⁸⁶ Koops, et. al., 2017, p. 484. The authors identified eight types of privacy, namely, bodily, intellectual, spatial, decisional, communicational, associational, proprietary, behavioral privacy, and informational privacy which is a new type of privacy.

⁸⁷ Wright and Raab, 2014, p. 278.

⁸⁸ Gutwirth and Hildebrant, 2010, p. 37.

⁸⁹ Freedom of expression is one of those exemptions referred both in Directive 95 and in the GDPR.

⁹⁰ Gellert and Gutwirth, 2013, p. 524.

right to privacy comprehensively as it could include the right to data protection as well, but it does not have to include all information on identified or identifiable persons separately, as the CJEU does. Recently, the ECtHR put a borderline between the right to data protection and privacy in the case regarding content personalization used for election propaganda named as algorithmic governance, but then indicated that the data protection right is a “governance mechanism to safeguard the privacy and other rights”⁹¹. This interpretation again leads to the previous position of the ECtHR towards the two rights.

The distinction is true because the EU has legislation specific to right to data protection (Directive 95/46/EC and now the GDPR), while the right to data protection is not expressed as a separate right in the ECHR. In any case, the right to data protection is protected under both jurisdictions⁹². This, needless to say, is a result of the personal use of technology in everyday life. The protection of privacy as an essential human right has been entrusted in several regulatory texts, most of them entered into force after the Second World War. The reason behind this fact is that, the way of the use of personal data by political powers to “segregate populations, target minority groups and facilitate genocide”⁹³. Since then, the way of collection and use of data has much changed with technology. There is less need for eavesdroppers to predict who belongs to what type of group thanks to the digital personality people created. Such profiles accelerate algorithms to predict, for example, that an individual belongs to a certain religious group with 82% probability⁹⁴. While a credit card number is personal data, unless it gives information on the person’s private life such as shopping behavior, it cannot be easily considered under the scope of privacy protection. Even though it gives information about the person’s shopping behavior, the GDPR is in favor of interpreting this information as personal data rather than privacy (as the Article 22 of the GDPR points so). The right to privacy alone does not enable the person subjected to a right to access his data⁹⁵ which is one of the basic rights included in any data protection legislation in Europe. Furthermore, principles such as

⁹¹ CoE, 2017, p.20.

⁹² Kokott and Sobotta, 2014, p. 228.

⁹³ Robinson, N. et al., 2009, p.6.

⁹⁴ Kosinski, Stillwell and Graepel, 2013, p. 5803.

⁹⁵ Mostert, M. et al., 2017, p. 6.

transparency and fair processing, together with the existence of independent supervisory authorities again specific to the protection of personal data, not for the right to privacy⁹⁶. Such fundamental differences make easy to understand the distinctive characteristics of the two fundamental rights in Europe.

The value of personal data is vested in its ability to give clues about a person's specific information which makes traditional understanding of privacy distinct from practical, but also from the legal point of view. To present how the right to data protection has been evolved in a legal sense, we need to first take a look at its historical roots in legislation.

1. Right to Data Protection in International and European Law

The UDHR and the ECHR historically are the first international legal documents preparing the legal construction of the right to data protection. As mentioned before, data protection right in the form of right to privacy was first expressed in the UDHR in the Article 12, as follows: "no one shall be subjected to arbitrary interference with his privacy, family, home or correspondence, nor to attack upon his honor and reputation. Everyone has the right to the protection of the law against such interference or attacks." Although the UN took the first step towards the protection of human rights, it would not be wrong to say that right to data protection has distinctly developed in Europe. Article 8 of the ECHR ensures the right to respect for private and family life, home and correspondence which scope has been expanded to the right to data protection, to access personal information including health-related information, pictures, photos, and images during the years of interpretation⁹⁷.

In addition to the UDHR and ECHR, OECD⁹⁸ and APEC⁹⁹ published some soft law instruments on the protection of personal privacy. These documents are not considered legal documents based on their guideline nature. However, they are still considered to be important international documents protecting the right to privacy.

⁹⁶ Ibid, p.8

⁹⁷ European Court of Human Rights Guide on Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights Right to respect for private and family life, home, and correspondence Updated on 31 August 2019.

⁹⁸ OECD Guidelines on the Protection of Privacy and Transborder Flows of Personal Data in 1980. Updated once and only in 2013.

⁹⁹ APEC Privacy Framework was adopted in 2004 and APEC Cross-Border Privacy Rules System was launched in 2011, then updated in 2015 upon the updates made on the OECD guidelines.

Currently, neither the UDHR nor ECHR does not refer to the right to data protection as a separate right, but the Convention 108 which is one of the instruments of the CoE with special regards on data protection is the first international legal document protects personal data separate than privacy. It has quite a large number of signatory countries; all the 47 members of the COE ratified the Convention, 5 non-CoE member countries signed (Cabo Verde, Mauritius, Morocco, Senegal, Tunisia, Uruguay) and 3 out of 5 (Mauritius, Senegal, Uruguay) ratified the Convention. The document was last time updated in 2018¹⁰⁰ very likely in line with the GDPR (e.g. unambiguous consent was added in the legal text).

Convention 108 was the only European international treaty before the Directive 95. It contains rules for safeguarding the right to data protection, aiming to bring minimum standards for the protection of personal data, so the countries are free to adopt more or better solutions in their jurisdiction. There is no obligation for the CoE members to ratify it, e.g. as Turkey did not until 2010.

Last but not least, the relationship between the Convention 108 and GDPR worth indicating in this work. The organic relationship between the GDPR and the Convention 108, at least, from the points that this work focuses on, does appear in multiple ways. For example, one of the updates inserted in the Convention after the GDPR is the consent mechanism. Convention uses exact GDPR statements such as in Article 6 of the Convention as “unambiguous consent” and extends the definition of personal data to be included biometric and genetic data. The rights of data subjects were extended to the automated decision-making rule as of the GDPR. The principle of transparency is now in the center of the Convention. DPIA and DPbD rules are inserted in the Convention in Article 10.

2. Right to Data Protection in the European Union

The development of the right to data protection in the EU first shall be mentioned at the level of specific MS’ legislation. Even though the first national privacy legislation was adopted in the US in 1974¹⁰¹, the ECHR might have been influential on the national data

¹⁰⁰ It was updated in 2001 for the first time bringing the obligations to the states to ensure an adequate level of protection in trans-border data exchanges and several additional safeguards to apply at domestic law, such as the establishment of a national data protection authority.

¹⁰¹ Küzeci, 2010, p. 120.

protection legislation explosion in Europe in terms of individual European states. For example, the first domestic data protection law was prepared in 1970, just ten years later than the enactment of the ECHR, in the Land of Hessen, Germany¹⁰². The citizens of Hessen realized the risks for their data (e.g. storing without an indication on purpose limitation) being stored in the central federal database without a legal basis. Following the Hessen example, many other states in Germany adopted data protection law. Adoption of a German Federal Data Protection Act (Bundesdatenschutzgesetz) in 1977 then became the first national data protection law in Europe. Sweden followed the German example and adopted a data protection legislation. Other European countries immediately (except Ireland, UK, and Italy) adopted the right to data protection at their constitutions. Once Directive 95/46/EC entered into force, all MS was abided by standard general rules leaving a large margin for national interpretation.

One note could be left here on to the discussions about the relationship between the right to privacy and data protection, that when the GDPR entered into force, EU's strong data protection rules separated the right to privacy, unlikely the other European and international legislation providing legal basis for the right to privacy and data protection together. Replacing traditionally known privacy by design and by default principle to the data protection by design and by default is one of the shreds of evidence of this statement. Although these terms were missing in Directive 95, it was still the largest milestone in the EU data protection legislation history.

3. Directive 95/46/EC

Similar to the GDPR's reasoning (which expressed the importance of protecting the single market while ensuring the free movement of data), divergent approaches to the protection of the right to data protection in the EU were evaluated as a threat to the EU's internal market.¹⁰³ Directive 95/46/EC still should be considered as important from several aspects. First of all, it covered many issues mostly related to data breaches rather than privacy. By

¹⁰² Ibid., p. 117.

¹⁰³ Hoofnagle, van der Sloot, and Borgesius, 2019, p.70.
The preamble of the Directive, seventh incident.

stating data breaches and with the support of the e-Privacy Directive¹⁰⁴, the EU legislation could ensure the protection of the right to privacy and data protection without leaving a gap between. Next, it would not be wrong to state that the Directive brought fairly stronger legal protection than the other international documents, such as the OECD guidelines, because it introduced many rights that could be counted new in this field. Hence, it is not a guideline but is a legally binding document for the MS. The right to obtain source of the information, right to request data modification, new remedies, comprehensive rules for transferring the personal data abroad even though the transferee country does not have an adequate level of protection, could be presented as examples. Later, the case-law of the CJEU¹⁰⁵ developed the interpretation of the Directive by introducing new rights (e.g., right to erasure, known as the Right to be Forgotten in the GDPR) and by expanding the scope of personal data (e.g., cookie and IP decisions).

There is no doubt that the Directive was playing a key role in the adoption of the right to data protection within the Charter of Fundamental Rights in 2000, which became legally binding documents in 2009 when the Lisbon Treaty entered into force. Article 8 of the Charter ensures personal data protection similar to Article 8 of the ECHR, Directive 95, and Convention 108. However, Charter does not specify principles as detailed as the Directive 95 which differs the two legislation from each other. After the Lisbon Treaty, the Charter has the same effect as the other EU Founding Treaties which means Article 8 regulating the principle of consent, purpose limitation, and legal basis for processing to become directly binding rules. In the famous Schrems case¹⁰⁶ as well as in the other

¹⁰⁴ Directive 2002/58/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 July 2002 concerning the processing of personal data and the protection of privacy in the electronic communications sector OJ L 201, 31.7.2002, p. 37–47.

¹⁰⁵ C-131/12 - Google Spain SL v Agencia Espanola de Proteccion de Datos (AEPD), Judgement of the Court, [2014], ECLI:EU:C:2014:317.

¹⁰⁶ Case C-362/14 Maximilian Schrems v Data Protection Commissioner, Judgement of the Court, [2015], ECLI:EU:C:2015:650

cases¹⁰⁷, the CJEU was referred to cases related to the application of Article 8 of the Charter, instead of a proving the importance of inserting right to data protection in implementation and interpretation of the GDPR¹⁰⁸.

Directive 95 of the EU inspired many other countries outside of the EU. For example, the Turkish Data Protection Law was drafted with similar rules to Directive 95¹⁰⁹ as the other candidate countries such as Serbia. However, as will be presented below, there was still a lot to do to bring the EU data protection rules on the most beneficial economic and political level. The GDPR was drafted in such an environment and first of all, we would like to clarify the concept of a regulation as an EU legal instrument to understand why the GDPR made great repercussions both within the EU and globally.

4. The General Data Protection Regulation and the Novelties

The EU legislator did not overlook the changes in the society triggered by technology and did not ignore the fact that every legal document once should be updated to find solutions to the new-born societal problems. Schrems and Google Spain cases showed that the EU shall have a unified data protection legislation triggering a harmonized position enhanced with the safeguards against the foreign tech-giants. The EDPS' opinion on the necessity for adopting a data protection Regulation spells out the reasons behind the GDPR¹¹⁰, as follows:

1. Technological changes; which refer to the fact that the technology is not the same with the time when Directive 95/46/EC was enforced and of today.

¹⁰⁷ Case C-203/15 Tele2 Sverige AB v Postoch telestyrelsen and Secretary of State for the Home Department v Tom Watson and Others, [2016] Judgement of the Court ECLI:EU:C:2016:970. Application of a national law were three UK nationals whose traffic and location data was requested by the Swedish Telecom Authority, from Secretary of State for the Home Department of the UK and Northern Ireland referred the case for preliminary ruling asking whether the national law allowing their data transfer contradicts with the Article 8 of the Charter.

Joined Cases C-141/12 and C-372/12 YS (C-141/12) v Minister voor Immigratie, Integratie en Asiel, Minister voor Immigratie, Integratie en Asiel (C-372/12) [2014] Judgement of the Court, ECLI:EU:C:2014:2081 scope of the Article 8(2) where "right to access" is given to everybody was limited to only those data concerning the data subject rather any other data generated during application for residence permit and those personal data should fully be made available to the data subject in an intelligible form.

¹⁰⁸ Mostert, M. et al., 2017, p. 17.

¹⁰⁹ Gültekin Várkonyi, 2017a, p. 239.

¹¹⁰ EDPS, 2012, pp. 2-3.

2. Legal certainty; which refers to the EU's ambition on enforcing more effective and efficient rules on the MS rather than formalities.
3. Harmonization; which refers to the power of regulation as an EU legal document.
4. Finally, and the most significant in our view, is the protection of EU citizens' data towards third countries (e.g. where the Big-Tech companies are located) based on adequate rules.

Obviously, switch from the Directive to Regulation is the most remarkable change in EU data protection legislation, however, there are other novelties the GDPR brought, especially for the data subjects' rights point of view. Before presenting the novelties of the GDPR, that are related to the present work's research field, we would like to open up the harmonization, the adequate rules, and the effect of technological changes affected the GDPR's made, as the EDPS' opinion referred.

4.1. Regulations as Part of the EU Legal Structure

Treaties are the primary resources establishing the EU and defining the share of competences between the MS and the EU. After the Treaties, Directives and Regulations are the only legal documents directly applicable, almost as strong as the Treaties, meaning that they also have a direct impact. Article 189 of the EEC affirmatively indicates that "Regulations shall have a general application. They shall be binding in every respect and directly applicable in each Member State". Article 288 of the TFEU confirms this rule once again by stating that, "A regulation shall have general application. It shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States." Case law of the CJEU has been reinforcing these rules with its decisions preventing the MS from applying the regulations partially or lately since the earlier years. For example, in a case referred to the CJEU¹¹¹, the CJEU reinforced the Article 189 of the EEC and indicated that "by reason of their nature and their function in the system of the sources of Community Law, Regulations have direct effect" and Regulations "prevent the implementation of any legislative measure, even if it

¹¹¹ Case 43-71 *Politi s.a.s. v Ministry for Finance of the Italian Republic*, [1971], Judgment of the Court, Case no 61971J0043.

is enacted subsequently, which is incompatible with its provisions”¹¹². In another case,¹¹³ the CJEU drew the attention to the fact that a MS cannot opt-out Regulation provisions which are effective from the date they were published in the Official Journal. MS must follow the transition periods since regulations are fully applicable to the MS (in general, the obligations, prohibitions, duty of ensuring rights of individuals), however, there is no monitoring instrument of the EU to check whether MS is in full compliance with Regulations at any date.¹¹⁴ The cases are evidential on the power of the regulations in the EU legal system, leaving no margin for a national interpretation, and even no exception for the implementation date.

Directives are also important to secure uniformity of the EU law but gives a large margin of appreciation to implement the general rules. Its initial purpose is to harmonize the EU law, but certainly not unification which is the ultimate aim of Regulations¹¹⁵. This is the basic difference between the two legislative documents in the EU legal structure. Reflection of this difference practically is, the fact that there used to be 28 different ways of different implementation regarding the right to data protection before the GDPR. For example, Germany and Austria (two historically privacy sensitive countries) are known for their stricter data protection regimes compare to Ireland, Italy, and Romania (so to say, the countries having more liberal economy incentives). Indeed, it is not a surprise that the European headquarters of some of the tech giants (Facebook, Google) were all settled in Ireland. Most of the MS was not taking right to data protection into their political discussions, indeed, awareness regarding the data protection issues was low¹¹⁶. Although it has never been brought to any court (either at MS national courts or to the CJEU) there

¹¹² Ibid, p. 1048-1049, para. 9.

¹¹³ Case 39-72, Commission of the European Communities v Italian Republic. Premiums for slaughtering cows [1973] Judgment of the Court, ECLI:EU:C:1973:13, para. 8.

¹¹⁴ Indeed, Commission could monitor the MS’ status whether they are fully ready to implement Regulations, but first, the Commission needs a well-grounded suspicion towards a MS, then it needs a legal case to refer to the CJEU, and finally, it is practically impossible to check each and every MS in a daily basis whenever a Regulation or any other legal instrument was followed.

¹¹⁵ Article 288 of the TFEU states that: “A directive shall be binding, as to the result to be achieved, upon each Member State to which it is addressed, but shall leave to the national authorities the choice of form and methods”.

¹¹⁶ Custers, et. al.. 2018, p. 238.

was a clear imbalance between the level of protection of the personal data of the individuals located in different MS.

4.2. Territorial Scope

Article 3 of the GDPR ensures the applicability of the GDPR on the controllers regardless of their establishment in the territory of the EU. The scope of such processing applies to the activities offering goods or services either free or not, and monitoring the data subjects' behaviors. There are legal, but also practical reasons for defining the territorial scope of the GDPR in such a way.

Until the American privacy activist and the former NSA employee Edward Snowden made the historical revelations in 2013, no international crisis appeared related to breaching fundamental rights. Snowden reported that the NSA and, naturally, the United States had been 'spying' personal digital information via Internet and phone companies to monitor people all over the world as well as the countries (as Brazil and India)¹¹⁷ under the name of data processing for counter-terrorism. It is also known that the American law enforcement authorities collect personal data of not just their citizens, but others including EU citizens from private companies such as Google for investigations¹¹⁸. The EU and the US many times found themselves in political conflicts¹¹⁹ caused by the distinctive approaches to the right to data protection¹²⁰. Snowden revelations well developed the conflict and the Safe Harbor agreement was dismissed by the CJEU. Although a newer and more comprehensive system for American companies to prove their consistency with the EU data protection

¹¹⁷ Farrell and Newman, 2016, p.130.
Giles, 2015, p.544.

¹¹⁸ Giles, 2015, p. 545.

¹¹⁹ Such as in the case of transferring Passenger Name Records from the EU based companies to the US' related security departments without prior notification or consent of the passengers. Gültekin Varkonyi, 2017c, p. 342.

¹²⁰ Tzanau, 2015, p.88. The author describes the collusion between the two continents in terms of privacy undersigned as follows: "security versus privacy; US versus EU antiterrorist legislation; EU versus US legal privacy regime; European Parliament versus Council and Commission; 'commercial processing' of data versus 'law enforcement processing'; and data protection versus data mining".

rules was ensured within the Privacy Shield self-certification framework, we expect it to be updated in line with the GDPR rules which have not happened yet.

In 2016, a scandal revealed on Facebook to abuse 87 million of its users' data by sharing with a company called Cambridge Analytica which uses a special algorithm to analyze those data and generate personal content to manipulate people's political opinions which serve for Donald Trump's election propaganda. The case is evidential on how far AI technologies could go and affect not just people's personal life, but also global peace. Both the European Commission the MS' DPAs launched investigations not just over Facebook, but the other American tech giants such as Google and Amazon. Although no such crisis has yet occurred between China, who is the world-leading investor on AI, and the EU, the difference between the two in terms of the right to data protection is well-known.¹²¹

Besides several other reasons, the basic claim referred in the above-mentioned cases was the data controller's illegal data processing activity, precisely, failure to obtain a valid consent of data subjects. This work will put many investigations on the consent obligation of data controllers operating algorithmic calculations in their services, although the consent rule is one of the GDPR's novelties. Before that, we shall specify what personal data is being subjected of this dissertation.

4.3. Definition of personal data in the GDPR

GDPR apparently broadened the definition of personal data compared to Directive 95 which did not include the data related to data subjects' online activities (online identifiers, as the Recital 30 of the GDPR refers). Considering the fact that technology by the time of drafting the Directive 95 was quite different, it still could successfully solve the cases in which personal data was related to data subject's online activities. Broadening the meaning of personal data to online personal data is important to ensure legal certainty on the definition of the terms falling under the scope of the EU's data protection law. It is worth noting that, although the updated definition ensures a clearer understanding of what the personal data is, its scope still is being evolved within the CJEU decisions. Recently, CJEU held a decision that the written answers submitted by a candidate taking a professional

¹²¹ "Do You Care About Chinese Privacy Law? Well, You Should", Li, T., and Zhou Z., [Online], IAPP Privacy Advisor, 8 January 2018, Accessed from: <https://iapp.org/news/a/do-you-care-about-chinese-privacy-law-well-you-should/>, Last accessed: 10 October 2019.

examination are personal data which were not define as the same in the Directive 95/46/EC¹²². Besides, questions regarding the scope of personal data affected by personal engagement with technology were referred to the CJEU often. As a result, the scope of personal data broadened to technical terms such as IP addresses ¹²³and cookies¹²⁴. AI technologies could expectedly bring a broader understanding of personal data since such data could be automated training data that are born-digital, a new data generated by the algorithm based on the training data, and data about other people collected and processed based on profiling the data subjects.

4.4. Consent rule

Unlikely the Directive 95/46/EC which did not specify illegality of the opt-out rule, GDPR strictly orders data controllers to implement opt-in rules for obtaining data subjects' consent. The opt-out rule that is closely related to data controllers bringing pre-ticked boxes before data subjects and basically tricking them to give their consent is one of the most significant novelties of the GDPR having its basis in the CJEU case law¹²⁵. Silence or inactivity also cannot be considered as the data subject gave consent, therefore such a rule is ensuring the opt-in rule. Additionally, Article 7 (4) of the GDPR introduces a data controller to avoid putting consent as a condition of a certain service. This means that the data controller must have keep providing the basic services, therefore data subjects should not be forced to give consent so that they can opt-in willingly. This rule is connecting the freely-given condition with the validity of the consent. Also, the data controller should inform the data subjects about their identity and the purposes of processing just-in-time when the data is being collected¹²⁶. Article 13 of the GDPR indicates how data controllers shall fulfill their informing duty such as providing information on data controller's identity,

¹²² Case C-434/16, Peter Nowak v Data Protection Commissioner, [2017], ECLI:EU:C:2017:994

¹²³ Case C-582/14, Patrick Breyer v Bundesrepublik Deutschland, [2016], ECLI:EU:C:2016:779

¹²⁴ Case C-673/17, Planet49 GmbH v Bundesverband der Verbraucherzentralen und Verbraucherverbände – Verbraucherzentrale Bundesverband e.V. [2019], Judgement of the Court, ECLI:EU:C:2019:801.

¹²⁵ Case C-673/17 Planet49 GmbH v Bundesverband der Verbraucherzentralen und Verbraucherverbände – Verbraucherzentrale Bundesverband e.V. , Opinion of Advocate General Szpunar delivered on 21 March 2019, ECLI:EU:C:2019:246, para. 72 and 84.

¹²⁶ Recital 42 and Recital 61 of the GDPR

contact information, purposes, data transfers to third parties if any, and other similar basic information.

A more detailed analysis of the consent rule and the discussions related to the practicability of the consent rule on AI technologies will be presented in the analysis part.

4.5. Data Protection by Design and by Default

Data Protection by Design and by default principles are not entirely new principles as the inventor of the term Ann Cavoukian¹²⁷ listed the privacy by design rules in the 90s but entered into the legislation only with the adoption of the GDPR. Article 25 of the GDPR entitles data controllers to implement “appropriate technical and organizational measures” to ensure full protection of rights of data subjects. Such measures start from data minimization to a variety of Privacy Enhancement Technologies (database privacy, respondent privacy, storage privacy, transparency enhancing techniques, etc.)¹²⁸. The GDPR lays down tangible proactive measures for data controllers to take into account. The EU legislator combines these rules with the DPIA measurements to ensure a complete data protection first culture¹²⁹ by putting the rule in a legally binding document.

4.6. Data Protection Impact Assessment

Article 35 of the GDPR introduces a new tool for data controllers to self-check and to prove their compliance with the GDPR based on proactive measures. It is a strong guideline to ensure the rights of data subjects based on risk analysis. Although the assessment is to be conducted when the processing activity is “likely to result in a high risk to the rights and freedoms of natural persons”, incident 3 of the Article 35¹³⁰ gives a clear indication for the data controllers operating algorithmic tools to be entitled with the assessment. The GDPR puts NSA in the center of the DPIAs meaning that there is a relationship between the data controllers, NSAs and AI technologies: data controllers

¹²⁷ Cavoukian, 2010.

¹²⁸ Gültekin Várkonyi, 2017b, p.118.

¹²⁹ Everson, 2016, p. 30.

¹³⁰ Article 35 of the GDPR provides the following rule: "A data protection impact assessment shall be required in the case of a systematic and extensive evaluation of personal aspects relating to natural persons which are based on automated processing, including profiling..."

(social robot providers) must consult with the NSAs if they plan to use AI technologies (processing large scale data at household) for the services they offer to data subjects.

4.7. National Supervisory Authorities

Articles 51-59 of the GDPR define the rules for establishing a National Supervisory Authority (NSA) and further explain the competences and powers of the NSA. The main role of the NSA is to ensure consistent application of the GDPR by monitoring the application within the territory of the MS it was established through the competences assigned by the GDPR and the national legislation. The NSAs are established in line with the principle of independence, meaning that they can decide about their constitutional structures, organization, and administrative structures¹³¹. For example, any MS is free to decide how many NSAs would be established within its territory by guaranteeing a single contact point that would ensure the communication with the other NSAs, the Board and the Commission¹³². This work does not focus on the institutional characteristics of the NSA but the competences given to the NSAs with the GDPR.

First of all, there are corrective, advisory and investigative powers ensured in Article 58. When exercising these powers, they could impose administrative penalties (which could be up to 20 000 000 EUR or up to 4% of the total worldwide annual turnover, according to Article 83) on data controllers and data processors. Next, data subjects have the right to complain with the NSA in line with Article 77. Data subjects are given many options (depending on the location of the infringement occurred) when choosing the NSA to complain. Once the NSA received the complaint, data subjects are informed about the progress and outcomes of the complaint within a reasonable period established under the national law. Only 5 months after the GDPR entered into force, NSAs received thousands of cases. According to the research published by GDPRToday Blog,¹³³ covering the data from NSAs in Germany, England, Ireland, Italy, Sweden, France, Poland and Romania, 42.230 complaints were received by these NSAs by referring to the GDPR. Almost 13.000

¹³¹ Recital 117 of the GDPR

¹³² Recital 119 of the GDPR

¹³³ GDPR Today, GDPR in Numbers No.1, 25 October 2018, [Online], panoptikon.org ed. Available: <https://www.gdprtoday.org/gdpr-in-numbers/> Last visited: 12 December 2019.

data breaches were reported and several amounts of fines were imposed. Although most of the complaints and data breach notifications were reported to the British authority, Swedish and Italian DPAs also received several reports which significantly increased after the GDPR's entry into force. Last but not least, the NSAs have the competence to start or take a part in legal proceedings before judicial authorities. The NSAs are now in a stronger position within the country they have a jurisdiction, and cooperate with the other NSAs in the EU, together with the EDPB, more than ever before.

5. Technological Developments and New Data Protection Challenges

The GDPR drafted in 2016 and entered in to force in 2018, and since then, shortcomings of the GDPR have been heavily discussed in academia from many aspects. Among those, Rossnagel et al. (2018)¹³⁴ refer to the problems related to practicing the GDPR which gives only abstract and indeterminate provisions. As their work indicates, those provisions could only be concretized by the national DPAs and by the courts¹³⁵. It should be noted that processing a case before both national courts and the CJEU takes a long time in which in the end may cause loss of possibilities on receiving actual results on time. Since 2016, AI technologies received an increased attention of the governments of the EU MS. Besides, opening clauses, e.g. regulation of Robotics, allowing the MS to create their provisions unless it clashes with the GDPR. This work will represent the EU's and the sample four countries' current AI-related activities and legislation readiness. As the dissertation also confirms, there is a discrepancy between the sample countries applying the GDPR, also in comparison to the EU, and their ambition and actual regulation on AI. In this work, we took the same position in which pointing the GDPR remains too technological neutral meaning that the GDPR prevents legal provisions from excluding technological innovation, including AI technologies, and holds a risk-neutral approach.

This work focuses on the practical, legal, and technical problems arising from the use of personal social household robots. These problems, as grouped below, will be extensively analyzed in the following section and could be also considered as the hypotheses of this work:

¹³⁴ Rossnagel, 2018, p. 4.

¹³⁵ Ibid.

i) *Practical* problems regarding the consent rule:

- People do not read the privacy statements, therefore they usually do not know what they exactly are consenting for.
- Even if they read the privacy statements, they do not understand it completely, but still, give their consent just to use the services of AI-based applications.
- People may not be fully aware of how to use AI-based products, or how personal data is being processed in these products, e.g. they may not be aware of the fact that they could be held liable for data breaches.
- The companies producing AI-based products or services either may not wish to disclose information regarding personal data use within the systems or may not entirely assess the possible implications of AI on right to personal data.

ii) *Technical* aspects of AI technologies raise problems regarding the practicability of the consent rule:

- Principle of purpose limitation which is one of the basic principles of obtaining valid consent is impossible to comply with.
- The question of Black Box algorithms remains the biggest obstacle before creating explainable AI
- Algorithms are unpredictable by design, which is technically expectable, but not acceptable by law.
- AI technologies, especially social robots, raise a certain level of trust in people (e.g. through their humanoid behaviors) which, in the end, make them think like they could share anything they want with machines. Social robots are able to manipulate people's decision making, including sharing their data with the machines.
- Reinforcement Learning techniques melt the safeguard of the consent mechanism since this technique enables machines to collect instant data to make instant decisions.

iii) *Legal* loopholes in the GDPR on the consent rule reinforces the practicability:

- There is no rule in the GDPR for the data controllers to ensure the understandability of the information they provide to the data subjects, although there are similar rules referred (the rule for “meaningful information” and “intelligible form”¹³⁶).
- The right to explanation is an ex-post right and data controllers could choose to fulfill their information obligation about the algorithmic decision-making after the decision is made by the algorithm.
- In case a joint data controller is a natural person, Article 26 of the GDPR does not provide clear rules on fulfilling the consent rule.
- Each country subjected to this research (Finland, Italy, the Netherlands, and Hungary) has its “own way” to apply the GDPR in case AI technologies and this vary widely. This may affect the “uniform application” aim of the GDPR if no EU-wide legislation on AI technologies accepted.

As a result of the questions stated above, this dissertation will further analyze the relevant rules of the GDPR presented in the Table 1. The GDPR is an integrated legal document meaning that all the Articles are related and complimentary on each other, however, chosen Articles under the present work are the most-concerned topics specific to the AI and robotics technologies as will be discussed in the Part V. In order to make the connection between the chosen Articles and the concerns noted in the Part V, we first shall define the technology dealt with in this work.

Principles	Rights of Data Subject	Data Controller’s Obligations	National Supervisory Authorities
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¹³⁶ Gültekin Várkonyi, 2019, pp. 208-209.

<p>Art. 6 (a) Lawfulness of processing-Consent rule</p> <p>Art. 7 Conditions for consent</p>	<p>Art. 22 Automated individual decision-making, including profiling</p> <p>Art. 12 Transparent information, communication and modalities for the exercise of the rights of the data subject</p>	<p>Art. 24 Responsibility of the controller</p> <p>Art. 26 Joint controllers</p> <p>Art. 25 Data protection by design and by default</p> <p>Art. 35 Data protection impact assessment</p>	<p>Art. 57 Tasks</p> <p>Art. 58 Powers</p>
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Table 1. Relevant GDPR Articles Subjected to Analysis.

III. Definition of Artificial Intelligence and Personal Social Robots

1. Definition of Artificial Intelligence and the Related Terms

The term AI was first used to indicate the “creation of a humanoid machine”¹³⁷ which could be also called a “machina sapiens”¹³⁸. Such a machine could be further defined with its functions which bring them closer to be a human-alike. For example, Britannica's definition brings attention to AI's “ability to perform tasks that are executed by intelligent beings like humans, in a digital or physical form like robots, via computers”¹³⁹. This basic encyclopedic definition shows a little about the relationship between AI and humanoid robots. Intel's AI definition, similar to the Britannica definition, indicates that “AI is a simple vision where computers become indistinguishable between humans”¹⁴⁰. Until now, presented definitions focused on AI's intelligent and autonomous capabilities which are compatible with human abilities, but Floridi and Sanders further add interactivity and self-learning capabilities of AI to those approaches¹⁴¹. Moreover, Kirchberger¹⁴² explains what an AI is based on four specifications, which the first three are, that acting humanly, thinking humanly, and thinking rationally. The last specification refers to the AI's ability to act autonomously, to perceive its environment, to the ability to adapt to changes, to create goals and act rationally to achieve the best outcome. Machine Learning is an integrated and a part of AI systems gathering the necessary data (either past training data or acquiring new data through self-training)¹⁴³.

¹³⁷ Li and Jiang, 2017, p.381.

¹³⁸ Hallevy, 2010, p. 5.

¹³⁹ “Artificial intelligence”, B.J. Copeland, [Online], Britannica. Accessed from: <https://www.britannica.com/technology/artificial-intelligence> Last accessed: 6 October 2018

¹⁴⁰ This definition belongs to Pradeep Dubey, academician and Intel Fellow at Intel Labs. Accessed from: <https://newsroom.intel.com/news/many-ways-define-artificial-intelligence/> Last accessed: 6 October 2019

¹⁴¹ Floridi and Sanders, 2004, p. 7-8.

¹⁴² Kirchberger, 2017, p. 195.

¹⁴³ Taddy, 2019, p.63

1.1. Machine Learning

If machines are reacting only to known situations and always in certain ways, they cannot adjust themselves to the changing environments. Adaptation, as referred previously, is an element of intelligent systems. Only a learning machine could have an adaptation ability which is the basic rule of autonomous robots¹⁴⁴. Learning, or Machine Learning, is “*one particular form of AI, which gives computers the ability to learn from and improve with experience, without being explicitly programmed*”, clearly, without an impactful human intervention leaving the robot itself to learn¹⁴⁵. Through ML, the algorithm learns to create own decision-making rules unlikely to the classic programs where the rules are pre-defined¹⁴⁶.

ML methods have a crucial impact on collection and processing (personal) data. Consequences of applying a certain method differ if a machine was given a data pack to learn (such is the case for Narrow AI or Supervised Learning) or it captures and evaluates data on its own (e.g. Reinforcement Deep Learning). In Supervised Learning, for example, classifying credit applicants in low risk or high-risk credit groups is possible to analyze several data of applicants¹⁴⁷. These data could be related to their salary, debts, profession, performance of covering the debts and so forth, a group of chosen criteria. The algorithm marks the variables of each group with the known rules and generating a score that would be either high risk or low-risk group. Each credit application might be decided based on the applicant’s (who is also the data subject) belonging to these groups affecting the final decision of the creditor. Automated decision making is based on personal data and the decisions are personal, and this is the reason why Article 22 of the GDPR regulates such decisions.

¹⁴⁴ We strictly leave out philosophical discussions related to autonomy, and we adopt the perception of robots’ autonomy which is possible with their ability to make autonomous decisions through their data collection and processing capability together with learning capability.

¹⁴⁵ Kirchberger, 2017, p. 197.

¹⁴⁶ Sandvig et al., 2016, p. 4978.

¹⁴⁷ Alpaydm, 2016, p.46.

However, a robot can learn without such supervision where there is no predefined output¹⁴⁸ which refers to the technique called Unsupervised Learning. Aim of this technique is to make algorithms to identify the patterns in a large dataset to identify, for example, the group of people showing similar behaviors without predefining the groups¹⁴⁹. Each cluster may identify consumers' personalities such as in the following example; X user is likely to prefer newspapers with political content, Y user may prefer non-alcoholic drinks, Z user may prefer slow music. The machine could make such estimations from the raw data collected directly from the environment and label them itself. More clusters the algorithms create, more about they could get know about a person. There are several ML techniques a social robot to be deployed for learning and serving humans in a personalized way.

1.2. Deep Learning and Neural Networks

Deep Learning and Deep Neural Networks (simulating human brain into machine language), have been heavily used for improving current robot capabilities which are yet improved a limited level. If this method is used, AI systems evaluate each data differently in every layer. Layers have consisted of nodes that functionality derives from non-linear activations passing to a linear combination of inputs¹⁵⁰. These are modular layers that are combinable with one layer optimized for a type of data to another type of data¹⁵¹. In this case, every layer is connected to one or more layers, according to the data used. If the data is important, the AI system remembers and uses it more often stimulating the connection between the layers stronger. If each layer is structured according to their different roles by the algorithm, it might be difficult to find out what data has been used for which role. The machine analyzes a question abstractly and answers again in an abstract way¹⁵² meaning that finding out an explanation for the outputs may not always be possible (e.g., black-box algorithms). The explainability question will be analyzed in further chapters in the frame of

¹⁴⁸ Ibid., p.111.

¹⁴⁹ Rhoen and Feng, 2018, p.143.

¹⁵⁰ Taddy, 2019, p.8.

¹⁵¹ Ibid., p.9.

¹⁵² Alpaydin, p. 93.

consent and purpose limitation. Once a social robot makes a decision (gives an output) question of explainability may be even more difficult if the machine learns directly from human interactions. If the decision carries a certain degree of autonomy, then the risk of rendering the AI's action becomes unforeseeable and unexplainable at some point¹⁵³.

1.3. Reinforcement Learning

Reinforcement Learning or Deep Reinforcement Learning is a technique providing active learning to machines by rewarding and punishing them, similar to Pavlov's classical conditioning. It is an emergent DL technique gaining more attention in academia since it aims to raise the abilities of AI systems to learn from raw data that could produce full autonomy for robots¹⁵⁴. Robot gains the reward at the end of HRI, and it learns faster and better if the reward is bigger. This behavior is named reward-driven behavior¹⁵⁵. More importantly, it becomes better personalized after each reward, so it could express concrete personalized behaviors by time. This technique is one of the best ML choices for robots that could learn from experience and interaction in the real world¹⁵⁶ because only then someone would think of gaining a social robot at home assisting in the daily life routines. RL is a method used for predicting not human behaviors at first sight, but developing a strategy to predict human's next action, by learning¹⁵⁷ and robot's personality plays a crucial role in this sense.

1.4. Personalization through Reinforcement Learning

The idea of personalization of robots is vested in the Google patent¹⁵⁸ creating social robots could adapt and develop a personality with the help of RL techniques. Theoretically, the user gives some feedbacks for the actions of the robot or expresses input data for the

¹⁵³ European Parliament, 2017, para. AI.

¹⁵⁴ Arulkumaran, et. al., p.1.

¹⁵⁵ Ibid., p. 2.

¹⁵⁶ Haarnoja et. al., 2019, p.11.

¹⁵⁷ Kar han tan, 2018, p.9.

¹⁵⁸ Google, Methods and systems for robot personality development, U.S. Patent 8996 429 B1 31 March 2015.

robot to understand a statement. For example, if the user pats the robot's head, it can understand the user's emotional status and respond accordingly. If a user gives a negative reaction to the robot's action, then it could understand that the user is not pleased with its action. As it is clear, this procedure is possible to follow through HRI or CHI, or with the approach known as UseCentered Intelligent Environments Development Process where the team of the system development consults with the end-users at every step of development until and after production¹⁵⁹. Either approach might be adopted, more since personal services mean more personal data and people will not fear to share their data with robots to gain personal services¹⁶⁰.

Researches in the field of AI and RL focus mostly on social robots since social robots are planned to be introduced in person-centric services, such as health-care and education. For example, Leyzberg, Ramachandran, and Scassellati¹⁶¹ proved that social robots assisting children to learn a second language with personalized content bring more success than the non-personalized ones. Children helped the algorithm to dynamically set its teaching method according to their feedback and optimize both the positive feedbacks delivered by the children, therefore maximize children's learning skills. There is no doubt, that such a social robot could help children to learn faster and more efficiently in comparison to a robot deployed with pre-determined content. Another research was conducted to find out what topics should the students make practices to learn more of it, and a robot that could learn from students' skills and the other inputs such as students' non-verbal behaviors were used for an experiment. This work also proved that a social robot deployed with an RL technique helped students to fulfill their knowledge gap under their school curriculum¹⁶².

¹⁵⁹ Augusto et. al., 2018, p.116 and p. 128. This work shows how user-centric system design could and should be, present the fact that without entering into the private life and sphere of the users, there cannot be an almost perfect intelligent product. The work has pioneered such an issue under the ethical framework statements.

¹⁶⁰ Coopamootoo, and Groß, 2017, p. 40.

¹⁶¹ Leyzberg., Ramachandran, and Scassellati, 2018, p.11.

¹⁶² Ibid., p.13.

Besides the academy, the industry invests on RL based systems such as the case with Google's DeepMind¹⁶³, and IBM's Watson¹⁶⁴, or Facebook¹⁶⁵ and Amazon¹⁶⁶.

Personalization of robots directly affects people's perception of a (social) robot which evaluates it as similar to a human companion. Such perception may emotionally manipulate people, hence, people may even think that a robot can have emotions¹⁶⁷. People's emotional engagement with robots encourages them to disclose more "personal information for functional rewards". When functional personalized rewards combine with a humanoid outlook, people may collaborate with robots more, since they think that robots are human, because they act and look like a human¹⁶⁸. Persons living with social robots will be required to share personal data if they wish to receive personalized services, however, illusionary perception of the robot in people's minds may raise risks towards the right to data protection. These risks will be widely discussed in the problem statement section.

1.5. General AI

General AI, Artificial General AI, Strong AI, or Superintelligent, refer to AI that could reach or surpass human-level intelligence. Although there are many back and forth around the technical discussions, some researchers predict that by 2050¹⁶⁹ there will be a representation of General AI in our lives. Boström foresees General AI equipped with

¹⁶³ "Deep Reinforcement Learning", David Silver, [Online], Deep Mind Blog, 17 June 2016
Accessed from: <https://deepmind.com/blog/article/deep-reinforcement-learning>. Last accessed: 7 October 2019

¹⁶⁴ "Train a software agent to behave rationally with reinforcement learning", M. Tim Jones, [Online], IBM, 11 October 2017 Accessed from: <https://developer.ibm.com/articles/cc-reinforcement-learning-train-software-agent/> Last accessed: 7 October 2019

¹⁶⁵ "Advancing AI by teaching robots to learn" Franziska Meier, Akshara Rai, Roberto Calandra, [Online], Facebook AI Blog, 16 May 2019.
Accessed from: <https://ai.facebook.com/blog/advancing-ai-by-teaching-robots-to-learn/> Last accessed: 7 October 2019

¹⁶⁶ "Use Reinforcement Learning with Amazon SageMaker", [Online], AWS, Accessed from: <https://docs.aws.amazon.com/sagemaker/latest/dg/reinforcement-learning.html> Last accessed: 7 October 2019

¹⁶⁷ Darling, 2017, n. p. (preliminary draft)

¹⁶⁸ Richert et. al., 2018, p.420.

¹⁶⁹ Müller and Bostrom, 2016, p. 560.

several other techniques such as cognitive computing to execute very general cognitive tasks working better than current human intelligence to happen soon after the human-level machine intelligence is developed¹⁷⁰. If they could represent “compositional, hierarchical, and causal representations” in their learning path¹⁷¹ and “could successfully break the problems down in components that ML could solve”¹⁷², then there is no obstacle before AI to surpass human intelligence. Our position in this discussion is that regardless of the conscious mind or being superintelligent, AI still could raise risks over people’s privacy, so we do not consider to discuss this argument within this work. Actually, with such machines around, there will be no meaning of privacy in traditional terms, but we leave this topic out of this work.

Superintelligents are unlikely to be a form of robots, but they also could be transformed-human like a cyborg. Whole brain emulation or mind uploading researches¹⁷³ are being conducted to find out how the human brain could be simulated in computers and pave the way for Singularity. In our work, we would like to once again stress that we focus mostly on robots, not on cyber organisms. But the reason why we include this statement is related to the EU’s confusing statements regarding robots. In some of its official documents, the EU puts stress on giving an electronic personality to robots in which the term was noted by Karnow¹⁷⁴, but then later claims that there would never be a Superintelligent in the world¹⁷⁵, therefore such discussions should be left aside. In another document, the EU states the possibility for Superintelligents to become alive and offers a safeguard (human in

¹⁷⁰ Bostrom, 2017, p.20 and p.36.

¹⁷¹ Lake et. al., 2017, p.30.

¹⁷² Taddy, 2019, p.64.

¹⁷³ Alcor Foundation has more than 100 “patients” cryonized. See: <https://alcor.org/profiles/index.html> Last accessed: 2 January 2020.

¹⁷⁴ Karnow, 1994, p.4.

Karnow’s concept for electronic personality (or the “epers”, as he calls) consists of several elements such as identity (owing money and bank accounts together with being able to apply for bank credits), ability to complete its task without intervention, and communicate with other electronic persons. It should be noted that Karnow’s inspiration based on the legal construction of public and private companies that are not physically presented, but have an identity (dominantly affected from financial presence) as the human has. He further conceptualizes the identity of the electronic persons specific to hold privacy rights, free from discrimination, and free speech. This framework also stresses that electronic persons are different than tangible properties like cars, and should be created to protect humans not replace them.

¹⁷⁵ Bentley et. al., 2018, p.22.

command)¹⁷⁶ against such robots. The present work also emphasizes the importance of putting humans in control, confirming the human-in-the-loop philosophy.

2. The European Union’s Artificial Intelligence Definition

“Artificial intelligence is not science fiction; it is already part of our everyday lives, from using a virtual personal assistant to organize our day, to having our phones suggest songs we might like”¹⁷⁷

Similar to the industry and academia, the EU has long been lacked a single AI definition. The earliest efforts to lay down an AI definition go back only to the year 2018. Communication on the Coordinated Plan on Artificial Intelligence and Communication Artificial Intelligence for Europe prepared by the European Commission made a very short and general AI definition that made it almost impossible to differ AI from the other technologies in basic terms¹⁷⁸. It excluded the main abilities of AI by focusing only on the intelligence and autonomy aspects, and excluded data processing, learning and acting aspects of AI that are the core of. After the formation of High-Level Expert Group on AI in April 2019, the group’s one of the initial was work on making an AI definition. A definition made by the Group points almost the entire specifications of AI technology, including data acquisition, as follows¹⁷⁹:

“Artificial intelligence (AI) systems are software (and possibly also hardware) systems designed by humans that, given a complex goal, act in the physical or digital dimension by perceiving their environment through data acquisition, interpreting the collected structured or unstructured data, reasoning on the knowledge, or processing

¹⁷⁶ European Economic and Social Committee, 2017, point 3.42 and 5.2

¹⁷⁷ Opening speech of Commissioner Mariya Gabriel at AI Forum in Helsinki, 09 October 2018.

¹⁷⁸ European Commission, 2018c, p. 1 “Artificial Intelligence refers to systems that display intelligent behavior by analyzing their environment and taking action — with some degree of autonomy — to achieve specific goals”.

¹⁷⁹ High-Level Expert Group on Artificial Intelligence, “A definition of AI: Main capabilities and scientific disciplines”, April 2019.

the information, derived from this data and deciding the best action(s) to take to achieve the given goal. AI systems can either use symbolic rules or learn a numeric model, and they can also adapt their behavior by analyzing how the environment is affected by their previous actions. As a scientific discipline, AI includes several approaches and techniques, such as machine learning (of which deep learning and reinforcement learning are specific examples), machine reasoning (which includes planning, scheduling, knowledge representation and reasoning, search, and optimization), and robotics (which includes control, perception, sensors, and actuators, as well as the integration of all other techniques into cyber-physical systems)”

It is important to note that the above definition was given almost three years after the GDPR adoption and a year after it entered into force. This certainly points that, the EU lawmakers did not have a chance to entirely evaluate and insert possible AI-related data breaches, e.g., based on a relationship with personal data and ML techniques¹⁸⁰ by the time of drafting the GDPR. This would be important to take into account since these aspects of the AI are closely related to collection and processing (big amount) of data, its capability to generate knowledge¹⁸¹.

As the definition proves, and as we will reinforce in the IV.th Section, there is a close relationship between AI and robotics, especially, between the service robots, according to the EU. AI could be able to perform useful tasks in an embodied form more than it could as a software¹⁸². As we will present below, AI in the robotic body could serve to lift people’s quality of private life by performing the tasks belong to a household. Before discussing all the possible risks towards an individual’s data protection rights deriving from personal use of robots, what robot does this work refer should be presented.

¹⁸⁰ Matthias, 2004, p.177.

“That would be particularly important to discuss the liability issues. The core of the ML is that the rules by which they (machines) act are not fixed during the production process, but can be changed during the operation of the machine, by the machine itself.”

Matthias also presents short scenarios to illustrate his position.

¹⁸¹ Microsoft, 2018, p. 29.

¹⁸² Nath and Vineet, 2017, n.p.

3. Definition of the Robot

Different perceptions and concepts of the use of robots in different fields make it difficult to put a general definition for robots. For example, the International Standard Organization defines a robot as “an actuated mechanism programmable in two or more axes with a degree of autonomy, moving within its environment, to perform intended tasks¹⁸³. This technical definition reflects only the mechanical component of a robot, leaving aside the possible deployment with AI technology. Public deception in the society caused by the Sci-Fi literature making out a robot as a human’s enemy does not contribute much to raising a scientific definition. Richards and Smart analyze how robots are perceived in the Sci-Fi films, which affects people’s perception of the robot, in comparison with how they are in real life, and propose the following definition: “A robot is a constructed system that displays both physical and mental agency, but is not alive in the biological sense”¹⁸⁴ as people think so. However, even if they are not alive, they are present in real life with their senses (e.g. via sensors), thoughts (e.g. ML), and actions (execution of a task in the real world) according to the dynamic real-world situations. At this point, one could easily see the connection between robots and AI since they are both able to sense, think, and act, as we showed in the AI definitions section. Here, robots have more opportunities to collect data since they are equipped with hardware enabling them to interact with the real world closely. Sensors of a robot enable them to access many different types of data, let it be equipped with RFID systems, gyroscope, accelerometer, GPS, wireless sensors, infrared sensors, optical sensors, and biosensors¹⁸⁵ besides cameras, microphones, and variety of actuators.

¹⁸³ ISO 8373:2012(en) Robots and robotic devices - Vocabulary, para 2.6.

¹⁸⁴ Richards and Smart, 2015, p.6.

¹⁸⁵ Google, Methods and systems for robot personality development, p.7.

3.1. Service Robots

Unlikely the definition of robots, typology of robots is represented in a more unified way both in academia¹⁸⁶ and industry. This is, indeed, because of the functions of the robots which are in existence of two certain fields. International Federation of Robotics puts the robots into two basic groups based on their functionality; industrial robots and service robots. Industrial robots used for production, such as in the automotive industry, electronics, metal and machinery, rubber and plastics, food and beverage industry¹⁸⁷. Service robots, on the other hand, serves to personal goals such as household robots (e.g. cleaning) or for professional use such as medical care, entertainment, or toys and hobby systems. Focusing on a specific type of robot helps us more to define what a robot is, but we avoid to make a general definition for robots since we focus only on social robots which are a subtype of a service robot.

Determining a specific type of robot that the present work would focus on was one of the initial phases. While the term service robots remain too general for research, we were looking for a specific term highlighting the personal use of service robots more. ISO's vocabulary considers three terms close to fulfilling this aim. First, the term service robot¹⁸⁸ refers to such robots that are performing useful tasks for humans and excluding industrial robots. This approach represents service robots serving food, cleaning, or providing health-care services to people¹⁸⁹. Personal service robots, on the other hand, functions the same as the service robots, but only for personal use, excluding commercial activities. Finally, the term collaborative robots refer to a type of robot which can enter into an interaction with a human¹⁹⁰. All these definitions point out a personal use of non-commercial robots

¹⁸⁶ Fosch-Villaronga comprehensively analyzed the legal and ethical aspects of personal care robots. Although he strictly stated that not only social robots but all the personal care robots, our intention in this work is to pick social robots as a case for data protection specific. Fosch-Villaronga, 2017.

¹⁸⁷ International Federation of Robotics, "Executive Summary World Robotics 2017 Industrial Robots" [Online]. Available at: https://ifr.org/downloads/press/Executive_Summary_WR_2017_Industrial_Robots.pdf Last accessed 8 November 2019.

¹⁸⁸ ISO 8373: 2012, paragraph 2.10

¹⁸⁹ Ibid., paragraph 2.11

¹⁹⁰ Ibid., paragraph 2.26

which can show some degree of interaction with its user. The term social robot involves all these aspects, as will be presented below.

The final approach, which is also the final reason why this work focuses on social robots, is related to robots' definition from their capabilities point of view as Laukyte analyzed. In her research, she focuses on the basic functions of robots (moving, acting, sensing, processing information and data, communicating, and interacting with other machines,) switching them from being passive machines to being active robots. The capabilities approach originally defined ten human capabilities to be respected and protected by states as Nussbaum¹⁹¹ discovered and extended on animals¹⁹², while Laukyte extended Nussbaum's work on robots¹⁹³.

This work also adopts a functional approach for social robots since those functions assigned them a capability to self-drive and to present autonomous actions, to sense and understand their environment, to process information, to enter into communication and interaction with machines and humans around. These capabilities, to our view, are the main differences between the embodied and disembodied AI. An AI software would have restricted functions without (e.g. moving, sensing) those capabilities. On the other hand, these functions enable robots to collect more data about things and humans around them. Data is the main input of AI, and robots without AI would be lack all those previously mentioned capabilities.

3.2. Robots with Artificial Intelligence

As indicated before, this work presents a clear position on the embodied AI. By being in the real world, AI would be more intelligent, and will be perceived as "real"¹⁹⁴. In this work, we exclude the researches going on cyborgs and mind uploading, therefore we focus only on machines equipped with AI. Embodiment is a factor affecting the legal regulation of AI serving humans in private spaces. For social robots, one of the elements for AI to

¹⁹¹ Nussbaum, 2011.

¹⁹² Nussbaum, 2004.

¹⁹³ Laukyte, 2015, p.6.

¹⁹⁴ Leroux et al., 2018, p. 60.

contact humans is a physical appearance, and the other one is its capability to analyze and reflect social behaviors. Embodiment is also the main factor that differentiates chatbots, social bots or avatars from social robots¹⁹⁵. If a disembodied AI is a consideration of legal research, the wording of “social bot” should be used instead of the term social robot¹⁹⁶. In this case, a social bot’s presence is virtual, not physical, although the software anyway needs to be deployed in a physical device like a computer or a mobile phone. Unlike virtual agents, they are physically present in the real world, and with this presence, they raise privacy considerations more than the virtual agents. Indeed, a simple house cleaner robot cannot be a discussion¹⁹⁷ for a legal literature from the data protection point of view. For this reason, this work focuses on social robots as a case analysis.

3.3. Personal Household Social Robots

Since the Industrial Revolution, humans and robots interact in some ways, e.g. via physical commands, and at some level e.g. pre-defined static tasks. In the present time, human interacts with the machine not only in a physical way but in other ways such as verbal, visual and emotional. As a result of HRI in a social way, one type of service robots, the so-called social robot appears as it could express and perceive emotions, communicate with humans, use human-like reactions, in short, act like a human.

The term social robot, which is the more generally known term, is not a fully accepted expression, and the reason behind this statement is not because of a lack of common definition (as the case was for the definition of AI and robot), but practical and different use of terms by the academia There are different terms found in the literature used for a

¹⁹⁵ Korn, Bieber, and Fron, 2018, p.188.

¹⁹⁶ Alves de Lima, Sarge and Berente, 2017, p. 1.

¹⁹⁷ Actually, it was a discussion once, see whether Roomba’s iRobot could model the houses it cleans which may be a threat to privacy. See: “Roomba vacuum maker iRobot betting big on the ‘smart’ home”, Jan Wolfe, n.d. Accessed from: <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-irobot-strategy-idUSKBN1A91A5?il=0> Last accessed: 15 November 2019.

social robot¹⁹⁸, for example, societal robot¹⁹⁹, sociable robot²⁰⁰, and socially interactive robots²⁰¹. Fosch-Villaronga refers to social robots as Companion Robots, Carebots, or Care Robots²⁰² in his work in which he comprehensively analyzes the term and prefers to use the term socially assistive robots. This term is different from mobile servants and physically assistive robots that easily could be confused with social robots. According to him, socially assistive robots are different from the other two types, first because they socially interact with a human without physical contact. To illustrate this, he benefits from a scenario of a social robot inspired by the Mihajlo Pupin robot assisting people with ADL²⁰³ (which now replaced with Nao robot) that is accepted as a social robot in the literature. We prefer to use the term ‘social robot’ to ensure standard usage in this work. We also would like to once again note here, that, whenever we use the term robot, we mean a Robot with AI, neither an industrial robot nor a simple home robot.

Social robots are certainly not physical assistant robots who do not strictly interact with a human and are also not personal care robots in general sense. They could serve humans in any field, not necessarily only in the health-care domain as it is mainly the case for physical assistant robots. As Fosch-Villaronga analyzes personal assistant robots comprehensively²⁰⁴, social robots could be categorized as Mobile Servant Robots since they are (also) capable of interacting with people socially, move freely, and ready to serve

¹⁹⁸ Hegel, et. al., 2009, p. 169.

¹⁹⁹ Duffy, et. al., 1999, n.p.

The aim of the authors actually is to introduce the term social robot, however, the authors make a difference between a social robot and a societal robot which is a robot “introduced into society with degrees of required functionality to act as aides to people.” The authors did not cite any resource using the term societal robot, but we found some resources using the term societal robot. For example, one of the areas of specialization of Professor Wagatsuma is Societal Robot. See: https://researchmap.jp/wagaKBR_/?lang=english Last accessed: 10 January 2020.

Professor Balch also used the term in Balch, T. (2005) ‘Communication, Diversity and Learning: Cornerstones of Swarm Behavior BT - Swarm Robotics’, in Şahin, E. and Spears, W. M. (eds). Berlin, Heidelberg: Springer Berlin Heidelberg, pp. 21–30.

²⁰⁰ Breazeal, 2002.

²⁰¹ Fong, Nourbakhsh, Dautenhahn, 2003, p. 145.

²⁰² Fosch-Villaronga, 2017, p. 206.

²⁰³ Project official website: <http://www.pupin.rs/RnDProfile/> Last accessed 19 February 2019

²⁰⁴ Fosch-Villaronga, 2017, p. 52.

humanity. Mobile Servant Robot is defined²⁰⁵ by the ISO as “it is capable of traveling to perform serving tasks in interaction with humans, such as handling objects or exchanging information”. Remembering the definition for the social robot above, one could easily realize that this definition is far from stressing the social, emotional, and communicative aspects of social robots. Social robots should be able to demonstrate a range of human capacities such as emotions. They should be able to enter into verbal capabilities, understand humans and form social relationships with them. All in all, social robots should be able to learn all these capabilities themselves.²⁰⁶

Although the term social robot has not always been referred in the same way in academia, the definition of the term could be observed in a more unified way. Breazeal’s and Fong et al.’s analyses make a clear definition of a social robot which is a robot that capable of understanding human social behaviors, interact them in a socially meaningful way through its physical or robot-personal capabilities (such as oral communication, emotions, gestures), adapt itself according to a dynamic social environment, and simulate human behaviors. Fong et al. adds “following human social characteristics that social robots also carry: expression and/or perception of emotions; communication with high-level dialogue; learning/recognizing models of other agents; establishing/maintaining social relationships; using natural cues; exhibit distinctive personality and character; may learn/develop social competencies”, briefly, most of the social aspects of homo-sapiens. All these capabilities and definitions, once again to be remembered, stress the emergence of AI and social robots.

Such definitions and characteristics, on the other hand, may not meet the practical understanding of a social robot from society’s point of view, because there could already be a perception about a social robot in people’s minds. Whenever it has been said a word of “robot” there may appear several different images in one’s mind, mostly as a result of an illustration made by Sci-Fi literature. If they are not dangerous, since this is the case presented in most of the Sci-Fi films, then they are presented as friendly beings, or even more than a friend, as a partner for humans. Apart from those extreme examples, some part

²⁰⁵ ISO 13482:2014 Robots and robotic devices — Safety requirements for personal care robots.

²⁰⁶ Moodley, T. (2017). “Understanding social robotics”, [Online]. Robohub, 24 January 2017. Accessed from: <http://robohub.org/understandingsocial-robotics/> Last accessed: 10 January 2020.

of what the Sci-Fi literature showed us becomes slowly real today. Social robots that are being developed in the labs are the biggest evidence of such a statement. This is particularly dangerous because without knowing what people will exactly face, it is hard to predict the consequences of accepting them into their lives, even if it is positive or negative. However, the situation could be turned into an advantageous one, as we could find out the dominant features of social robots to illustrate them correctly. A social robot might be illustrated as a humanoid entity that is as intelligent as human (or sometimes even more intelligent than human) and is in constant interaction with its environment to assist humans in different aspects of their life.

Social Robots may be one of the most emerging areas required to be regulated since they heavily aim at personal use where humans and robots interact not only through simple commands or physical pointing but also emotional statements. Today what we do humans wish Social Robots to be like, e.g. whether they should be designed as emotion-sensing with ethical reasoning or not, will shed light on future realities. There are already scientific works proving the possibility to develop a system with the help of Convolutional Neural Networks that process and convert raw audio and visual data into a meaningful but spontaneous emotional prediction²⁰⁷. Reinforcement Learning aims to deploy robots to learn from humans directly and through interaction which makes each robot to have a different character just as their human companies have. Whichever technique is being used, social robots will be developed with an aim to deliver personalized services which would require deployment of personal data processing ability in robot (Natural Language Processing, Image Processing, interactive learning, etc.) That personal data might be either before or after encoded to the robot meets humans. Robots that could learn and act without human supervision are one of the close future aims in the robotics field. We will discuss these themes in the frame of data protection law in the later sections.

Thanks to the technologies, such as social media tools, where humans create, express or continue their social life and emotions in a virtual form unlikely to the traditional face-to-face physical form, today it is possible to enter into a social relationship with machines like mobile phone or computers. This helps people to accept social robots into their life easier and make them part of their life as well as their private life, as we will show below

²⁰⁷ Tzirakis, et. al., 2017, p. 1305.

3.4. Social Robots in Everyday Life

Based on the definitions above, several service robots could be found even in today's robotic markets. They are already available to engage with people's professional and personal life. Current social robotic applications in personal life would give an overview of how far the technology is today and how far it could continue to grow, both highlighting the emergence of the topic at hand. Putting a limit on types of social robots in practice is a difficult task. For example, self-driving cars also considered to be a social robot, however, their initial aim is not to interact with people socially. In this work, only the robots which can socially interact with people and enter into their homes are subjected to analysis and this is the main reason why we refer them as Household Social Robots (HSR). Although they could have distinctive tasks such as education, entertainment, healthcare, and home security, we will focus on social robots created for multiple purposes for personal use²⁰⁸.

The history of social robots goes back to the late '40s²⁰⁹ but affordable hardware combined with continuously developing software engineering abilities makes them possible to "live" with us today. A French company, Aldebaran, designed a robot named Pepper (deployed with narrow AI) to live with humans who "can tell when humans are happy, sad, or angry just by looking at their faces, and can cheer them up". Aldebaran sold some 7000 of them for a price of \$2000 each²¹⁰ in 2016. A US-based AvatarMind's robot iPal offers friendship to children, plays with them, naturally talks to them and learns about them. iPal even assists them in learning activities by interacting with them²¹¹. Besides coaching humans to learn or solve problems, these robots are also aware of emotional cues and can manipulate humans via emotional statements and interactions. Even more, they share people's most

²⁰⁸ Fosch-Villaronga and Albo-Canals, 2019, p.78, defines three types of social robots with therapy purposes: a robot as a companion, a playful tool, and a coach. We believe that there will not be such a clear distinction among social robots aiming to increase the quality of people's lives at their households and the industry tendencies are more favorable investing in multi-purpose robots.

²⁰⁹ Fong, Nourbakhsh and Dautenhahn, p. 143.

²¹⁰ Winfrey, G., (2016) "Meet the Robot Coming to Businesses and Homes This Year", [Online]. Inc. Accessed from: <https://www.inc.com/graham-winfrey/introducing-pepper-the-friendly-humanoid-robot.html>. Last accessed 26 October 2019.

²¹¹ KPMG, (2016) "Social Robots". [Online]. Available at: <https://assets.kpmg.com/content/dam/kpmg/pdf/2016/06/social-robots.pdf>. Last accessed 12 December 2017.

private moments while they assist them to have a better sexual life²¹². Robots presented in the TV shows, like the robot *lady* Sophia (who was awarded citizenship by the Saudi Government and became an Innovation Ambassador for the United Nations Development Programme), are designed for entertainment. Sophia's kind of robots may never aim to make people's life better, just to entertain them.

Having a social robot with advanced AI capabilities at home may not be present time's reality, yet, since creating such robots requires a lot of investments (on hardware and software, maintenance, development, etc.) and acceptance by the public. However, CloudMinds robotics promises to launch social robots (humanoid robots, with their words) with affordable prices for the household by 2050, therefore launched the XR-1 social robot project. This robot could interact with people, understand the interaction and its main tasks. Such tasks might be of bringing coffee and guiding a thread into the small hole of a needle without a mistake²¹³. It is supported by 3D object recognition, NLP, image processing and other technologies that operate all in its cloud storage.

Japanese investments and technological developments behind social personal robots are well-known by academia and industry. Asimo robot, made by Honda, has been existed in the world of humanoid robotics for the last nineteen years. It is designed to “someday assist people in daily lives” and it has taken tangible steps closer to complete this statement. Only 130 cm tall and 50 kg heavy, could complete its humanoid look by completing many different tasks such as communicating in sign language, opening bottles, playing football. Asimo is not yet available in the market for personal use but could be a good candidate for being an HSR.

The above given examples are yet not offered for a personal use and they operate for general tasks identified by the companies developing them. We believe that use of social robots will be first appearing in healthcare specific field and it will revolutionize human life from the core. Specialized healthcare robots according to the person belongs to a

²¹² Realbotix is offering customizable sex robots, see: <https://realbotix.com>
Nowadays, the company is planning to launch a Siri-like personal assistant specialized in phone-sex. Last accessed: 20 April 2019.

²¹³ “CloudMinds Launches XR-1, a Cloud-Based Humanoid Service Robot”, [Online], RBR Staff, 28 February 2019, Robotics Business Review,
Accessed from: <https://www.roboticsbusinessreview.com/service/cloudminds-launches-xr-1-a-cloud-based-humanoid-service-robot/> Last accessed: 28 March 2019

specific demographic group (e.g. elders, children, etc.), type of disease (cancer or flu), types of treatments (in-bed or at home) could save first people's lives, then provide time and comfort while they need medical assistance. However, it may come with many risks and costs, especially from the privacy point of view. For example, Fosch-Villaronga et al.²¹⁴ comprehensively addressed the possible risks before privacy and data protection breaches of patients using or assisted by healthcare robots. They refer to the confidentiality of the health information or data of patients which are regulated by national laws and the GDPR in case of personal use of robots e.g. at home, or via a mobile app. The reason why they raise this issue is that the robot's capability to extract information regardless of the patient's will and out of her knowledge, share it with others, and eradicate the thin line between robot as a health care assistant and a living real organism like a human. As we will highlight in the following sections, their anthropomorphic outlook and behaviors ensure some level of trust which results as a relationship between humans and robots, like a human to human relationship. While the second issue is related to consent, so many possible actors operating the healthcare robot such as doctors, practitioners, nurses, hospital and many others especially manufacturers or companies that robot shares data for development purposes makes it hard to specify actual operational purposes of the robots and to find the exact data controller. In the following section, these problems will be analyzed deeper, but an overview of AI and robotics in the EU in general and the sample countries specific will be first introduced to evaluate the current developments in these topics.

²¹⁴ Fosch-Villaronga, et. al., 2018

IV. AI and Robotics in the EU

The AI expert Kai-fu Lee once stated that Europe would not even take a bronze medal in AI competition in the world giving as a general reason that the EU is not home for the companies working with Big Data. The expert further explains the reason why he said so, and said that the EU has never been home for companies leading in social media, on applications offered via the internet and mobile applications which are the sources of Big Data. Further, he thinks that Silicon Valley and China lead the AI sector because they are more liberal and research-oriented²¹⁵ than the EU which poses a protective and conservative attitude towards data share. EC's Digital Commissioner Mariya Gabriel²¹⁶ also approved this statement, during her speech at the AI Forum organized in Helsinki in 2018 by admitting that yet there are few large AI companies and they are facing a major skills shortage. Investments on and developments in the AI field remain MS-specific until the year 2019. The UK is considered to be leading the EU in this field, however, even with the UK's huge contribution to the EU's current position in the AI market, McKinsey's report on AI private investments revealed that the EU in total invest less than Asia and North America²¹⁷. The EU lags behind the US by its number of AI players in the world and we must point the fact that most of those players are the UK based companies²¹⁸. EU's late AI awareness does not only affect the continent to be away from AI-related science and technology, but the lack of AI technologies costs some of the millions of Euro loss for Europe. According to the comprehensive report about Europe's AI position prepared by McKinsey, Europe would earn some 2.7 trillion Euro into its asset pocket if it could develop AI in business²¹⁹.

²¹⁵ "Interview with Kai-fu Lee", Carly Minsky, [Online], sifted.eu, 14 December 2018. Accessed from: <https://sifted.eu/articles/interview-kaifu-lee-artificial-intelligence/> Last accessed: 28 March 2019.

²¹⁶ Opening speech of Commissioner Mariya Gabriel at AI Forum in Helsinki on 09 October 2018, [Online], Accessed from: https://ec.europa.eu/commission/commissioners/2014-2019/gabriel/announcements/opening-speech-commissioner-mariya-gabriel-ai-forum-helsinki_en Last accessed: 19 November 2019.

Also, the EC admits that AI market in Europe is underdeveloped compared to the US and lacks large data sets which is an essential for the development of AI. European Commission, 2018a, p. 7.

²¹⁷ Bughin, et. al., 2019, p. 40.

²¹⁸ How this picture would change deserves another research, since Brexit has just happened on the 1st of February.

²¹⁹ Ibid., p. 3.

For these reasons, EC decided to increase investments in AI in the frame of Horizon 2020 program about 70% to 1.5 billion Euros by 2020 which was only 1.1 billion Euro during 2014-2017 period, and by this way, increase the private and public investment at least up to 20 billion euro by 2020²²⁰. For private investments, EC plans to invest in a total 6 billion Euro for the 2021-2027 period²²¹ which would still be almost half of the current US investments. While the EU puts such efforts to make the AI market alive, no AI leading third country has planned either developing or making business in the EU within this sphere.

There could be many reasons why the situation is in the present form, for example, as the GDPR impact assessment report on AI technologies published by Center for Data Innovation in 2018²²² claimed that Europe's strict personal data rules on ADM and data collection raises some concerns towards the full exploitation of AI and make the continent conservative towards such an exploitation²²³. We think that the claim might be true, not because the GDPR is strict, but because of foreign tech-giants' careful avoidance of complying with the GDPR's rules. Such a discussion is out of this work's scope, but an important outcome of this fact is that without a common program and regulation on AI technologies, the MS will have a room for acting autonomously especially on providing regulations (as the Netherlands and Finland have been doing so for the last two years).

Comparing to the EU's moderate failure in AI technologies, investments and developments in the field of robotics draw a better picture. The EU is the second-largest region of industrial robots, falling behind Asia, but getting ahead of America²²⁴. Specific to the service robots, we must indicate that the highest number of service robots are placed in the

²²⁰ "EU to invest 1.5 billion euros in AI to catch up with US, Asia" Julia Fioretti, [Online], Reuters, 25 April 2018.

²²¹ European Commission, 2018b, p. 3.

²²² The Impact of the EU's New Data Protection Regulation on AI, Nick Wallace, Daniel Castro, [Online], Center for Data Innovation Available: <https://www.datainnovation.org/2018/03/the-impact-of-the-eus-new-data-protection-regulation-on-ai/> Last accessed: 11 June 2019

²²³ "Europe is about to lose the global AI race – thanks to GDPR", Nick Wallace, [Online], <https://www.euractiv.com/section/data-protection/opinion/europe-is-about-to-lose-the-global-ai-race-thanks-to-gdpr/> Last accessed: 28 March 2019

²²⁴ IFR, Executive Summary World Robotics 2018 Industrial Robots, [Online], Accessed from: https://ifr.org/downloads/press2018/Executive_Summary_WR_2018_Industrial_Robots.pdf. Last accessed: 15 January 2020.

EU, leaving America and Asia behind²²⁵ (nevertheless the two AI leaders, China and Japan are in Asia, and Japan is more insisted on producing social robots). Furthermore, EC announced that the EU intends to keep its leadership in robotics by increasing the investments up to 700 million Euro to this field. EU's strong emphasis on boosting embodied AI, or in other words, robotics, has already brought some tangible results though many projects funded in the frame of Horizon 2020 in the last couple of years. Among those projects, there is a significant amount of projects targeting development only of social robots. Furthermore, many projects have been finalized not only producing social robots but on regulating them in an ethical and legal meaning. Some of the examples below may help to understand the current level of knowledge on the regulation of social robots in the EU. There is yet no uniform AI strategy or policy in the EU towards focusing on AI and social robots, but there are some MS specifically focusing on the development of social robots in their AI strategies. At the MS level, there is a variety of practices; some of the MS do have a strategy and planning on AI which also paves the way for the regulation of AI and social robotics. Some of them still at the infancy level which also draws them back from putting any tangible regulative idea on AI. In this case, it is important to review the MS AI plans subjected to this work to see at what level they are towards AI regulation, next.

1. Regulation of Social Robots Through EU-Funded Projects

In the EU, most of the robotic projects are supported by the EC through the so-called Horizon 2020 and FP7 EU research and innovation program. Those projects mainly focus on restricted topics such as human-robot cooperation at work²²⁶, robot use at SMEs²²⁷, and social robots assisting industrial robots²²⁸. Specific to the social robots, there is a

²²⁵ Gudrun Litzenger, IFR Press Conference 18 October 2018 Tokyo World Robot Summit, [Online]. Accessed from: https://ifr.org/downloads/press2018/WR_Presentation_Industry_and_Service_Robots_rev_5_12_18.pdf. Last accessed: 20 December 2019.

²²⁶ ROBO-PARTNER Project official website. Accessed from: <http://www.robo-partner.eu> Last accessed: 20 December 2019.

²²⁷ Factory-in-a-day official website. Accessed from: <http://www.factory-in-a-day.eu> Last accessed: 20 December 2019.

²²⁸ EuRoC Project official website. Accessed from: <http://www.euoc-project.eu> Last accessed: 20 December 2019.

significant number of projects completed in the EU²²⁹ and we will refer only to a couple of projects that Italy, Finland, Netherlands, and Hungary (either only one, a couple or all of them) involved.

Elder and children care are some of the initial topics in which the EU social robot projects focus on. For example, Culture-Aware Robots and Environmental Sensor Systems for Elderly Support (CARESSES)²³⁰ project is an ongoing project aiming to build such robots assisting elders at home and also (with limited capabilities) outside of the home. The project targets developing AI software that is culturally aware. Cultural competences conceptualized by robots' awareness of cultural factors such as person's age, family structure, religion, and heritage; cultural knowledge such as person's beliefs, self-care practices, and health-related attitudes; and finally cultural sensitivity such as the person's language, accent, communication, and interpersonal skills, and trustfulness. These competencies are highly related to persons' private spheres (from their religion to trust level), but no data protection concern was referred to on the project website. Moreover, with the help of these competencies, the robot could sense and understand a person's whole emotional and cultural map, then adapt, plan and execute actions according to a person's cultural background and shape its whole interaction plan for the future²³¹. The experimental part of the project has not been done in any of the MS, but the testing will be placed only in Japan and in the UK, as the project description noted. Choosing these countries for the testing field might be because of the fear of the GDPR's obligations, but data processing activities aiming research and scientific purposes are easing such projects as clearly regulated in Article 89 of the GDPR.

Another current and ongoing project, Social Cognitive Robotics in the European Society (SOCRATES), is aiming to train 15 Ph.D. students in the field of social robots for eldercare. The project was held consortium-based, consisting partners from different

²²⁹ MuMMer (MultiModal Mall Entertainment Robot) project differs from the others, unlikely all the projects funded by the EU in the fields of industrial and healthcare robots, this project aims to create an interactive and autonomous robot for shopping malls. Again, Pepper is the robot in subject, it will "work" in a shopping mall in Finland to serve customers at the mall. This project might be one of a kind targeting anybody without grouping them according to their health or any other status. Project official website accessed from: <http://www.mummer-project.eu> Last accessed: 20 December 2019.

²³⁰CARESSES Project official website. Accessed from: <http://caressesrobot.org/en/> Last accessed: 20 December 2019.

²³¹ Bruno, et. al., p.7.

profiles such as academia, business, and industry. The students' task is to focus on uncovered areas in this field and offer solutions to the common problems wherever indicated. These problems are, for example, related to understanding elders' emotions by robots to improve interaction through developing DNN with unsupervised learning to make robots understanding emotional statements. Besides emotion analysis, the project aims to reach the following outcomes: improving social robot skills to recognize and express intentions through algorithms, to improve robots' adaptation to its environment and learn from the user by interaction, and to find a proper design and model for the robot. Finally, the students conduct researches for improving robots' acceptance by a human, by raising some ethical solutions²³². Since the project is ongoing, no ethical solutions have yet been raised.

Drawing an ethical and legal framework for social robots is one of the priorities of the EU, as the HLEGAI also indicated²³³. The INBOT project aims to understand and examine the acceptance of interactive robotics in the frame of developing ethical and legal frameworks. It does not focus on developing a technical framework for robots, rather focusing on developing social aspects of robots for humans. Besides the other partners, there are four Italian²³⁴ and two Dutch²³⁵ partners involving with the project. Much more focused on the impact of robotics in the labor market and the effects of robots to the intellectual property law, but it is interesting to observe that no data protection issue was referred in the project introduction video ²³⁶ where the project team members speak about ethics and law and also use many humanoid social robots.

After a careful and comprehensive analysis of the EU-funded projects related to robotics in the last 5 years, we are confident to say that the EU's close future robotics outcomes will

²³² Without extending the scope of this work, we refer the aims and deliverables in this project shortly. All aims recognized in the project could be accessed here: <http://www.socrates-project.eu/research/> Last accessed: 20 December 2019.

²³³ In June 2018, the group has delivered some ethics guidelines on AI and policy recommendations for ensuring trustworthiness of AI investments. Accessible here: <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/high-level-expert-group-artificial-intelligence> Last accessed: 20 December 2019.

²³⁴ Scuola Superiore di Studi Universitari e di Perfezionamento Sant'Anna, Università Degli Studi di Siena, Centro Ricerche Fiat, IUVO S.r.l.

²³⁵ University of Twente, Universiteit Utrecht

²³⁶ INBOTS - Interactive Robotics for a Better Society, YouTube. Accessed from: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nt4qwcVc1o8&feature=youtu.be> Last accessed: 28 December 2019

be visible in healthcare in general, and elder and children care in specific. We also realize that CEE countries are not involved with the EU robotics project. From those CEE countries, we could realize only Poland²³⁷ and Romania's²³⁸ participation in the robotics projects at the EU level. There is no Hungarian partner who participated in an EU funded project, so far²³⁹.

In this section, we presented the EU wide developments in AI and robotics from the financial and regulative point of views by using some statistics and provided some examples from projects related to this field. In the following, AI and robotics in investment and regulation point of views will be presented specific to the countries in selected for the analysis. These examples also shall be read as the mains reasons why we chose Finland, Hungary, Italy and the Netherlands as sampling countries particularly, besides their geographical representation and the level of investments on AI technologies.

2. AI and Robotics in Hungary

Hungarian scientists have been following the developments in the AI field since the 1950s both in theoretical and practical meaning²⁴⁰. However, and in parallel with the trends in AI history, Hungary could realize the power of AI and Robotics only now, and has started putting significant efforts on embedding AI and R&D in both public and private sectors. Although some of the initiatives on this aim were made by the Hungarian Government, private sector leaders and start-ups take the lead towards developing AI technologies in Hungary. As an example of the Hungarian Government's efforts, the so-called Artificial Intelligence Coalition that was established in October 2018 could be mentioned. The

²³⁷ The project was aiming to create an open source software to support robotic applications for elder care. It was accomplished in 2016. rapp-project.eu official website. Accessed from: <http://rapp-project.eu> Last accessed: 28 December 2019.

²³⁸ Universitatea Babeş-Bolyai is one of the partners. Project aims to develop robotic solution that will be used as an assistant to children with autism. It was completed in 2019. Accessed from: <https://www.dream2020.eu/consortium/> Last accessed: 27 December 2019. Institute of mathematics Simion Stoilow of the Romanian Academy is one of the partners. The project aims similar to the Dream project, building acceptable and useful HRI for children with autism. Accessed from: <http://de-enigma.eu> Last accessed: 27 December 2019.

²³⁹ The last check on the EC's website showed the EU-funded projects on Robotics dated on the 10 January 2020. EC Digital Single Market official website on Projects about Robotics. Accessed from: <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/projects/76017/3586> Last accessed: 10 January 2020.

²⁴⁰ Sántáné-Tóth, 2007, p. 75.

Coalition was set to define Hungarian AI strategy and keep Hungary up-to-date on the global developments related to AI. Therefore, such strategies and the knowledge-gained through the events organized by the Coalition would put the country in a leading position in Europe²⁴¹. One of the aims the Coalition refers is remarkable for the present work since it targets speeding up the legal regulations on AI to pave the way for better developments in Hungary²⁴². Altogether the Coalition has 147 members; 78 of them are international and Hungarian companies, and the rest consists of universities, research centers, and professional organizations²⁴³. Soon after its establishment, six working groups were defined under the Coalition, and one of the groups has started working on the regulation and ethics of AI²⁴⁴. It should be noted that there is yet no Hungarian national AI strategy adopted.

As we indicated before, private companies and startups lead the AI developments in Hungary, yet. Some of their fields of interest might be worth mentioning here to reflect which subcategories of AI developments are taken into consideration in Hungary that would later shape future robotics. According to our research, it is obvious that driverless cars are one of the first robots that would raise in Hungary. For example, a company developing AI techniques to reach fully autonomous cars offers software for self-driving purposes, a simulator where driving experiences could be developed as if it is in real-life, and hardware for building neural networks for development²⁴⁵. Some of the international or multinational automotive companies also contribute to Hungary's AI developments. A German automobile company, which has been active in Hungary for years, opened its AI

²⁴¹ Mesterséges Intelligencia Koalíció official website: <https://digitalisjoletprogram.hu/hu/tartalom/mesterseges-intelligencia-koalicio> Last accessed: 27 December 2019.

²⁴² “Megtartotta első plenáris ülését a Mesterséges Intelligencia Koalíció”, Innovációs és Technológiai Minisztérium, [Online], 29 November 2018. Accessed from: <http://www.kormany.hu/hu/innovacios-es-technologiai-miniszterium/hirek/megtartotta-elso-plenaris-uleset-a-mesterseges-intelligencia-koalicio> Last accessed 4 January 2020.

²⁴³ Ibid.

²⁴⁴ “Hat szakmai munkacsoporttal kezdi munkáját a Mesterséges Intelligencia Koalíció”, [Online], Digitális Jólét Program, 3 December 2018. Accessed from: <https://digitalisjoletprogram.hu/hu/hirek/hat-szakmai-munkacsoporttal-kezdi-munkajat-a-mesterseges-intelligencia-koalicio>. Last accessed: 4 January 2020.

²⁴⁵ AI Motive official website. Accessed from: <https://aimotive.com/products/#aiDrive>. Last accessed: 4 January 2020.

office in Budapest with the support of the Hungarian Government in May 2018²⁴⁶. The company invested in Hungary aiming to develop ML and other techniques to integrate the center in the global driverless car sector²⁴⁷. Further, an international test field for autonomous cars has been built in Zalaegerszeg²⁴⁸. Although the field is being used for testing and developing traditional cars, scenario-based situations occurring in the future in smart cities could be later tested for better designing and developing autonomous cars.

We also noted that AI as a software in the service sector is a trending topic in Hungary. A chat service has been developed to serve customers in different sectors from banking to health care²⁴⁹. The developer company took the GDPR into consideration by stating that their product is in compliance with the GDPR Article 25 and this is an advantage of the company over the tech-giants, as they think²⁵⁰. We have not found any company investing in social robots in Hungary yet, but as part of a social AI, this chatbot could still be given as example for Hungary.

Finally, the healthcare sector in Hungary has shown some significant developments in robotics. The Antal Bejczy Center for Intelligent Robotics (iRob), organized under the roof of Obudai University's Research and Innovation Center, focus on different areas in the field of robotics such as health care, industrial robots, and telerobotics. Hundreds of publications, impactful national and international projects and events, and continuous research outputs have been generated at this Center²⁵¹. Although R&D projects are not

²⁴⁶ "Hungary joins EU initiative on artificial intelligence", [Online], Daily News Hungary, 10 April 2018. Accessed from: <https://dailynewshungary.com/hungary-joins-eu-initiative-artificial-intelligence/> Last accessed: 4 January 2020.

The Government supported the company around 3.2 million Euro for R&D projects.

²⁴⁷ "Mesterséges intelligencia: A Continental 2021-ig megerősíti az egész világra kiterjedő szakértői hálózatát", [Online], Continental, 12 November 2018. Accessed from: <https://www.continental-corporation.com/hu-hu/sajto/sajtokoezlemenyek/mesterséges-intelligencia-151340>. Last accessed: 4 January 2020.

²⁴⁸ ZalaZone Official website. Accessed from: <https://zalazone.hu/en/track-vision/the-essence-of-the-project/> Last accessed: 4 January 2020.

²⁴⁹ Cheqbot (former TalkAbot) official website. Accessed from: <https://cheqbot.com/> Last accessed: 4 January 2020.

²⁵⁰ Akos Deliaga, "d!talk Talk Ákos Deliága, Talk-A-Bot Kft.", YouTube, d!talk, 17.05th minute. Accessed from: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=15IYSb_Hm_0&t=1025s Last accessed: 4 January 2020.

²⁵¹ Óbuda University, 2017, p. 31.

directly yet including social robots, there may be a possibility for the Center to focus on social companions in health care for the future.

In conclusion, AI technologies in Hungary are at the initial phases of development, however, there is a potential in the country to boost the developments technically. There is neither a national AI strategy nor another policy paper on the regulation of AI technologies that have been published in Hungary.

3. AI and Robotics in Italy

In Italy, AI developments are on-going mostly with governmental support and plans. There are few private companies active in the field, but many public actors, such as universities, contributing and conducting AI researches. These private companies sometimes get financial support from the Italian government, but mostly, work jointly with the EU projects.

Robotics in Italy has already been a hot topic and creating social robots in Italy is one of the aims of the Italian Institute for Technology (IIT). It is safe to state that social robots are being developed at Italian laboratories which are human-centric, sympathetic, friendly, understanding human behavior²⁵², and they will soon assist humans in healthcare, environmental protection, and eldercare. Moreover, those robots have been developed as a great example of collaboration and cooperation between public, private and academic sectors. Humanoid social robot iCub is an example of such a state of art, which has been developing at the IIT laboratories and already has built in 36 copies. It is foreseen by the IIT that robots like iCub will not only remain at the laboratories or industrial sector but leave those places offered to become a part of human's daily life at affordable prices²⁵³, thus it is possible to meet social companion robots at Italian homes soon²⁵⁴.

Besides the technical developments, there have been several policy papers prepared in Italy for the regulation and development of AI technologies. For example, the Italian Ministry of Economic Development published a call for 30 experts in AI field on 14 September 2018

²⁵² For example, one of the priorities of the group on robotics research organized in the Italian Institution for Technology is creating robots with social cognition.

²⁵³ Istituto Italiano di Tecnologia, IIT 2018-2023 Technical Annex, p.1. Accessed from: <https://multimedia.iit.it/asset-bank/assetfile/11121.pdf> Last accessed: 31 January 2020.

²⁵⁴ Ibid., p. 7.

to set a group of expert that will draft an AI National Strategy²⁵⁵. According to the call text, National Strategy would address several issues but also “a comprehensive review of the legal framework with specific regard to safety and responsibility related to AI-based products and services”²⁵⁶. It is not clear from this statement whether National Strategy will concentrate on data safety and issues related to liability occurring from AI technologies. There is no other task specified neither for the group nor specified goals for the Strategy regarding regulating data protection and privacy in the field of AI. Since there is no deadline specified for publication of the draft, the situation will be clear in the future.

Italian digital agenda has also been updated in line with the global developments in the AI field consisting of a three-year plan focusing on improving the use of AI services in Public Administration.

The agenda set “the Artificial Intelligence Task Force at the service of citizens”²⁵⁷ under the Agency for Digital Italy (AGID). The Task Force’s first aim was to publish a White Paper in which was published in March 2018. The White Paper focuses on how to make AI useful to serve citizens in the public administration and what are the current obstacles before achieving this goal. The statement indicated that AI-based public services could decrease bureaucracy in public administration, therefore the citizens could save time and money while reaching the regular services. Healthcare, education, environmental protection, inter-administration information sharing, employment, transportation, taxation, and security could be some of the initial fields where AI services would be offered in a close future in Italy. The White Paper mentions the “use of robots to take care of the sick people”²⁵⁸, in line with the current trends in service robots. Italy is ambitious for catching

²⁵⁵ “Artificial intelligence (AI): call for experts”, [Online], Ministry of Economic Development, 14 September 2018. Accessed from: <https://www.sviluppoeconomico.gov.it/index.php/en/news/en/202-news-english/2038605-artificial-intelligence-ai-call-for-experts> Last accessed: 20 November 2019.

²⁵⁶ Ibid.

²⁵⁷ AGID, 2018, p. 16.

²⁵⁸ Ibid., p. 6.

the global trends and leading Europe on developing Humanoid and Companion Robots (in other words, Social Robots), as the group on robotics research stated so²⁵⁹.

The White Paper further examined the ethical aspects of AI, the role of data in AI, and the legal context of AI technologies specific to the Italian case. Possible risks in biased decisions and machine errors concluded the role of data problems. Personal data protection and privacy of citizens using AI-based public services were addressed only in the Legal Context section of the White Paper. We found this statement proper since the White Paper calls public administrators to encourage citizens to personalize their services, meaning that Italian authorities are aware of data protection risks before personalized services. Referring back to the Legal Context, it is clearly stated that collection of citizens' data should not cause pervasive social control and to avoid that, Article 25 Data Protection by Design and by Default, Article 35 Data Protection Impact Assessment, and consent mechanism referred in the GDPR were referred as a solution. , There is no further recommendation was referred to related to personal data protection but this White Paper is the only document evaluating personal data protection aspect such a specific way, in compare to the papers generated in other sample countries' . There is only a general recommendation that would be good to involve related actors involved with AI-based services from projects' pilot phase for ensuring transparency. In this case, we could summarize that the AGID evaluates the GDPR as a sufficient legal solution for the issues related to AI.

To sum up, there are many strategy and policy papers have been published in Italy supporting the technological developments in the AI field, including social robots. Ethics and legal considerations together with personal data protection issues were also involved within these documents.

4. AI and Robotics in the Netherlands

Unlikely Italy and Hungary, several Dutch companies are serving a strong digital infrastructure (processing also a high amount of personal data) such as booking.com, and Viber and the country attracts some of the international companies e.g. Netflix since it has a well-established digital surface for providing cloud services and high-quality

²⁵⁹ The group has already received 138 patents and currently 17 patents have been under procedure. They completed 3 European projects, and are planning to raise these numbers soon by putting some weight on the academic trainings and launching new laboratories.

connectivity²⁶⁰. For many years, ADM systems have been used at tax authorities, police, anti-fraud agency and immigration offices to prevent and predict illegal activities. AI in the Netherlands is a hot topic and regulation of AI technologies also is on the agenda of the Dutch Government. Several initiatives and documents have been raised describing the AI technologies in the Netherlands. We will present some of the important documents addressing the issues related to AI technologies in the following.

In June 2018, the Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy released the Dutch Digitalization Strategy expressing the government's plans on preparing the country for a better digital life. To structure the future of digital life in the Netherlands well, the Dutch government believes that, "privacy protection, cybersecurity, digital skills, and fair competition" should be strengthened²⁶¹. Besides defining clear steps towards the future of digitalization in the Netherlands, the government emphasizes its guarantee of protecting fundamental rights and values, such as privacy. It identifies and recognizes the problem of how do people insufficiently give consent to the companies even though the GDPR is in force²⁶². To solve such issues, the Dutch government stresses the importance of data self-management by data subjects which would feed the trustworthiness of the digital systems. According to this view, data subjects should be able to exercise their rights granted in the GDPR fully, and data controllers and processors should know their responsibilities. For example, in the eye of the Dutch government, companies also have an important responsibility to increase the trust of people towards their AI-based products. Finally, the paper evaluates the transparency rule, not from the data protection point of view directly, but the consumer's rights point of view. According to the paper, users of AI technologies should always be ensured with their right to know whom to contact in case there is a problem with the purchased product.

Another way of strengthening privacy protection, in the eye of the Dutch government, is to "work with the people concerned on practical framework and solutions."²⁶³ Since the strategy paper released, the government took tangible steps to fulfill this statement. For

²⁶⁰ Dutch Digitalisation Strategy, 2018, p. 16.

²⁶¹ Ibid., p.8.

²⁶² Ibid., p. 40.

²⁶³ Ibid., p. 13.

example, AI Coalition in the Netherlands was launched on the 8th of October 2019 with 65 partners including companies, governments, civil society organizations, and universities. The Coalition's first aim is to catch up with the US, China, and other AI leading countries in the AI investment and make the Netherlands an AI-forerunner in Europe. This Coalition adopts the "AI for everyone" slogan, meaning that human is placed in the center of AI developments in the Netherlands²⁶⁴. Another way of boosting privacy-friendly digitalization is by investing in more interdisciplinary researches, as the Government believes. In this way, more knowledge could be created which then could reinforce better policymaking. Education and life-long learning are also an integrated element of a healthy digital environment²⁶⁵. Boosting interdisciplinary researches and life-long learning strategies are also some of the solutions we will refer at the end of this work. During our research, we realized that the Dutch government and its organs are highly coordinated in regulating AI technology in the country.

In November 2018, the AI for the Netherlands report²⁶⁶ was prepared by several public and private contributors such as the Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research and the Innovation Center for Artificial Intelligence. Some resources²⁶⁷ call this report as a Dutch National AI Strategy, but since it is not announced by the Dutch Government and the English translation of the foreword explicitly states that the report was prepared as "a booster of a national AI strategy" we believe that it could not be fully understood as a national strategy. However, the work draws a comprehensive picture of the Netherlands' position in the world in terms of AI technologies and highlights some solutions to bring the country up to the level of AI-developed countries.

There are two important AI-related organizations in the Netherlands we would like to mention. Innovation Center for Artificial Intelligence is an initiative involving industry, academia, and the government that aims to boost AI knowledge to contribute innovation

²⁶⁴ "AI coalition wants algorithms to work for everyone", [Online], Eindhoven University of Technology, 9 October 2019 Accessed from: <https://www.tue.nl/en/news/news-overview/09-10-2019-ai-coalitie-streeft-naar-algoritmen-voor-iedereen/> Last accessed: 10 October 2019.

²⁶⁵ Dutch Digitalisation Strategy, p. 30.

²⁶⁶ AGID, 2018.

²⁶⁷ "AINED: A National AI Strategy for the Netherlands is Published", [Online], Amsterdam Data Science, 12 November 2018. Accessed from: <https://amsterdamdatascience.nl/news/ained-a-national-ai-strategy-for-the-netherlands-is-published/> Last accessed: 28 January 2020.

and development in the AI field in the Netherlands. The initiative was brought by the University of Amsterdam and Vrije Universiteit. There are nine labs available to produce such knowledge in four Dutch cities namely, Amsterdam, Delft, Nijmegen, and Utrecht. All the labs are established with the support of the stakeholders from industrial leaders (e.g. Bosch, Qualcomm, ING) to the leading universities in those four cities, and also government actors such as National Police. Each lab focuses on different sectors, such as healthcare, retail, financial, education, and national security²⁶⁸. The Center hosts some of the important researches focusing on developing AI knowledge and contributing to the national AI development.

The second important organization is the Alliance for Artificial Intelligence (ALLAI) that was organized by the three Dutch members of the EU's HLEGAI to spread the idea of creating responsible AI in every aspect of human life²⁶⁹. ALLAI now offers a Responsible AI Program consisting of different modules focusing on different aspects of AI implementation on human and social life. These modules include different aspects for example, technical, societal, ethical aspects of AI or AI-centric policymaking, but for us, the most significant part of these modules is their focus on separating the ethical aspect and legal aspect of AI from each other. Since our research experiences show that especially industry but also academia intertwine law and ethics in the case of AI, ALLAI's approach stands as a unique approach.

Specific to the robotics in the Netherlands, there are different types of robots have been developed in several sectors such as health-care, industry, safety, food and agriculture, and consumer fields²⁷⁰. Social robots have mostly been planned for the healthcare sector however, creating robots for personal use not yet an issue in the Netherlands, but is a

²⁶⁸ The Innovation Center for Artificial Intelligence official website. Accessed from: <https://icai.ai> Last accessed: 28 January 2020.

²⁶⁹ Alliance on Artificial Intelligence official website. Accessed from: <https://allai.nl> Last accessed: 28 January 2020.

²⁷⁰ Robotics in the Netherlands, n.d., p. 8. Shadana Innovation Management and Consultancy report prepared for the State Agency for Enterprising [Online]. Accessible here: <https://www.araneo-magna.nl/images/pdfs/Robotics-in-the-Netherlandsfinal.pdf>

planned action according to the Dutch Digitalisation Strategy²⁷¹. From universities²⁷² to private companies²⁷³, several labs and projects are focusing on developing social robots.

All in all, we could indicate that there are many AI-related cooperation and collaboration opportunities available in the Netherlands. Dutch academy and industry keen on the possibilities contributing to AI developments in the country. First of all, Dutch universities are the engine behind the AI knowledge in the country. Many Universities either alone or jointly with others improve the Netherlands' AI knowledge hub. The industry supports AI-related initiatives and public institutions connect the AI-related communities. It is worth mentioning that the Dutch government is cautious about the full application of algorithmic decision-making systems in the Netherlands giving as a reason that the rules in the GDPR remain general to regulate such a specific field. The Ministry of Interior and Kingdom Relations coordinates several departments on reporting the possible issues arising from this fact and we believe that there soon will be an AI regulation in the Netherlands, including a data protection section. Currently, the Dutch Data Protection Authority announced²⁷⁴ that until 2023, there will be a risk-based supervision launch on AI services offered by the companies based on the amount and a type of data they process. The Authority also will offer supervisory instruments, such as an interpretation of standards, legislative advices, information or enforcement to the companies and public institutions offering AI-based services. Although the year 2023 might be too late for such a supervision, especially taking into account the country's ambition on developing AI based services.

5. AI and Robotics in Finland

Finland made one of the first statements in the EU on making AI technologies an integral part of the country's development strategy. In March 2017, Finland launched the Artificial

²⁷¹ Ibid., p11.

²⁷² For example, Eindhoven University of Technology operates a Social Robotics Lab; Tilburg University hosts a department of Social Robotics and Language Development.

²⁷³ LEO - Center for Service Robotics Official website. Accessed from: <http://www.leorobotics.nl/> Last accessed: 28 January 2020.

²⁷⁴ "AP legt focus in toezicht op datahandel, digitale overheid en AI", [Online], Autoriteit Persoonsgegevens, 11 November 2019. Accessed from: <https://www.autoriteitpersoonsgegevens.nl/nl/nieuws/ap-legt-focus-toezicht-op-datahandel-digitale-overheid-en-ai> Last accessed: 25 November 2019, thanks to Mr. Paul Severens for drawing our attention to this information.

Intelligence Program under the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment of Finland. The related Minister immediately formed an “AI working group” with four specific subgroups that comprehensively evaluated Finland’s AI readiness, the problems, strengths, and weaknesses in adopting AI technologies. The subgroups were formed under four thematic areas, namely, Competence and Innovations, Transformation of Society and Work, Data and Platform economy, and the Ethics group. Comparing to Italy, Hungary, and the Netherlands, Finland has the only ethics group evaluating the AI technologies from this specific point of view, including privacy.

AI working group made the first evaluation on AI status in Finland and released the first AI strategy paper that concluding eight statements reflecting Finland’s roadmap to make the country leading in Europe. Later on, in 2019, the eight statements were updated and increased to eleven statements. The strategy reflects Finland’s positive evaluation of AI technologies to be used at businesses, the public sector, for citizens and society²⁷⁵. It is at the utmost importance for Finland to take the opportunity of AI technologies in the industry which then could contribute growing the country's export²⁷⁶. However, citizens’ and society’s involvement with AI was also emphasized. For example, it was stated that every Finn’s daily life will be surrounded by (an ethical and open) AI technologies within the five years²⁷⁷, and this will be most probably in the health care sector.²⁷⁸ Besides the health-care, education and transportation together with energy and security will be AI-focus planned services for the citizens and society.

The Finnish approach to AI is not only software-based; it also includes robotics as an important part of AI. Although no specific mention was made on social robots²⁷⁹, the strategy paper released a plan for developing robots to facilitate better wellbeing for the

²⁷⁵ FMEAE, 2017, p. 13.

²⁷⁶ Ibid., p. 23.

²⁷⁷ Ibid., p. 14.

²⁷⁸ Ibid., p. 24.

²⁷⁹ Although social robots in Finnish society have not yet taken full space, there are some pilot projects engaging them in their life. For example, a humanoid social robot appeared at some schools in Tampere as a language and a math teacher assistant in frame of a pilot project. “Techno teachers: Finnish school trials robot educators”, [Online], Reuters, 27 March 2018. Accessed from: <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-finland-school-robots/techno-teachers-finnish-school-trials-robot-educators-idUSKBN1H31XT>. Last accessed: 1 February 2020.

people in Finland. Also, a note was made on using robotics in the service sector, and health care services mentioning the top priority²⁸⁰.

The AI working group reported that the adoption of AI-based services by the citizens could be easier in Finland since the population in Finland holds a high level of education including a high level availability of AI education in the country²⁸¹. There are empirical works supporting this prediction, for example, a study reports that social robots could be an opportunity for people in Finland to continue their independent life and indicates that half of the citizens in Finland would accept a care robot assisting them in daily routine activities²⁸². According to the panel discussions launched by the authors, citizens expect to “be informed and educated on robotics-related matters before the larger introduction of care robots in care services”, among the other expectations.²⁸³ The working group also highlighted the importance of the principles of transparency and accountability as aspects of forming a good AI society²⁸⁴. Remarkably, it was noted that the principles mean different to all actors in the AI field, from companies to citizens, requiring to making a uniform definition for the principles. This statement shows the importance of having a national strategy to define the terms and targets clearly, being in a specific field like data protection or protection of human rights in general. Finland has a distinctive status from this point of view.

Finally, as noted before, the Finnish strategy concluded eight recommendations of the working group for leading Finland an AI leading country. One of those recommendations was regarded as the ethics and AI key action noting the impossibility to solve the ethical questions completely, but the importance of collecting the different viewpoints, including citizens’ opinions for a start²⁸⁵. With this vision in mind, the Final Report of Finland’s

²⁸⁰ FMEAE, p. 27.

²⁸¹ Ibid., p. 32.

²⁸² ROSE consortium, 2017, p. 14.

²⁸³ Ibid. p. 28

²⁸⁴ FMEAE, p. 40.

²⁸⁵ Ibid., p. 60.

Artificial Intelligence Programme that was released in 2019 brought a more comprehensive and deeper analysis of the case.

The Final Report started with some of the sample companies operating in Finland and developing AI basis services from transportation and carriage, to customer services, and innovation. Since the first report, the Ministry of Economic Affairs launched Finland's Artificial Intelligence Accelerator project aiming to assist companies with a specific portfolio to guide them²⁸⁶. With the help of this project, it was possible to see in what fields AI is operating; for example, a company collecting a large amount of data on consumers' shopping habits and turns it into a recipe recommendation service, besides recommending foods for the next shopping. An informative box placed in the final report²⁸⁷ does not mention much about how the company protects the privacy of consumers in the subject.

In the Final Report's next sections, evaluation of each key action that was originally drafted in the first report was presented. Data and personal data were one of the topics mentioned in each action, for example, enabling access to data held by different actors was being planned, but also was noted that rules for accessing and secondary using that data should be clarified²⁸⁸. The report also noted that there were specific acts enacted for specific government services processing personal data (e.g. the Koski service operated by the Finnish National Agency for Education to trace students' qualifications and achievements) and consent management to ensure the legal operation of the service²⁸⁹. However, legislation is not the only action taken in Finland to strengthen the protection of personal data and privacy. There are practical steps taken by the Finnish government and to our knowledge, there is no such an example encountered in Italy, Hungary and the Netherlands. The first International NGO for data protection called MyData Global established under the Ministry of Transport and Communications to promote an individual's autonomy to manage their data. The organization has its roots back in 2018 as the initiation of a couple of individuals aiming to promote informational self-determination

²⁸⁶ There are 29 companies joining the project as of 1 February 2020. Accessed from: <https://faia.fi> Last accessed: 1 February 2020.

²⁸⁷ FMEAE, 2019, p. 40.

²⁸⁸ Ibid., p. 52.

²⁸⁹ Ibid., p. 57.

principles throughout the globe. An electronic tool called MyData aims to help individuals to manage their data in the connected world based on the principles also referred to in the GDPR, but primarily on consent management²⁹⁰. It is also an API that companies can use to access datasets in one platform without violating the right to data protection²⁹¹. These tangible developments differ in Finland from the other three countries subjected to analysis in this work.

The last observation regarding the Finnish approach to AI and personal data protection could be made in the last report which replaced the ethics key action as indicated in the previous report to steering AI development into a trust-based and human-centered direction key action²⁹². During the past two years following the first report, many works have done to identify the challenges regarding ethics and human rights protection specific to AI development in Finland. For example, discussions took place with Finnish organizations, an evaluation was made on public sector activities and consultations were made with the HLEG. But the most important action, in line with the suggestions made at the end of this work, was launching the online public course²⁹³ with the accommodation of the University of Helsinki focusing on teaching and raising awareness on ethics, rights, and responsibilities of the people specific to AI. This online course platform transfers a high level of technical and legal information specific to AI simply and engagingly. The platform is also available in English.

Finnish example clearly reflects that much more could be done with simple and practical actions rather than focusing on the codification of formal rules and principles in legislation. However, to do that, it is important to identify what exact areas do the legislation leaves a room for simple and practical actions for the actors engaging with AI.

²⁹⁰ Finnish Ministry of Transport and Communications, “MyData: A Nordic Model for human-centered personal data management and processing” [Online] Accessed from: <http://julkaisut.valtioneuvosto.fi/bitstream/handle/10024/78439/MyData-nordic-model.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y> Last accessed: 1 February 2020.

²⁹¹ p.11

²⁹² FMEAE, p. 102.

²⁹³ See: <https://course.elementsofai.com> Last accessed: 1 February 2020.

6. Summary

Above-presented descriptive analysis on the EU and four sampling countries specific in terms of their level of development in the AI and robotics shows that, although the countries are in different level in investment and regulation of AI, a certain degree of presence of the technology and wishes to regulate was noted. Finland, both in technology and regulation is leading among the other sample countries that followed by the Netherlands. Italy has shown efforts to catch up with the other Western EU countries. Hungary crawls around developing the structural and financial necessities to raise the level of investments and researches, however, there is no attempt noted in regulation. In this case, this work represents feedbacks of those experts from the EU MS acting differently in terms of investment, research, and regulation of AI technologies. Following, the problems related to the applications of the GDPR on robots will be presented as a result of the comprehensive literature analysis conducted both in the legal and technical literature.

V. HSR and Data Protection: Problem Statement

People today share their calendars, emails, text messages, call logs, personal documents, browser histories, financial data, location data and many more with machines. They are very generous about sharing their issues with machines instead of a human without knowing that what they share with machines could easily (and at certain speed) reach to indefinite places and persons. Big data, data mining facilities, and easily accessible personal data remove the obstacles standing in the way of social robot's data collection. Some numbers could help us to understand how uncontrollable it is to spread and manage data today. IDC analysts predict 33 zettabytes of data in 2018 and 175 zettabytes of data in 2025 will be available in data storage such as cloud, smartphones, IoTs, or cell towers. If one has a mobile phone with capability of 64 gigabytes local storage, and if all of it is to be used, it is possible to imagine how many pictures, documents, videos, or voice record is enough to fulfill only 64 gigabyte, and how much of such data is needed for fulfilling 33 zettabyte²⁹⁴. In addition to voluntarily data share, the internet and social media grow every day with the help of personal data and become a treasure chest for the development of the AI technologies, as well as becomes a meeting point for data exchange of connected devices. Robots, in the end, could collect data from other robots of IoT devices which have suddenly boomed for personal service at homes, at cities, at work, and in other public spaces.

The life-force of the robots, their blood is without a doubt, data. With the power of data, a social robot can see, hear, understand²⁹⁵, learn, plan, reason, negotiate to solve problems²⁹⁶, recognize voices and faces, process languages, make decisions, guide its interaction with a human²⁹⁷ socially and emotionally, shortly, simulate human. The source of such data could be both based on the data related to past activities of the users or data based on real-time

²⁹⁴ Reinsel, Gantz and Rydning, 2018, p.3.

²⁹⁵ Microsoft, p. 32.

²⁹⁶ Open source code developed by Facebook's Artificial Intelligence Research labs was evaluated as "an important step for the research community and bot developers toward creating chatbots that can reason, converse, and negotiate". Available at: <https://code.fb.com/ml-applications/deal-or-no-deal-training-ai-bots-to-negotiate/> Last accessed: 18 October 2019.

²⁹⁷ Kamarinou, Millard and Singh, 2016, p.6.

activities of the users such as their weblogs²⁹⁸. Advanced hardware equipment supports direct data collection from the robot's environment. Robotic eyes that are supported with High-Definition cameras help them to analyze its environment visually. Mouth (speaker), ears (microphones), and other physical pieces (arms, legs, head, etc.) could enhance the robot's environmental perception and interaction. In addition to physical equipment, their computation capacity paves the way to make abstractions from the big amount of data to make it meaningful and easy to process within seconds²⁹⁹. A social robot may collect different types of data (personal data and special categories of personal data) such as biometric data, location data, voice and images, health and medical data, conversations,³⁰⁰ opinions, emotional expressions, and more, at once. As a result, a social robot can collect, process, organize and store data and it could do so promptly. It would not be wrong to say that the AI is on the peak of its evolution as we currently understand it and it owes this to data.

Bearing in mind all the above statements, a robot could collect personal data from:

- Internet or devices that it connects through the internet,
- Oral communication such as questions and requests or conversations,
- Through its hardware and sensors with the help of its analyzing capability of human behaviors, or other devices attached to the robot, such as IoT devices.

In conclusion, it is safe to state that, any data from any resource could be a part of algorithmic-decision making and the next section will present what types of personal data are protected by the GDPR. Then, what specific type of personal data a social robot could process different from other technologies, so questions should be placed in.

Section 1. Conceptualization of the Problems Based on the Definitions in the GDPR

This section is going to present the primary relationship between AI and GDPR based on the basic definitions and rules referred to in the GDPR. Without presenting this

²⁹⁸ Alpaydin, p. 13.

²⁹⁹ Li, X., Jiang, H., p.383.

³⁰⁰ Kerr, 20015, p.8.

relationship, our analysis would be structurally incomplete since the main aim of this section is to prove how personal data becomes the main element of AI technologies from the data processing, profiling, and ADM, and actors involved in the processing point of view. The secondary relationship will be presented in Section B where we analyze the possible issues regarding practicing consent rule.

1.1. Personal Data in the GDPR

Regarding the types of personal data, a social robot could process, there is no list we could concretely present here; since no data is left without being processed in terms of current technologies (for example, anyone and anyhow makes a benefit from the Big Data). A type of data referred to in this statement is law specific, which is based on the definition of personal data referred to in the GDPR (however, there is no limit in here either, as we will prove soon). The definition of personal data in GDPR comprehensively refers to all those types and forms of data a social robot could process. Article 4 of the GDPR defines all the terms used and starts with the definition of personal data, which is “any information relating to an identified or identifiable natural person (‘data subject’); an identifiable natural person is one who can be identified, directly or indirectly, in particular by reference to an identifier such as a name, an identification number, location data, an online identifier or to one or more factors specific to the physical, physiological, genetic, mental, economic, cultural or social identity of that natural person”. The EU lawmaker makes specific definitions for certain types of data, which was called sensitive data in the Directive 95/46/EC and special categories of personal data in the GDPR Article 9 (1), in order not to leave any room for misunderstanding or misapplication. These types of data are, genetic data, biometric data, and data concerning health, all are safeguarded in a more specific way in

the GDPR. If the data subjected to the processing activity is sensitive, the data controller³⁰¹ is not allowed to process without, for example, explicit consent of the data subject³⁰².

According to the GDPR, emotions, financial status, physical appearance, data related to personal health condition, biological and physiological data, and processing of any other type of data fall under the scope of the GDPR. It is evidential, that all the data introduced to a social robot could be personal data or collect data that could be transformed into personal data³⁰³ or could be easily linked to personal data. Moreover, AI is capable of combining several personal data easily and create sensitive data out of it. AI could easily guess people's religion, which is sensitive data in the frame of the GDPR, from people's online food or cloth choices.³⁰⁴ AI could very easily understand someone's religion only by processing their pictures (e.g. woman in a scarf, a man wearing a kippah). For example, AI could make an abstract estimation about a person with stuttering (or a different kind of speech disorder) during the interaction, if the machine has a speech-recognition function. However, what if the initial purpose of the algorithm was not identifying such disorders? Finding out whether a robot is processing data for the purposes that it was created for is not an easy task, as Rhoen and Feng indicates, that "it is impossible for data subjects, data controllers and national supervisory authorities" to detect the outcome of a data processing activity that may not be intended directly by the programmer, but has happened because of the algorithm's ability to reach sensitive data by combining a couple of personal data.

Another example could help us to explain how algorithms may not remain within the borders of a single purpose when there is sensitive data to be processed, for example, biometric data is subjected to the collection and processing by a social health care robot. Štītīlis and Laurinaitis define two major biometric categories that a robot could perceive easily: physical and physiological data such as iris, ear shape, face, and palm outline, and

³⁰¹ According to the GDPR, there is no difference between a natural person and legal persons by means of obligations and responsibilities as a data controller. The definition refers the data controllers as "the natural or legal person (emphasis added) alone or jointly with others, determines the purposes and means of the processing of personal data; where the purposes and means of such processing are determined by Union or Member State law, the controller or the specific criteria for its nomination may be provided for by Union or Member State law".

³⁰² There are several occasions in which the data controllers could be allowed to process specific personal data. We excluded the other conditions since this work focuses only on consent obligations.

³⁰³ Karyda, et. al., 2009, p. 201.

³⁰⁴ Rhoen and Feng, p. 147.

data related to behaviors such as person's signature and keystroke patterns³⁰⁵. Data such as face and voice, ear shape, fingerprint, palm, etc., are being used initially for identification purposes since they do not change and do have a distinctive character, and ensures time and cost efficiency. If someone's biometric picture is registered in a certain system, that person can be identified by other systems using biometric data processing techniques. While this example is still applicable for the case of shared databases, we consider the possibilities of a single personal social robot collecting such physiological and psychological data to adjust itself according to the user's personality. In this case, for example, voice of the user being used for authentication could be indeed processed for predicting whether the user caught a cold without explicitly indicated before.

Finally, since we used the term algorithm several times previously, we would like to explain the algorithm and its relation with the personal data processing Algorithm could be defined as "a series of instructions for performing a calculation or solving a problem, especially with a computer³⁰⁶". The instructions are applied automatically on available data to conclude. These instructions could be bits of codes written by human developers, or as it is the case in a demanded future, could be simulated by the machine itself. Algorithms value any data regardless of it seems useless to some³⁰⁷, and it does not matter what type of data is subjected to the evaluation. Types of data only matter in case of legal applications (personal data-specific categories). As much as the algorithm is developed, a social robot could make broader interpretations counted almost equal to (or even better human) evaluations. Millions of examples used for training the algorithms with specific ML techniques process any type of data without differing between data categories defined in any legislation.

A social robot collecting personal data that is being evaluated in an advanced algorithm with ML capabilities could offer personalized services to its users. There is no doubt that people wish to leave certain works at the hands of robots to have more free time today³⁰⁸.

³⁰⁵ Štivilis and Laurinaitis, 2017, p. 619.

³⁰⁶ House of Loeds, 2018, p. 14.

³⁰⁷ van den Hoven van Genderen, 2017, p. 12.

³⁰⁸ Eurobarometer, 2015, p. 4.

They wish to have a better life, a healthier life³⁰⁹, and they know that it is possible with robots with AI. However, the above given examples proved that it may not always be possible to put some clear borders on data processing activities in AI systems. Data subjects may not always be aware of the risks (that were presented above and will be presented below more) behind the processing of their data, and one reason for that might be the deceptive trust that data subjects put in social robots.

1.2. Data Disclosures

During the making of this research, it was obvious for us to conclude that the social robots differ from others because they can interact with a human in every way which leads them sharing data with robots in every way. Although there are discussions among the researchers (especially, the members of social sciences) claiming that AI cannot outperform human, because it will never be like a human, “AI itself claims that it can behave similarly to persons/human” by creating “machines with mind”³¹⁰, which may create misperception towards social robots simulating human. As a consequence, humans may trust robots which are the key for data controllers to enter into even the most private spaces, such as, homes, and manage their life without being aware of the consequence of this invitation. Once they enter homes, an endless HRI may cause unintentional data

³⁰⁹ Indeed, privacy risks are not limited to social robots. For example, Fosch-Villaronga et.al (2018, p. 113) gives the exoskeleton example, which the workers wear for operating the robot that they could execute their job better, but also cause collection of workers’ personal data and profiling the worker. While a worker would interact with the robot only within work-related purposes, the collection of workers’ health-related data is also possible. Once again, the choice of a social robot in this work is the sample and is the way of specifying the scope of this work.

³¹⁰ Nath and Sahu, 2017, p. 2202.

disclosures³¹¹ both by the user and the others sharing home. Trust³¹² is indeed necessary for people to accept and use AI³¹³, but not in this way.

Privacy is not a specific issue with robots since problems related to privacy and the use of technology already are on the table with the existed technologies³¹⁴ which we also do believe so. However, what makes the social robots more dangerous in terms of data processing is the risk of “false polarization between human-human and human-robot interactions” which is a result of “verbal, empathic and linguistic responsiveness” leading people to share emotions, opinions, views, in short, any personal information³¹⁵. Interacting with a robot at the level of emotion, on the other hand, might be a precondition of receiving more personal services. It is all true, that a social robot should know more and more about the person who is being served, make empathy with him and understand him completely in terms of human needs³¹⁶. In this one-way relationship, it is the human who falsely perceives a robot as a human³¹⁷ in which, as a result, cause human to disclose any personal issues with a machine. Anthropomorphized machines just encourage people to share more by making them forget the fact that what is shared is recorded and processed by the machines.

³¹¹ Actually, in some cases, a constant HRI might be very useful for, e.g., treatment of dementia. As long as human spends time with the interaction, treatment will be more successful. However, the danger, in this case, is about integrating robots in people’s daily life so seamlessly that they cannot even realize what they share with robots.

Ibid., p. 2201.

See also, Fosch-Villaronga, 2018, p. 101-105.

³¹² Trust is a psychological necessity for human and there might be many reasons why human trusts robot as LaRosa and Danks group the reasons into three categories. A human may trust a robot just because of the roles defined for it (role-based trust). A health-care robot, just like doctors, could be found trust-worthy just because they receive good care from the robot. Behavioral trust occurs, when, for example, a home robot does take care of the home well, and executes all the tasks without or with a few mistakes would gain the trust of users. Finally, a human may trust a robot just because it could predict its actions (understanding trust). Unpredictability is not questioned in this case, and we think that this type of trust should exist between social robots and data subjects. Humanoid look, in each category, plays a crucial role in building trust that leaves the data subject in an uncanny valley. La Rosa and Dank, 2018, p. 211.

³¹³ European Commission, 2018, p. 8.

³¹⁴ Bisconti Lucidi and Nardi, 2018, p. 6.

³¹⁵ Ibid., p. 18.

³¹⁶ Fosch-Villaronga, 2017, p. 254.

³¹⁷ Bisconti Lucidi and Nardi, p. 20.

HRI and friendship-alike relationships between human and a robot might be one of the preconditions for people to raise the quality of their life³¹⁸. Graaf highlights several aspects of human-robot relationships, by stating that, “Robots embedded with sociable interaction features, such as familiar human-like gestures or facial expressions in their designs, are likely to further encourage people to interact socially with those robots in a fundamentally unique way”³¹⁹, however, we do not yet know the frontiers of this unique relationship. Robots engage people with their social cues, as it happens yet only between humans. Emerging researches in the field of robotics show that not only HRI but RRI is also possible and might even be demanded by the industry³²⁰. In this way, a robot could learn from a robot e.g. to recognize an object or to adapt the user’s personality. This case particularly raises a question on the limit of many cases where robots interact with each other and share personal data. As a result, more uncontrolled way of data processing should be expected, but we exclude RRI since we focus on human as a data subject (robot as a data subject might be an idea for far future, but the work which discusses robot consent³²¹ shows that there are researches who think about the far future from now). Before becoming *homo informaticus*³²², people interacting robots are data subjects whose rights and freedoms should be ensured in an integrated way in the frame of the EU’s data protection law.

The last observation we made during this research is regarding the possible emotional bond a vulnerable group may establish with a robot, leading them to disclose more information. It is expected that there would be more people aged 60 or more, than people aged between 10 and 24 by 2050 in the world. Eldercare, in parallel with this fact, maybe of the greatest importance for the young population who is also the work-force within the society. Leaving the cultural and ethical issues aside, social robots could play an important

³¹⁸ de Graaf, p. 590.

³¹⁹ Ibid., p. 592.

³²⁰ Google, Methods and systems for robot personality development, p. 13.

³²¹ Frank and Nyholm, 2017.

³²² Trimmel, 2017, p. 1. Trimmel uses the term for conceptualizing the future’s human-robot integration in possible several ways, such as human acting as a computer subsystem, but the concept involves also some current facts appearing as a result of human-robot interaction. Developing an altered social interaction and carrying a risk of problematic technology usage or even technology addiction, together with having some technology competences are some of the indications for being as *homo informaticus*.

role to balance elder care and would be the catalyzer of the non-disrupted workforce because of this reason. Social robots could eliminate discrimination against elders which happens because of a lack of resources in general, and ensure that they get the proper care. Indeed, elders want to live an independent life with the help of robots who could manage their daily needs at home. However, as the research shows, they concern about their data protection and privacy rights most³²³. These groups indeed need a particular attention when designing robots specifically to serve them based on their vulnerability (will also be analyzed in detail in the Section 2).

1.3. Social Robots and the GDPR

In the previous paragraphs, we explained how AI in general and a social robot in specific could drain big amounts and different types of personal data to make meaningful outputs. In line with the GDPR's related Article 4 (4) referring to Profiling and Article 22 referring to algorithmic decision making, data processing activities and the outputs based on these actives may raise some further infringements on data subjects' (who might either be users or only around robots) data protection right. We will first analyze the risks specific to the mentioned Articles, and then further refer to general issues arising based on profiling and ADM.

1.3.1. Profiling

“Big data, machine learning and artificial intelligence (AI) are enabling profitable commercial opportunities and social benefits through profiling and automated decisions”³²⁴

Under the Article 4 (4) of the GDPR, profiling means “any form of automated processing of personal data consisting of the use of personal data to evaluate certain personal aspects relating to a natural person, in particular, to analyze or predict aspects concerning that

³²³ Zimmermann, Ableitner and Strobbe, 2017, p.452.

³²⁴ ITU, 2018, p. 16.

natural person's performance at work, economic situation, health, personal preferences, interests, reliability, behavior, location or movements". While the definition highlights the processing and use of personal data to deliver personal services, it is essential to make the connection between the definition of profiling and social robots.

In principle, profiling should be targeting a natural person, according to the definition. Personal social robots at household use cannot be imagined without the profiling of a natural person to deliver personal services, as indicated several times before. Robots should be able to understand the complexity of humans by categorizing their several different behaviors and needs, even at the most sensitive level. The use of profiling appears as it could generate information about people's personality, attributes, behaviors, interests, or identity, and in scoring or ranking these elements to assist decision-makers³²⁵ or to the data subjects using robots at households.

The consequences of profiling may be unexpected outside of the purpose of delivering the necessary services or assistance to the users. For example, an algorithm may generate such an output discovering the data subjects' vulnerabilities even without knowing. Based on the new information extracted from profiling, a social robot could "act" itself, out of the knowledge of the users which is sometimes in a positive, but sometimes in a dangerous way. A robot being operated at a household could help the users in emergency cases by transferring an SOS message to a hospital's emergency department based on their profile and the actual measures at hand (e.g., low or blood pressure, slow inhalation, etc.) together with their medical history. Such a service could save users or other participants living in households. However, there are always risks besides very useful tasks a robot is assigned for. To illustrate, we could refer to the several ML techniques we have described previously. Most of the AI services are being evolved with real-time data today, making the use of past data less observable in this case. Profiling contributes and develops this "living organism" by entrusting real-time personal data flow. More living data brings more new decisions that could change the main purposes of the algorithm. Data subject's explicit consent is one of the exceptions for Article 4 which realizes the fact that obtaining data

³²⁵ "Data Is Power: Profiling and Automated Decision-Making in GDPR", [Online], Privacy International, 2017 Accessible from: <https://privacyinternational.org/sites/default/files/2018-04> Last accessed: 10 January 2020.

subjects' consent for once (at the beginning of data processing) is unfair, but also may not be possible, for future data processing activities.

1.3.2. Profiling Potential Data Subjects

A social robot at personal use would not only observe the main user's data, but also others' data around the user, e.g., family members and friends. Tucker calls this issue the "group privacy problem"³²⁶, that we specifically analyzed in this work from the aspect of joint controllership. A HSR would first be profiling its main user but profiling others at the households is unavoidable. On one hand, such comprehensive profiling could be necessary to better serve the users and might even be demanded. On the other hand, the data spillover effect may interfere with other people's right to data protection. For example, people's pictures and voices might be collected during the AI-user interaction and might be processed firstly for a significant purpose. However, as a result of constant interaction which leads the robot to collect more information about the others, different outputs may be reached based on processing a bigger amount of data. Another significant example was given by Tucker referring to the ML techniques unintentionally but successfully finding the relationship between people with the same or similar categories based only on their genetic data, therefore causing a spillover effect. Similarly, an AI can use any digital data retrospectively even though the data subject does not remember the reason for its creation and processing activity may cause disclosure of data of persons other than the data subjects, causing data persistence³²⁷. For example, a picture of a user with her or her friends published a year ago on Facebook might be processed, and technically there is no obstacle to make it. Besides the ML techniques, robot's personalization (which occurs on an ongoing basis) raises serious risks to the protection of other's personal data. For example, a robot could access user's e-mails, text messages or calendars to understand the user better. It could easily find out what kind of and how much deep relationship does the user have with particular groups of people (family, friends, professional network, etc.). To analyze this relationship, a robot must examine others' profiles and place them within groups. Such a problem has never been addressed by any of the EU documents yet. We

³²⁶ Tucker, 2019, p. 427.

³²⁷ Ibid., p. 430.

also adopt the data spillover effect as it is the source for a robot to get to know its user better. Finally, personal data could be processed for another purpose than it was originally collected, because it can discover correlations between the data at hand. For example, an AI algorithm that could successfully guess the data subjects' sexual preferences from their pictures on a dating website³²⁸ could show how data about a user could be generated out of his knowledge and also for another purpose than the original purpose. Those who were subject to this work surely did not publish their data on a dating website for their sexual preferences to be identified. We will continue presenting the possible outcomes of robots to collect the uncontrolled amount of data uncontrollably once they could put a meaning over that data and reach a conclusion about it.

If a social robot at households would interact with other persons around the main user, what risks may appear with this interaction? For example, Syrdal et al³²⁹ refer to the possibility of robots to disclose data "intentionally" based on the experiment they carried out. The experiment was based on a scenario, in which a robot was placed between two people having a conversation about their daily life issues. During their conversation, the robot reveals information about the experimenter's (the user) sleeping and cleaning routine which were evaluated by the participants as quite disturbing. One could imagine what kind of other information the robot could reveal about the user. For example, it could reveal information about the user's health situation the user would not like to disclose anyone even though there could be reasonable explanations behind this. Such interferences raised by the machines that are not protected by the GDPR will be the focus of this research. In such cases, the question of whether data subjects could easily exercise their right to not to be subject of an ADM shall be analyzed.

1.3.3. Automated decision-making

Article 22 of the GDPR entrusts data subjects the "right to not to be subject to a decision based solely on automated processing, including profiling, which produces legal effects

³²⁸ "Artificial Intelligence Can Identify Gay Faces from a Picture, Study Claims", [Online], Aatif Suleyman, 2017, The Independent. Accessible from: <http://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/gadgets-and-tech/news/ai-gay-faces-facial-recognition-study-claims-artificial-intelligence-a7936851.html>. Last accessed: 11 November 2018.

³²⁹ Syrdal, et. al., 2007, pp. 28-33.

concerning him or her or similarly significantly affects him or her” unless such a decision is legally permitted or is a result of an action based on a legal permission such as explicit consent. In cases where automated decision making is permissible (specifically through explicit consent), the data controller should ensure data subjects to request human intervention, raise an objection, and express their own opinion related to the decision. For the decisions made by processing activity based on a single or several special categories of personal data (such as data related to health, or biometric data), the data controller must ensure data subjects’ rights and freedoms are safeguarded. Since Article 22 of the GDPR also includes ADM based on profiling, the two terms are much related to the concept of the GDPR. Recital 71 of the GDPR states that data subjects have a right not to be subject to decisions made or measures are taken which significantly affects them and as a result of the solely automatic data processing activity. Such decisions are already made often in our daily lives without feeling its significance or without having a chance to evaluate whether they significantly affect us.

Let’s take the example of marketing messages delivered by social media tools in a variety of ways almost every day and on our devices. Facebook ads, for example, are a result of ADM delivering tailor-made advertisements based on our search history, private messages (through its Messenger service), and use this information to manipulate people. The famous Brexit and Trump elections would not be successful without profiling people and generate persuasive messages to the targeted voters (although none of them was consented for delivering such messages). Maybe, no human was involved during profiling and on the decisions, Facebook’s algorithm made. No human practically could control or monitor what and how Facebook’s algorithm decides to place a personal ad on people’s screens. Article 22 might still be applicable, but might not be possible, since no one truly could prove the significant (and legal) consequences of Trump’s election or the advertisements they receive on their personal lives.

On the other hand, there are known-situations when the decision made by an algorithm affected an individual’s life. As the following example will show, it is a very problematic procedure to correct back the output of the algorithm. The Swedish Public Employment Service denied some of 70 thousand unemployed people to access government benefits,

cost around 75 million EUR between 2018 and 2019³³⁰. The decision was based on an algorithm checking the beneficiaries' status whether they fulfill their obligations (via activity reports) and other indicators such as financial status. While the authority has promised to correct this mistake, it took a year for the authority to realize this mistake which came out as a result of a technical check upon dysfunction of the system to execute its routine services. If the system was functioning well for a long time and if technicians did not realize the problem, people's at least financial loss would be even bigger. These are significant issues, however, their existence is hardly provable.

Both of the examples we have given through evaluation of ADM and profiling made us question an important aspect of the GDPR, we believe, that is the core principles of transparency and purpose limitation. We raise the following question: How human could exercise her right to not to be a part of an automated decision-making system ex-ante (so before seeing whether the decision would have some significant effect or not) when the algorithm already made the decision? Even if the last decision is given by a human, it was stated that it is either not possible or not clear how human intervention could be legally described.³³¹

1.3.4. Algorithmic Decisions Affecting the Data Subjects

Finding out the significance of the output generated by algorithms based on profiling could be explained by the taxonomy of algorithms. For that purpose, Van Otterlo defines two types of taxonomies. He borrows the first taxonomy from Mittelstadt et.al.³³² who referred to the main operations of the algorithms turning data to a persuasion tool, to make people rely on algorithms' outputs, therefore to make decisions. Once someone made a decision based on this output, an act is born, so algorithms become the main reason behind the human decision. As we referred before, AI could also execute its own decision, but human decision making based on algorithmic evaluations has yet more existed in practice.

³³⁰ "Sweden: Rogue algorithm stops welfare payments for up to 70,000 unemployed", [Online], Tom Wills, Algorithm Watch, 25 February 2019 Accessed from: <https://algorithmwatch.org/en/rogue-algorithm-in-sweden-stops-welfare-payments/> Last accessed: 27 February 2019.

³³¹ See, Veale and Edwards, 2018, p. 400.

³³² Mittelstadt et. al., 2016, p. 18.

Algorithms simply make some statistical analyses to generate some significant results. These decisions may not always be the ones the data subjects would like to hear or share with the others. In this case, the decision may have either negative or positive results for a person in-subject, without a possibility to guess priory³³³.

The second taxonomy van Otterlo identifies is the “level of agency or autonomy” which refers to the abilities of the algorithms. These abilities are related to the algorithm's ability to:

- extract information from a large amount of data by profiling from existed resources to reach personalized outputs,
- learn how to create general rules,
- optimize the services to manipulate user behaviors through reinforcement techniques,
- be physically present,
- be superintelligents that are capable of doing everything even better than humans.

Van Otterlo’s self-taxonomy states two of the basic problems that we deal with within this work. Social robots extracting and interpreting personal data together with the reinforcement learning technique, and its physical presence leading them to be human-like actors in real life which raises questions from consent, purpose limitation, transparency, and liability problems. Since we leave out the discussions referring to the possible electronic personality and robots’ liabilities, we continue the analysis with the “persons” (actors) involved with AI technologies and data processing.

1.3.5 Personal Services Based on Profiling

There might be several data controllers responsible for the data processing activities of social robots. Developers, manufacturers, users, or any other persons contributing to social robot’s processing activity are potential data controllers (or processors, depending on a case). However, identifying each controllers’ certain responsibilities might be a challenging issue, firstly, based on the technical settings of algorithms. It may not always

³³³ van Otterlo, 2018, p. 28.

be possible, for instance, for the developers to ensure the decision made by a social robot is a bias-free decision.³³⁴ There are many technical reasons for that. Training data might already include many racist inputs at the time of acquisition and this may lead the algorithm to reach racist predictions³³⁵. Underrepresented groups may suffer from the biased decisions made by human-assisted by an algorithm³³⁶. There is also the risk of overrepresentation in the training set as Katyal indicates, that³³⁷ for example, in the case of deploying algorithm for crime prediction trained with past criminal data, there is a high possibility for people who has some common features with training data to be labeled as potential criminals. Our position regarding bias, which is a very recent topic in the legal academia, is that since bias mainly causes harm to the service providers (loss of reputation, number of consumers, time for development, investment, etc.)³³⁸ they would soon find some technical solutions. The problem with a biased algorithm could be if it is intentionally created which we do not think would be the case for any business. That is why we think that soon there will be solutions³³⁹ for bias even if it would come with some level of cost regarding the accuracy³⁴⁰.

Specific to this work, we focus on the future direction raised in academia and industry on using dynamic training sets teaching AI how to learn³⁴¹. On one hand, a social robot learning directly from its user could reach more accurate results about the user's

³³⁴ There are several types of bias in ADM. Yu and Ali refer to two types of bias, namely (i) Algorithmic bias, appearing as a result of algorithms to simulate humans and their values (ii) Data bias, the AI adopts the algorithmic bias and repeats it constantly. A solution would be to delete the data, but identifying and deleting the data from all variables may deprive the AI of the necessary operating information, therefore reaching accurate results. See, Yu and Ali, 2019, p.4-6.

³³⁵ Sandvig, et. al., p. 4979.

³³⁶ Goodman and Flaxman, 2017, p. 53.

³³⁷ Katyal, 2019, p. 75.

³³⁸ ITU, p. 36.

³³⁹ There are already several works done proposing technical, but also legal solutions for bias, see, Carmichael, Stalla-Bourdillon and Staab, 2016. Enhancing data protection rights by legally ordering data controllers to take extra steps during and after data mining such as conducting data mining impact assessment, adopting greater transparency tools, ensuring organizational knowledge about algorithmic discrimination.

³⁴⁰ Grimmelman and Westreich, 2017, p. 158.

³⁴¹ Mikolov, Joulin and Baroni, 2019, p. 36.

personality³⁴². On the other hand, it could make predictions not only about the main user but on the other people sharing the household. Since RL techniques show the way to deal with dynamic data, algorithmic decision making based on such data raises concerns on balancing the right to data protection and the possible benefits people may earn from personal robots. Autonomous systems could learn from the direct interaction with the user and constantly design their decision-making system based on the user's inputs. In this case, even the developer cannot know how the system "pick, study and consider variables out of a massive pool of data"³⁴³. Especially, when the user even indirectly and de facto defines the purposes (the reason "why") influencing some degree of determining the purposes and means and contributing to start for the robots to process data, consequences of using the robot could lead the users to be one of the first addressees for holding liability. Evidently, there are many data controllers as well as data subjects involving with the operation of a HSR.

1.4 Data Subjects

There is no specific definition the GDPR refers to describing the data subjects. However, the definition of personal data (as we also referred before) includes the term data subject and gives a clue on what to be understood from this term. According to that, an identified or identifiable "natural person" forms the concept of the data subject. In line with this statement, one may easily realize that the GDPR protects and gives rights only to natural persons. A natural person using the personal robot at home and the other natural persons interacting with robots indeed fall within the scope of this definition. Companies, public institutions, NGOs and any other type of legal personality are left out of the scope of the GDPR.

1.5 Data Controller

Until now, there might have been an impression this work has given as the robots are the actors collecting and processing personal data. From the GDPR point of view, the data controllers are defined as "natural or legal person, public authority, agency or another body

³⁴² Youyou, Kosinski, and Stillwell, 2015, p.1038.

³⁴³ Packin and Lev-Aretz, 2018, p. 5.

who alone or jointly with others, determines the purposes and means of the processing of personal data” leaving no room for robots to be evaluated as data controllers. In this case, it is clear to state that only the natural and legal persons could initiate the necessary datasets for the algorithms together with their structures (not robots, indeed, and yet).

Since the definition referred in the GDPR is very broad (“any” natural or legal person could be data controller without defining the level of the degree of controllership) and it remained unchanged as the Directive 95/46/EC, Article 29 WP’s explanation on the concept of controller and processor³⁴⁴ shall guide finding the degree of controllership. The opinion document makes word-by-word analysis, but we would focus only on the “determination of processes and means of the processing” part as in the definition.

According to WP’s opinion, there are three categories of controllers deriving from processing purposes. The first category refers to the controlling activities based on national or EU law, meaning that controlling activity directly is ordered by law. We could say that data controllers fulfill their legal obligations by processing data in line with the law. The second category refers to the controller’s processing activities that are not explicitly and directly referred to in law, but still could be established under a specific legal field such as labor law. The last category refers to the factual influence principle in which the controllers do not share the same degree of responsibility. Joint controllership, as we will discuss below, belongs to this category. Additionally, most of the natural persons using personal devices highly likely to be in this category³⁴⁵. Finally, predictability plays a crucial role in finding out the controller or possible controllers. Recent CJEU cases³⁴⁶ concluded joint controllership requests by also referring to the predictability concept.

The opinion statement of the WP refers to some practical steps to follow in defining the factual elements in case finding out the *means* of procession within the specific circumstances. For example, by asking “who determines the processing operations, why is processing taking place, who initiated the processing” could help to adopt a pragmatic

³⁴⁴ Since the GDPR entered into force, the opinion was not updated although several Article 29 WP opinions were updated in line with it (e.g. EDPS, 2019).

³⁴⁵ In our point of view, Article 29 WP’s following opinion is placed in the guideline to point out the natural persons’ responsibility in frame of factual relationship: “(this category refers to those actors) making use of new information technologies, where relevant actors are often inclined to see themselves as “facilitators”.

³⁴⁶ Those cases will be analyzed deeply in the following sections.

approach to identify the controller. Furthermore, it is strictly expressed that deeper analysis is needed with further guidance to answer the “why” and “how” questions. For example, the person is in the capacity of deciding on the data to be processed, deleted, or on storage time could be a data controller by determining the means of processing. However, answering these questions is not always easy if we compare the cases where there is a clear legal relationship between the legal persons and cases where a natural person facilitates the main controller to reach the main purposes for data processing. In the latter case, informing the possible (joint) controller is a legal duty of the main controller since they are both bound by all GDPR obligations.

1.6. Joint controllers as Natural Person

Joint controllership (Article 26) introduced in the GDPR is another remarkable novelty that we could note (recalling some of those novelties from Part II, point 4). Joint controllership already existed in the Directive 95/46/EC, but the GDPR brought further rules and explanations on the concept. The main reason why for providing a deeper insight into the concept is the involvement of technologies (web-based services, social media, personal health applications, etc.) paving the way for anyone being able to contribute to the main purposes for data processing in certain services.

Article 29 WP delivered some interpretation on the concept and notion of joint controllership, again, in an opinion document. According to the WP, a person who has a chance or right to determine those purposes and means of processing operations together with the controller, is a joint controller³⁴⁷. Remarkably, triggering the processing activity also falls within the scope of joint controllership. Both recent and historical CJEU decisions prove our statement. For example, whether an administrator of a fan page established on Facebook would be data controller was questioned before the CJEU recently and the CJEU held the position that fan page administrator giving the chance to Facebook to reach those purposes by triggering the data controllers to visit the fan page is a joint controller³⁴⁸. Basically, since the fan page administrator gains benefit from the fan

³⁴⁷ Article 29 WP_1/2010, p. 18.

³⁴⁸ Although Facebook also is a data controller, since it decides about the processing purposes and process data via cookies. Case C-40/17 Fashion ID, para. 75.

page (such as learning about the audiences to deliver better advertisement) and assist Facebook to reach its main data processing purposes (e.g., contributing statistical assessment of Facebook's algorithm), they are a joint controller without a question.

The use of such technologies for personal purposes rather than business activity does not exclude the natural persons to be a joint controller. Recently adopted EDPS guidelines on the concepts of the controller, processor and joint controllership under Regulation proves the WP's opinions and adds further guidance on determining the joint controllers. For example, the EDPS summarizes the joint controllership concept with the following words "a 'general' level of complementarity and unity of purpose could already trigger of the processing operation are jointly determined"³⁴⁹ where neither of the parties involved in the processing operations would be able to achieve the purpose independently. Only this statement alone may qualify a natural person to be defined as joint controller since a user of a social robot cannot fulfill the purposes without sharing data. There is no difference between a user uploading (own and/or others') data on social media platforms and a robot user, in this case, although it might be purely for personal purposes. Regarding this topic, two specific cases interpreted by the CJEU, namely, Lindqvist, and Ryněš cases will be later analyzed to explain our statement.

Possibility of natural persons to have joint controllership eliminates the so-called household exemption and makes them responsible for the use of personal data (of others) for their cases. Case by case analysis is needed for such cases when natural persons use a social robot for their purposes, but paving the way for a social robot to profiling other persons. WP's opinion, so does the GDPR, support this view together with a note referring to the obligations and duties of main data controllers (e.g. Facebook, Google, social robot's creators) which still keep them as the main data controller. Duties, obligations, and responsibilities of joint controllers as natural persons should be clearly defined for avoiding possible conflicts on assigning liability to the actors. For example, a clear interpretation of the household exemption could help users to feel more comfortable leaving no risk for them while using the robot. On the other side, possible scenarios that may cause users to be called joint controllers also should be communicated to the users.

³⁴⁹ EDPS, 2019, p. 23.

1.7. Data Processor

Data controllers and joint controllers are not the only actors involving data processing activities. Indeed, there might be fewer data controllers and joint controllers than data processors in today's connected world. Data processors are natural and legal persons (separate then the data controller) 'acting on behalf of the controller' for specific data processing activities assigned by data controllers. Their roles are assigned by the data controller, at least, in terms of purposes and means of data processing activities in line with the Article 4 of the GDPR. As long as they act in the frame of data controllers' instructions, they are the data processors, however, they may be both data controller and processor at the same time, if they create new data processing purposes for the data they process for data controllers. During our research, we realized the fact that involving data processors in the scenario would make the present work's analysis part extremely complicated. Therefore, we leave out the actors that may qualify as a data processor for presenting a smooth analysis.

Section 2. Practical Problems

This section concentrates on the practical problems arising from the personal use of social robots at households from the data protection point of view. Variety of questions raised during our research, such as, whether the household exemption would apply to the household social robots. Some of the core principles of the GDPR, which are also subject to analysis in this dissertation, the consent, purpose limitation, and transparency principles are found challenging. The following descriptive analysis will show the main reasons for this statement; basically, the AI's technical complexity combining with data controllers' possible justifications to avoid legal responsibilities based on that is affecting the practicability of the GDPR. The question "who is liable" is almost unavoidable in any AI-law related work; in this case, we also place this question within the analysis, but our intention is not to give a concrete answer to this question, rather we focus on the possible answers. Further, expert interviews will be analyzed and solutions will be presented for providing proactive solutions.

2.1. Legal Bases for Household Social Robots Processing Personal Data

Which legal bases could be referred by the data controllers for operating social robots processing personal data? What might be the eligible legal bases enabling social robots to process data and reach predictions?

One of the principles of processing³⁵⁰ personal data is the principle of lawfulness, placed under Article 6 of the GDPR. GDPR offers many options for data controllers operating social robots to choose a concrete legal basis for the robot's data processing activities. Article 6 paragraph 1 of the GDPR refers to the following legal bases to the data controllers to ensure legal data processing if the processing activity is:

- necessary for the performance of a contract,
- necessary to the data controller to comply with its legal obligation,
- necessary to protect the vital interests of the data subject or another natural person,
- processing is necessary for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest or the exercise of official authority vested in the controller,
- processing is necessary for the legitimate interests pursued by the controller or by a third party.
- based on data subject's consent,

Following, we would evaluate these legal bases specific to operating a social robot for personal use at home.

2.1.1 The right legal basis for SHR

Finding the right legal basis for operating social robots for personal use could be illustrated by considering the personal mobile phone use cases: an application embedded in a certain type of mobile phone which comes with the phone by default, and is an essential part of the phone, for example, the mobile phone's operating system. If the components of the application which are essential to make the phone work require personal data processing, then the legal basis for such data processing would be most probably based on the

³⁵⁰ Processing activity here means as the Art.4 of the GDPR indicates: any operation [s]uch as collection, recording, organization, structuring, storage, adaptation or alteration, retrieval, consultation, use, disclosure by transmission, dissemination or otherwise making available, alignment or combination, restriction, erasure or destruction. In short, processing covers any activity related to personal data.

performance of a contract. However, as the Article 29 WP explains, “building a profile of the user’s tastes and lifestyle choices based on his click-stream on a website” cannot be considered for the performance of a contract rule since this is not necessary for offering the main service (e.g. delivery of the service)³⁵¹. Valid contracts can only justify those data processing activities written in the contract³⁵², no more-no less, limiting the data controller’s space to gain most out of the data at hand. On the other hand, performance of a contract rule is applicable only if the reasons for data processing activities are same as the reasons entering into contractual relationship with the data subject (indeed, there can be a contractual relationship between two legal persons, but we exclude that possibility for now). Data processing activities operated within personal mobile phones are generally neither connected to fulfilling data controllers’ legal obligation nor processing for the necessity protecting the vital interest of any person (exceptions excluded). Further, when somebody uses a mobile phone, legal persons behind the mobile phone, e.g. manufacturers, or software developers, do not process data to execute some tasks related to their public interest generally. Data processing for performing a task carried out in the public interest does not apply unless the mobile phone is not a part of public service. In this case, few options are available for data controllers to operate an HSR.

2.1.2. Legitimate interest rule

Legitimate interest is another legal bases that could be preferred by the data controllers to process personal data. According to the GDPR, for example, e-mail marketing could be based either on the legitimate interest rule or consent rule. There are several conditions for choosing legitimate interest rule as a legal basis, based on the examples referred in Recital 47 of the GDPR: if there is a relevant and proportionate relationship between the data subject and controller, data processing activity is expectable by the data subject from the time and context aspects, processing shall be identified as raising low risk towards data subjects’ fundamental rights (might be identified based on the DPIA), and data subject is a client or at the service of data controller. Processing data for direct marketing purposes might be an example of legitimate interest. Commercial interests, societal benefits,

³⁵¹ Article 29 WP_06/2014, p.16

³⁵² Voigt and von dem Bussche, 2017, p. 242.

interests of third parties also to be considered as legitimate interests³⁵³. Clearly, legitimate interest is needed if the processing activity is at the benefit or interest of the data controller, not for the data subject. Interests do not tell us the reason why for data processing activity, for example, if the data subject is the beneficiary/receiving party of the services (e.g., using the robot for ordering food) then legitimate interest cannot be applied³⁵⁴.

Data processing based on consent is different from the legitimate basis rule since the data subjects themselves authorize or allow the processing activity where legitimate interest refers to for data controllers' interest. However, there is a relationship between legitimate interest and consent rules. Even if no consent is needed before the processing activity based on legitimate interest, the data subject must be provided the existence of the interests and relevant information, together with the possibility to stop data processing. Clearly, informing obligation is anyhow applicable to the data controllers. Most common example of legitimate interest rule is the CCTV cameras in which data subjects have no option to opt-in or out, due to the data controllers' legitimate interest which is very specific (security). Anyway, although it is unacceptable, the practices of data controllers today show that they chose to obtain the consent of data subjects since it is easier to obtain, it gives more comprehensive data processing opportunities and it brings less strict obligations for data controllers.

2.1.3. Data processing based on consent

Referring back to the performance of a contract and consent rules, even if the application is essential to operate the mobile phone, it works as following in practice: Once we start using a mobile phone (by entering into sales contract), we immediately find ourselves in pages of consent texts offering more personalized experience, because none of the application worth using without personal components. For social robots to operate well, consent seems like the best choice for a data controller to rely on, because no other legal bases apply to the services that a social robot could offer besides its basics functions. For example, a social robot may interact directly with humans to make them “happy” or lift

³⁵³ “Legitimate interests”, ICO, [Online]. Accessed from: <https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/guide-to-data-protection/guide-to-the-general-data-protection-regulation-gdpr/lawful-basis-for-processing/legitimate-interests/> Last accessed: 29 October 2019.

³⁵⁴ Article 29 WP_06/2014, p.24

their spirits as basic contractual terms, however, for the robot to provide a personalized service to make human “happy” consent appears to be the best option for the data controller. In the scenario, we benefit from this simulation for such applications making the use of a mobile phone’s main operating systems but still independently processing data. However, consent may not always be the best option in terms of safeguarding fundamental rights of the data subjects, since it focuses mainly on the systems in the traditional meaning, not on the autonomous machines.

Consent is a term referred to in civil law to express either an agreement between at least two parties or more or an expression of a will related to a certain offer³⁵⁵. In Europe and, in a data protection specific framework, consent is being used as an indicator of a will that safeguards freedom of data subjects to control their data and imposes legal obligations to the data controllers. GDPR defines consent as in the Article 4 (1) “any freely given, specific, informed and unambiguous indication of the data subject’s wishes by which he or she, by a statement or by clear affirmative action, signifies agreement to the processing of personal data relating to him or her”. There are, obviously, certain rules on how data controllers should obtain data subjects’ consent, such as, in what cases, in what form, or when. Although 95 Directive and the GDPR are distinct from each other in several ways the question how consent should be obtained is still quite a similar to each other or with the words of the Advocate General Szpunar, “requirements for giving consent are the same under Directive 95/46/EC and Regulation (EU) 2016/679”³⁵⁶. However, there are several problems related to the practical and legal meaning of consent, as we will explain below.

The opinion of the WP29 on the definition of consent prepared for Directive 95³⁵⁷ and Guideline on consent prepared under the rules of the GDPR³⁵⁸ could give some overview about how the consent shall be obtained. According to the WP29, consent should be valid if it is specific, freely given, informed, and indicated with a clear affirmative action or statement to let their data be processed. To make it specific, the purpose(s) of the data processing should be clearly defined and the data subjects shall be informed about them by

³⁵⁵ Le Me’tayer and Monteleone, 2009, p. 139.

³⁵⁶ Opinion of Advocate Szpunar, para. 3.

³⁵⁷ Article 29 WP_15/2011.

³⁵⁸ Article 29 WP 2016/679.

the data controller. GDPR's Article 7 requires consent to be unambiguous or explicit depending on the type of the data and to be indicated by an affirmative action (known as the opt-in rule). There are two types of consent indicated in the GDPR: consent and explicit consent which the difference is clear depending on the type of personal data is subject. For example, processing biometric data which categorically is sensitive data, is possible, if the data subject gives explicit consent as Article 9 of the GDPR says so.

Could a data controller of social robots put all related aspects of the use of personal data and the future of such data? For example, Big Data and ML techniques naturally could turn "normal" personal data into "special" personal data easily³⁵⁹ which would not be clear for the data controller to make a specific indication before data processing. Even if the data subject gave consent priory, it may not be always easily foreseeable what other purposes could an outcome of an algorithm refer to. Moreover, neither the developer nor the service provider could foresee the extensions of the scope of the purposes. People (without their and even the system engineer's prior knowledge) may unexpectedly be classified in a certain ethnic group based on their skin color³⁶⁰ when they interact with a robot for another purpose than this one. Using such robots with their unexpected consequences may make users feel uncomfortable living with them.

The consent mechanism was constructed to give data subjects a possibility to choose what data they would like to share with others and to control those shared data. In this case, we could claim that consent gives data subjects the steer for controlling their data. However, when data subjects are not in a sense of the value of their data, or not willing to manage it because of complex procedures, or do not have time to do it, or not aware of the risks of not doing it, consent becomes meaningless. Further, there is another possibility which is the technologic complexities and the data controller intends to present these as an obstacle to fulfill their legal obligations.

In this case, the data controllers must be aware of any possible consequences of using such technologies (together with a margin of their technical impossibility) before notifying the data subjects about the possible data protection risks. However, the following analysis, as

³⁵⁹ Veale, Binns, Edwards, 2018, p. 2.

³⁶⁰ "IBM Used NYPD Surveillance Footage to Develop Technology that Lets Police Search by Skin Color", George Joseph and Kenneth Lipp, [Online], The Intercept. Accessed from: <https://theintercept.com/2018/09/06/nypd-surveillance-camera-skin-tone-search/> Last accessed: 10 October 2019.

well as the entire present work, would shed light on the question of whether the concept of consent is a “fairytale” in data protection legislation that cannot offer a better solution at the same time³⁶¹. Expecting more than a 500 million EU citizens purchasing services from different data controllers belonging to different privacy cultures over the world to always be ex-officio well-aware from a general privacy statements, and then give a perfect consent might be a utopic idea in practical sense.

In the following paragraphs, we adopted a mixed approach for identifying the technical obstacles, possible intended infringements, and identification of specific risks towards the GDPR’s full application in the eye of data controllers.

2.2. Unpredictable Robots by Design

Jason Millar and Ian Kerr, the inventors of the term Unpredictable by Design³⁶² use this expression for the robots constantly acquiring new data, feeding the algorithm and generating such outputs that are almost impossible to foresee from the beginning of the whole processing activity. This statement should not be mixed with the questions regarding the level of robot’s autonomy with special regard to decision-making capabilities The term points out the fact that the algorithms receive such a vast amount of inputs, that in the end, the outputs become unpredictable³⁶³. In real-life applications, some examples are referring to the unpredictability aspect of the algorithms in a way that their initial creation reason completely changes by time as long as it is fed with new data. For example, Microsoft’s racist chatbot which initially created only for having playful conversations with people turned later out successfully foreseeing the reasons behind Trump’s idea for building a wall in the Mexican border (besides making racist statements)³⁶⁴. So, why algorithms cannot remain between the initial reasons for their creation, by time?

³⁶¹ Svantesson, 2015, p. 135-140.

³⁶² Millar and Kerr (2016) are not the first and only researchers who thought of the unpredictability concept for autonomous machines, but they are focusing more on the technical aspects of the term. See also, Barfield, 2018, p. 198.

³⁶³ Millar and Kerr, p.108.

³⁶⁴ “Twitter taught Microsoft’s AI chatbot to be a racist asshole in less than a day”, James Vincent, [Online], The Verge, 24 March 2016 Accessed from: <https://www.theverge.com/2016/3/24/11297050/tay-microsoft-chatbot-racist> Last accessed: 10 October 2019.

Several studies look for answers to this question from different perspectives. For example, Kaori³⁶⁵ links her answers to two important elements of AI technology: machine learning and deep learning, and the possibility of a general AI³⁶⁶. Our statement is in line with their views, but we put more emphasize on the importance of data here.

Data is used in the social robot's algorithm could be anything if we recall the previous statements. A robot deployed with DRL would need to access the user's device or profile to get new information about the user and process the data for this purpose. When a social robot receives any information that may cause fundamental changes in the way of algorithm's decision-making system (through ML), which is not predictable by its creators but still is a feature of the AI system, it is the nature of the algorithm itself, not a systemic failure or a bug³⁶⁷, the technology enabling AI brings these results naturally. The situation is also considered by the EU in an official document as follows: "robots empowered by AI may act in ways that were not envisaged at the time when the system was first put into operation"³⁶⁸. Unpredictable by design is a conflicting fact almost with all principles of legal data processing. Because if an algorithm is unpredictable by design, then, practically, neither the data being used in decision making is predictable, nor the purposes of the processing of those data are.

Besides the unpredictable outputs generated by AI, we hereby introduce the *unpredictable data collection by design* concept based on the fact that AI systems are expected to collect data in an unexpected form, content, and amount by any time. Here, the importance of embodiment makes a different overview of the problem. For example, if AI is a software, it is generally not supported with advanced techniques e.g. NLP and moving cameras, it leaves more margin of personal control on personal data. In this case, we once again raise our argument, that social robots are more likely to process more personal data, and

³⁶⁵ Ishii, 2019, p. 3-4.

³⁶⁶ Van Otterlo's classification of algorithms and their risks before data protection rules are similar to this approach.

³⁶⁷ Millar and Kerr, p. 108. The authors call it a feature of AI, not a bug. This is really a true perspective on evaluating AI technologies. If a human was capable of gaining and draining some zettabytes of data within some seconds, evaluate them, and make decisions, we would not need algorithms. Such discussion should be out of the scope of this work, but our position is that the algorithm's unpredictability is a natural result of a learning machine.

³⁶⁸ European Commission, 2018a, p. 5.

controlling the whole procedure is almost impossible. A machine circling in households and interacting with a human would already and expectedly obtain more data about its environment. Moreover, when human interacts with software, it is not real interaction, meaning that it is not always constant and natural as this is the case with a social robot. Relationship with this statement and the consent is that such an AI software may execute certain consent duties through, for example, a pop-up appearing on the screen where human is given time to read, think, and react. However, physically equipped active objects, such as a humanoid social robot, with certain capabilities of social interaction, such as NLP and natural expressions, would not give the same possibility to data subjects to think of giving consent to the social robot. As a result of all data collection capability of a social robot make us name this case as “unpredictable data collection by design” which makes data controllers reach a certain list of data they collect (unwillingly). Santoro, Marino and Tamburrini says that “if a learning (personal) robot were sold in a shop, prospective buyers would like to find in user manuals a statement to the effect that the robot is guaranteed to behave so-and-so if normal operational conditions are fulfilled,” but it is not possible in this particular case³⁶⁹. In such a case, is it possible to still enforce the principles of purpose limitation which is in connection with the principle of transparency that are the main elements of a valid consent?

2.2.1. Purpose Limitation and Transparency Principles

Obtaining valid consent is strongly related to the principle of purpose limitation and transparency rules. These rules are basics of all data protection legislation we referred to in the first chapter, namely, in the Directive 95/46/EC, Convention 108, and indeed in the GDPR. We do not intend to repeat the previous statements here, but we shall once again remind that consent is valid if it covers all processing activities on specific purposes and is given freely³⁷⁰. For data subjects to be able to make a free decision, they should be transparently informed about the future processing of their data, starting from the purposes. How much easy it could be to identify the possible purposes an AI system would process the data for is a challenging question due to the technical capabilities of intelligent

³⁶⁹ Santoro, Marino and Tamburrini, 2008, p. 308.

³⁷⁰ Recital 32 of the GDPR.

systems. For example, a social robot making person based evaluations to find out how to feed the user's needs would need a rich knowledge drained from the personal data. This data often would grow by time and in line with the interactions between the user and the robot, as we several times indicated before. Besides the main purposes, specifying the other purposes appearing and deepening on data often comes after data processing. If the robot is multipurpose or general-purpose³⁷¹, then data collection will also be multipurpose or for a general-purpose. A robot may collect data for A purpose, but then use it for X purpose, depending on its capability to find connections between the two purposes.³⁷² As for data controllers, it may not always be easy to identify to foresee all the other possible outcomes serving different purposes. Furthermore, intentionally misuse cases may also appear as we will explain with some examples below. In this case, we could state that there are technical and practical issues regarding ensuring the purpose limitation principle which is one of the elements of the principle of transparency.

2.2.2. Purpose Limitation

The initial problem regarding practicing the purpose limitation principle is related to the technical opportunities an algorithm brings to data controllers (using algorithmic evaluations). Data evaluated by algorithms may reveal new attitudes or new information about data subjects, and that might be either willingly or unwillingly discovered. Despite any list a developer or manufacturer could come up for possible purposes, these might not focus on such derivative ones that the AI might come across in the process. Moreover, data controllers practically cannot even present an acceptable list of personal data that they would process, because even a few data may become another new personal data when combined with an AI system. The AI would, in theory, be unstoppable in gathering further data to accomplish its goals and in making those mean something in their environment, in the context of this repurposed activity through generating new data. Both cases are contrary to Article 5 of the GDPR requiring the data controller to collect data as “adequate,

³⁷¹ General purpose robot is not a futuristic idea anymore. There are already several projects running for this purpose and one of them is the Everyday Robot project aiming creating robots able to interact everyday objects around. See: <https://x.company/projects/everyday-robots> Last accessed: 15 January 2020.

³⁷² In such cases, data controllers may not even require to obtain a separate consent. Recital 50 of the GDPR refers to further data processing activities in which the consent was specifically obtained for in line with the original purposes compatible to the other possible purposes, no separate consent is needed to be obtained.

relevant and limited to what is necessary concerning the purpose” otherwise known as the data minimization rule. However, data controllers may find themselves both in difficult, but also in an advantageous situation caused by creepy purposes³⁷³.

In practice, data controllers obviously could explain these creepy purposes at least in general terms, and the other possible separate purposes under risk statement (as a result of the DPIA, for example) as long as the technical meanings suffice. However, they also could choose using technical meanings as a justification to escape from the legal requirements³⁷⁴. Data controllers may well use the principles of the GDPR to collect additional information that might not fit the essence of data processing³⁷⁵. A study measuring almost 18.000 Android apps’ behaviors and their potential non-compliance level with their privacy statement identified out serious inconsistencies between the indicated purposes and real-life practices. From the 9050 analyzed data set including the app and its privacy statements, almost half were found potentially inconsistent, while only a small portion of the examined apps (equals to 1.461 apps) were found completely consistent with the privacy policy they stated³⁷⁶. We are not sure whether those inconsistencies were even realized by the data controller, and technically speaking, were even estimated. Even if so, the data controller’s unawareness for such infringements still could not be justified since the GDPR obliges data controllers to ensure the secure operation of the systems.

Referring to social robots, and whether their acts could be foreseeable or not, data controllers are still obliged to deliver information about their possible data processing activities. This could be named as presenting “the life-cycle of a specific personal data” within the social robot’s brain. Any decision automatically reached by the AI system must be explained to the data subjects in line with the principle of transparency.

³⁷³ Wisman (2013) indicates that the term is not belong to her but to Jentzsch (2007, p. 39.) who uses the term to describe “the tendency to use information for purposes that are unrelated to the original one for which the data was originally collected.”

³⁷⁴ Wisman, n. p.

³⁷⁵ Vitale, et. al., 2017, p. 442.

³⁷⁶ Zimmeck, et. al., p. 9.

2.2.3. Transparency

Data processing in a transparent manner is one of the principles of data processing, as the GDPR Article 5 paragraph 1 (a) describes. Article 12 of the GDPR assigns the responsibility to data controllers for processing any personal data transparently. Transparency rule is one of the basic principles for obtaining valid consent and is referred to under the “Rights of the data subject” chapter in the GDPR. In short, the data controllers are obliged to “provide any information [to the data subjects] relating to processing activity in a concise, transparent, intelligible and easily accessible form, using clear and plain language” to fulfill their transparency obligations. According to this statement, transparency rule involves informing obligation for data controllers, and information to be presented involves some of the basic principles such as data processing purposes, reasons, risks, and possible threats.

It should be noted that transparency is more general principle in scope than consent, for example, if a data controller deals with personal data to fulfill its legal obligations, transparency obligation still needs to be fulfilled by the data controllers. Similarly, if data processing is necessary as it is ordered by law, data subjects could request an explanation from the data controller regarding this processing activity. According to the GDPR, the data controller is obliged to respect transparency rules especially data processing activities in line with the rules and descriptions stated in the Articles 13-15, Article 22, and Article 34. It is clear from Articles 13-15 of the GDPR referring to the information obligation, a data controller should provide information to data subjects to fulfill general transparency obligations. Not all these articles are directly related to the consent rule, for example, Article 34 is related to providing information in case of data breaches that come after the data breach. Article 22, however, is highly related to the present work’s scope, so it is to the consent rule since it is giving the *right to data subjects not to be subject to a decision based on automated processing and profiling*. This right could be excluded only if the decisions are based on the data subject’s explicit consent. To obtain explicit consent, data controllers are (again) obliged to provide transparent information (besides other obligations). Recital 58 and Recital 60 give a framework about what information to be presented to data subjects, such as information on the processing operation and purposes. Besides, data subjects should be informed about the consequences of profiling and

information related to profiling should be presented in an intelligible and meaningful manner. Article 12 and Recital 60 further states that transparency obligation could be fulfilled if the information is presented “concise, easily accessible and easy to understand” way.

In short, data controllers are obliged to provide information to fulfill their transparency obligation which is one of the preconditions to obtain valid and also explicit consent. Besides, the transparency principle is related to many other rules and principles in the GDPR, such as profiling and ADM, right to explanation, and purpose limitation. We think that users’ consciousness and awareness on the specific AI technology deployed in a social robot is the most effective element for them to be able to make a free consent choice, and data controllers must be fully responsible to ensure whether data subjects received and understand the AI system as a whole. As we will present below, the GDPR could refer some of the basic rules on informing obligation clearer and specific to the AI technologies, therefore no room for misinterpretation would be left for data controllers.

2.2.4. Informing Obligation

Informing data subjects about possible data processing purposes (besides other basic information) is one of the utmost requirements for data controllers to obtain valid consent. Articles 13, 14 and 15 of the GDPR, as well as Recital 60 of the GDPR, stipulate that data controllers shall present information related to data processing activities to fulfill their informing and transparency obligations. There is no meaningful difference (at least, in the frame of this work) among the information to be provided based on Articles 13, 14 and 15. Article 13 lists the information to be provided where the data have been collected directly from a particular data subject, and Article 14 lists the information to be provided where the data have not been collected directly from a particular data subject. In both cases, there is basic and generic information to be provided to data subjects; such as the identity and contact details of the controller, purposes of the processing, categories of processed data, recipients of the data, and information on the existence of data transfers to third parties. Further, more information should be provided to the data subjects to ensuring transparent and fair data processing. This information is related to the data storage period, the existence of the right to rectification, the right to withdraw consent, the right to complain

to a DPA, and the existence of automated decision-making and profiling. Moreover, if there exists an automated decision-making system, including profiling, data controllers should provide meaningful information (or explanation) about the logic involved in the ADM system.

What constitutes meaningful information has been argued in the literature from several points of view. Firstly, Wachter, Mittelstadt, and Floridi³⁷⁷ argued that the right to be informed within the GDPR is an ex-post right which would contravene the essence of consent since the explanation could be given after the decision was made. The authors further stressed that the right to explanation should be inserted in the GDPR to make the rule more consistent and clear³⁷⁸. Selbst and Powles³⁷⁹, on the other hand, strongly emphasize that informing obligation already means the right to explanation, and meaningful information refers here to any information regarding system functionality. Some foresight made before the GDPR entered into force on evaluating the difficulty of explanation in AI systems (from the practical point of view) claimed that the logic of a model and significance of the logic is enough for explaining the data subjects.³⁸⁰ Although both views could easily and clearly be understood neither from the related articles nor Recitals and nor from the EDPS/WP29 opinions, we think that the GDPR is practically not clear on explaining what consists the concept of “information to be provided to data subjects” from a practical point of view. Our view also strongly stresses the fact that the GDPR does not oblige data controllers to ensure the understandability of the information they provide, but such information is generic to all data subjects. Data controllers must be required to explain the full range of expected outcomes in a way each data subject can understand, but as the issues regarding accepting the cookies on websites already well-

³⁷⁷ The authors basically discussed a possibility of two types of explanations based on time dependence: ex post and ex ante. From those, ex ante explanation could give information only on system functionality, meaning that only a restricted information such as “the logic, significance, envisaged consequences” on ADM could be given to the data subjects. They also noted that this information is a general information not targeting the personal circumstances that a decision could point out. Wachter, Mittelstadt and Floridi, 2017, p. 78.

³⁷⁸ Ibid., p. 80.

³⁷⁹ Selbst and Powles, 2017, p. 233.

³⁸⁰ “Is there a 'right to explanation' for machine learning in the GDPR?” Andrew Burt, [Online], Privacy Tech, 1 June 2017. Accessed from: <https://iapp.org/news/a/is-there-a-right-to-explanation-for-machine-learning-in-the-gdpr/> Last accessed: 27 November 2019.

proved, data controllers do not wish to provide such information. Also, data subjects' tendency to not well-reading the presented information makes it easy for the data controllers, since they only are interested in using the service rather than its details.³⁸¹ There could be an argument placed here, on the difficulty to prove each data subject's understanding of the information, and how data subjects could be forced to read the statements, but as we will present in the Recommendation part, taking proactive steps could solve this issue from the core.

2.2.5. Meaningful Information

The GDPR's interpretation on providing either ex-post or ex-ante information is subjected to another topic for a discussion, we examine the question of "what information and according to whom that information should be meaningful, data subject-specific or in other words, person-specific information shall be provided, or the information should target everyone in the same way, as the practice is now?". Simply, if the technology behind AI cannot be explained simply to the data subjects, they cannot exercise a free choice to give consent. Let us imagine all the technical aspects of the social robots we referred to in this work. Even if the data controller (developer or service provider) tries to explain the logic of the algorithm or the system functionality, would it ever be a complete explanation as AI technology itself is already complex³⁸²? Even if the information is presented (because it must be presented), average data subjects may have no interest in any of that technical and complex information and may prefer the simplest and clearest explanation. Other data subjects both as a user and technically contributor to AI technologies may prefer more detailed information. We could even give the terminological differences between legal and technical fields as an example. For example, the term transparency³⁸³ does not mean the same thing for lawyers and developers. This could raise even more complication especially for people without technical knowledge³⁸⁴.

³⁸¹ Boucher, 2019, p. 15.

³⁸² Karyda, et. al., p. 208.

³⁸³ During the 15th International Conference on Intelligent Environments we participated in several presentations referring technical establishments of AI technologies. Several presentations used term transparency as a technical term, not a legal one. Later literature review showed that the situation is studied from this point of view, and the result is affirming our understanding. See, Felzmann, et. al., 2019.

³⁸⁴ Kim and Hinds, 2006, p. 83.

Let us also imagine the people around us. Some of them are not interested in any technology at all, while some of them are living only with technology. Those who live with technology also do not have to be interested in the technology itself, but only use benefit from the services offered via a particular technology. Nowadays, in a technology-immature society where people have tendencies to give up more personal data to use the newest gadgets more. They most often do not understand these new technologies³⁸⁵, and the circumstances of any informed choice they might ever make rapid changes³⁸⁶. They are not even aware of the possibility of an AI device to be always on-listen mode³⁸⁷. The situation anyway is the same even since the GDPR entered into force. This statement could be proved by the most recent Eurobarometer survey conducted in June 2019 which summarizes that 47% of the respondents do partially read and 40% never read the privacy statements because they either find them too long to read or find the statements unclear or difficult to understand³⁸⁸.

Which personal data, from what source, and in what way it was considered by an algorithm is still a question for many researchers waiting for its answer; but what makes the situation even more difficult is the ML service providers' attitude towards not sharing the technical details (even if they could succeed at certain level). For example, Carlini et. al.³⁸⁹ tested an algorithm by querying the ML service containing the original training set (called as a type of membership inference attack) to find out whether a given data record was a part of the ML training dataset or not. Since data subjects have a right to be informed whether their data is processed, Carlini's work could be a real example of practicing the GDPR. It is important to point out that the given record would be any personal data, including sensitive data. The paper proves that if several parameters are in the right setting, ML service offered by the providers such as Google and Amazon as a black-box setting and used by anyone to create a model could leak information about the training dataset which may result in information leak about people in the training set. The authors draw attention to the

³⁸⁵ Misek, 2014, p. 76.

³⁸⁶ Custers, et. al., 2013, p. 440.

³⁸⁷ Manikonda, Deotale, and Kambhampati, 2017.

³⁸⁸ European Commission, 2019, p. 47.

³⁸⁹ Carlini, et. al., 2018.

fact that Google and Amazon do not inform the users of their platforms about such risks which we believe would then result in them not to be able to assess the risks accurately. Article 35 of the GDPR, on the other hand, orders data controllers who in this case would be the user of the ML services offered by those tech giants to assess the risks before they start using the platform. If data controllers are not informed about such risks and even more, if they are not allowed to check the learning algorithm and the architecture behind, they would unintentionally breach the GDPR rules.

However, our problem statement is not only related to technical constraints and data controller's manner but also related to lack of or insufficient regulations and difficulty to regulate diverse populations that AI systems serve³⁹⁰ as a result of former reasons. Practically, the GDPR does not oblige data controllers to present understandable information and verify whether the data subjects understand the information at least at a certain level. The GDPR, in fact, does not oblige data controllers to provide the right to explanation to their data subjects³⁹¹. Unless there is a comprehensively thought, as such a designed and standardized way of delivering a person-based explanation, there will always be inconsistencies among the ways the information is delivered³⁹². Data controllers are well aware of this loophole; one may recall what the Big Five (and their acquisitions)³⁹³ have been doing, changing their privacy and transparency tools in a way people would not understand or be able to go for further questioning. For example, YouTube still puts the "OK" button beside the "Review" button to trick the users, forcing them to accept its freshly updated (22 July 2019) privacy policy. Netflix (is not yet in the Big Five, but is the largest online video streaming service) provides information about the processing of their users' data, but according to the privacy statement, Netflix uses any information related to the user leaving no possibility for the user to choose. Non-exhaustive ways of collecting and using data without no choice to reject the collection of single data are not how the right to data protection in the EU should be in practice.

³⁹⁰ Whittaker, et. al., 2018, p. 7 & p. 35.

³⁹¹ Wachter, Mittelstadt and Floridi, p. 95.

³⁹² Stats NZ, 2018, p. 34.

³⁹³ "The Big Five Tech Companies & Their Big Five Acquisitions", Nicolas Lekkas, [Online], April 2019, GrowthRocks, Accessed from: <https://growthrocks.com/blog/big-five-tech-companies-acquisitions/> Last accessed: 18 June 2019.

In such an environment, the data controller of a social robot may tend to circumvent its stress to fulfill legal obligations and as a result, provide explanations that are not accurate or tricking its users like in the YouTube and Netflix examples. In their recent empirical research, Whitley and Pujadas³⁹⁴ proved that unless data subjects read the terms and conditions for products or services they use and unless all of them would read the privacy statements fully, no valid consent could be obtained since they are not fully informed.

There could be many reasons for this behavior. Data controllers may prefer not to reveal their privacy losses to the users transparently even if they implement privacy techniques such as differential privacy which also has its technical shortcomings in the implementation³⁹⁵. They may be having a fear of losing user's trust or they may not be wishing to show the shortcomings of their systems. On the other hand, since algorithms are developed with ML techniques performing tasks to find out the patterns in the data set which cannot be easily done human and realized by human, or such realization may take months and be cost-full, the data controller may make up some stories³⁹⁶ to make data subject believe in. The problems here that, the data subjects cannot verify or nullify the accuracy of these explanations. The GDPR, additionally, does not provide clear rules ensuring the data subjects' understanding of the legal basis in which the data processing activity identified by data controllers. Data controllers' explanation might be minimal, restrictive, not explicitly understandable by the data subjects (the logic involved with the algorithm), and finally, may not leave any chance for the data subjects to correct their behavior to receive the demanded decision in the future³⁹⁷. We could remember here again the Netflix example given above. Netflix collects data on any possible devices in the broadest sense to use again in the broadest sense, and the users have no option to exclude some of the sources the company collects data from.

³⁹⁴ Whitley and Pujadas, 2018, p. 30-35.

³⁹⁵ Tang, et. al., 2017, n.p.

³⁹⁶ Monroe, 2018, p. 12.

³⁹⁷ Wachter, Mittelstadt, Russell, 2018, p. 878.

In this case, would an informed choice through a single privacy statement giving general information about a social robot's system functionality which will not be read or understood be practically valid?

2.2.6. Intelligent Form

Previously, we presented a discussion on the fact that either technically, practically or legally, it is not easy to implement the informing obligation rules for data processing activities in AI systems. One may claim that the EU lawmaker already took many steps to ensure understandability of the information in the GDPR with the 'intelligible form requirement'. Information in an intelligible form ensures data controllers to better fulfill transparency and consent principles. Although the word "intelligible" refers to the understandability (of the form of the information, in this case), years of practice with data protection legislation in Europe presents different perceptions on the concept. This probably is because there is no explanation placed in the GDPR regarding the meaning of the intelligible form³⁹⁸. For this reason, the CJEU received several questions regarding the form of the explanation that would reinforce fulfilling the transparency requirement at the time when Directive 95/46 was in force. Articles 7 and 12 of the GDPR, just as the Article 12 of Directive 95/46, further put obligations on data controllers to provide information to the data subjects about processing in an intelligible form, which — as the CJEU states — is "a form which allows [them] to become aware of those data and to check that they are accurate and processed in compliance with that directive, so that [they] may, where relevant, exercise [their] rights"³⁹⁹. This statement is particularly related to data subjects' right to obtain information on what data is being processed about them, and then right to request an update in case it is inaccurate.

In another case, CJEU refers to specific rights in which data subjects should be able to exercise in line with the right to access data concerning them. The Court stated that the

³⁹⁸ Article 12 of the GDPR obliges data controllers to provide information to the data subjects related to their data processing activities in an intelligible form, but does not further explain what such form should mean for the data controllers.

³⁹⁹ Joined Cases C141/12 and C372/12 YS (C141/12) v Minister voor Immigratie, Integratie en Asiel, Minister voor Immigratie, Integratie en Asiel (C372/12) [2014] Judgement of the Court, ECLI:EU:C:2014:2081, para. 57.

“data subject has a right to have the data communicated to him in an intelligible form, so that he is able, to exercise his rights to rectification, erasure and blocking the data”⁴⁰⁰. In the GDPR, Articles 13 and 14 seem complementary to these statements and may give a clue on what an intelligible form is since types of information to be delivered by data controllers to data subjects are listed. When we take a look at all of those cases referred, and the Court’s answers, we could easily be realized that none of the listed information orders data controllers to ensure the understandability of the information they present.

Besides all those arguments, stress should be made on the fact that some authors are referring back to the problems related to the difficulties of understanding the information, as we described above. Burrell⁴⁰¹ states that if the intelligible form would mean to ensure the data subject’s understanding of the technology, it would not be possible to ensure this since it is not possible to understand the intelligibility of the algorithm. He further gives as a reason for this statement, that the AI algorithms are far from programmability within the traditional meaning done with hand by a human.

The updated guidelines of Article 29 Working Party on transparency⁴⁰² actually give some clues about preparing intelligible information tailored to different audiences, so that the information could be understandable by each group as an average. Although it is a guidance, not a legally binding rule, it still is an important document that could present a framework for how consent rules to be fulfilled. According to the guidelines:

“The requirement that information is “intelligible” means that it should be understood by an average member of the intended audience. This means that the controller needs to first identify the intended audience and ascertain the average member’s level of understanding.”⁴⁰³

Such a statement should be thought entirely well for making it applicable in practice. The requirement for the provided information to be “intelligible” should mean that it should be understood by an average member of the intended audience. An accountable data controller

⁴⁰⁰ Case C486/12, X [2013], Judgement of the Court ECLI:EU:C:2013:836, para. 28.

⁴⁰¹ Burrell, 2016, p. 7.

⁴⁰² Article 29 WP_2016/679, p. 7.

⁴⁰³ Ibid., p. 8.

may already know the people they collect information about and it can use this knowledge to determine what that audience would likely understand ('calculated intelligibility'). For example, a controller collecting the personal data of working professionals can assume its audience has a higher level of understanding than a controller that obtains the personal data of children⁴⁰⁴. On one hand, these assumptions are valid for accountable data controllers which might not always be the sure-case. On the other hand, the statement made in the guidelines may remain vague, if the service to be offered is a personalized one developed based on an algorithm learning from personal data. If the condition is to first evaluate the groups based on criteria such as age, there still could be quite big differences between the understanding level of people even within the same group. Recent experiences show that younger people understand specific terminology much better than older ones do, but not all in the same way. The guidelines also suggest that the level of intelligibility (not the level of users' understanding) could be tested with several methods that still may not ensure every single data subject's characteristic.

Focusing on the average data subjects might be quite challenging since the service they are offered is personal and is based on their data. Recalling the philosophy of the informational self-determination and the importance of being able to decide as "self", we find it this simplification dangerous. Besides that, there are no criteria defined for data controllers to assess for identifying the average groups. For this reason, we think that understandability of the information must be one of the main elements for proving the validity of consent since it has an important role for data subject to make an autonomous decision on about the future of her data because only if data subject understands the risks⁴⁰⁵, then they could make the risk assessment which the GDPR is based on. This assessment should not focus on a general data subject group, but also to specific groups who might be more vulnerable⁴⁰⁶ when they use the robot and make decisions.

⁴⁰⁴ This even may not always be true. In the report prepared by the House of Commons Science and Technology Committee on the algorithmic decision-making, dr. Janet Bastiman says that even if the information was presented in a way involving the full structure, weighting, and training data making the algorithms, it might still not be understood by the end users. House of Commons, 2018, p. 28.

⁴⁰⁵ Schönberger, 2019, p. 190.

⁴⁰⁶ One of the results of the ExplAIIn project points out that 95% accurate decisions may prevail over the importance of right to explanation in case of health. This statement reveals the fact that right to explanation may be demanded based on a context, meaning that right to explanation may not necessarily be inserted in every system's field of functionality. ICO, 2019, p. 15.

2.2.7 Information for Vulnerable Groups

Thus far, we took a general approach to the data controller's responsibility to obtain the consent of the data subjects', leaving aside the probability of the variety of the user types (that may potentially interact with a social robot). Recently, social robots are more likely to take place in children's and elders' life and take different roles in people suffering from different health problems, in the first place. Under the present title, we would analyze the GDPR's consent requirements specified for the potential social robot users, if there is.

Article 8 of the GDPR has dedicated to the child's consent in case the data subject is a child. While deciding the minimum age limit of a child is left to national jurisdictions, the scale for the age limit is chosen by the GDPR is from 13 to 16 years. Recital 38 gives a clear message about the reason why designating special conditions for a child's consent which "they may be less aware of the risks, consequences and safeguards concerned and their rights concerning the processing of personal data". This is a very well-thought and justified reason by the EU lawmakers. In practice, if a child is the data subject, parental responsibility of the child should be ensured e.g. by verifying the age of data subject with a step by step approach. Some data controllers (as a service provider) designed strong tools for verification of data subject's age. They ask the parents' credit card number or ask for an e-mail address of the parent to send a verification email. Unless the parent consents for the child's use of that particular service, the service is not enabled for the child. Besides, many e-mail providers approved the age of the users of their services with such methods, so it is safe to say that the rule worked well in practice.

Related to consent requirements for a child, Article 12 of the GDPR stresses that information provided for a child should be "concise, intelligible and easily accessible form, using clear and plain language", in short, should be at such a level that a child could understand it easily⁴⁰⁷. As expected, a child should be fully able to execute her right to manage consent as it was referred to in Recital 65 of the GDPR. Supervisory authorities are specially designated duties related to the protection of children's rights under the GDPR, as Article 57 of the GDPR states.

⁴⁰⁷ Recital 58 of the GDPR.

Unlikely indicating the rights of children and specific requirements for a child's consent in the GDPR, there is neither specific consent requirement defined for persons with disabilities and elders nor assigned obligations for data controllers in case data subject belongs one or both of these (vulnerable) groups whereas e.g. whether person is disabled and the whole related data concerning this status is categorized under health data⁴⁰⁸. There is reference neither in the GDPR nor in the Recitals regarding rights of elders or people with disabilities as data subjects. Especially for elders, one may not realize any special circumstance to regulate elders' data protection rights, but in case of social robots, and specifically for the ones designed for elder-care, could raise some concerns. This work does not aim to research data protection rights of persons with disabilities and elders, however, we must refer to this problem since these deficiencies surely become problematic when people belonging either of those groups start sharing their lives with a social robot which they need the robot the most, in the end, become dependent on them. Here again, the consent problem appears as the most significant problem.

We think that elders, people with certain health problems, and people with disabilities are more open to emotional manipulation by social robots which may encourage them to share more of their private life without assessing a different kind of the risks explicitly. Since regulations and rules designated for legal capacity of persons with disabilities may exceed the EU's competences (specific regulations on vulnerable rights are placed under national law or in other words, such regulations do not fall under the explicit competences of the EU), the GDPR's application on the protection of elders' and people with certain diseases data protection rights worth discussing deeper.

We could start illustrating the discussion with the following example; one could imagine a data controller generating privacy statements written in a standard way for anyone without differing data subjects based on their specific information needs whether they are a member of a vulnerable group or not. According to the current legislation, there is no obstacle for data controllers to fulfill their obligations related to informing activities in this way. On the other hand, elders (also people with certain diseases) communication with the robot may include many stories from the elder's whole life including very private moments. There might be scenes (e.g. bathing scenes), moments with families, or other

⁴⁰⁸ Recital 35 of the GDPR.

private scenes need special regulation and authorization from the elder person. Körtner⁴⁰⁹ groups some of the ethical risks of robotics for elders as deception, dignity, isolation, privacy, security, and vulnerability. Regarding deception problems, he points the fact that differing robot's behaviors from humans might be even harder for elders than other people. The dignity of elders is more fragile since they might be more open to emotional manipulation. After all, elder people would only have the robot in their life and be only with them since they feel most comfortable when the robot is around. Unfortunately, the GDPR already did not solve the problem of the "one size fits all" approach for privacy statements and still does not provide specific regulations for elder's data protection rights. Moreover, we see all the problems raised for vulnerable' interaction with social robots as they could be also valid for anyone else. True of all, but all could be valid for any person at any age.

Until now, we ensured that the GDPR will be challenged with its exemptions already, but still applies to the data breaches regarding social robots at personal use. In addition to these issues, we illustrated how GDPR omitted regulation of certain rules for minors vulnerable who would be most probably the first receivers of social robots' services. However, we now step to the rules that apply to everyone promiscuously a particular group. We already mentioned difficulties to exercise the right to access information and consent rules, but we now step to the rules that are specifically engaged with social robots, as we may think.

2.3. Arguments on Algorithmic Black Boxes

One of the strongest arguments related to the obstacles before delivering explanations and sufficient information about AI systems followed by technical academia is the famous black box arguments. According to those arguments, black-box algorithms may prevent even data controllers to first understand what algorithm exactly is doing with the personal data and how does it evaluate, so that data controllers may find themselves in a very difficult situation. It is because they are bound to explain something to the data subjects

⁴⁰⁹ Körtner, 2016, p. 305.

that they do not even know how it works⁴¹⁰. Let us imagine that all the legal and natural persons developing a social robot are bound to explain all possible functions and capabilities of the robot. If the system used is a type of supervised learning, there is a high possibility for data controllers to easily foresee the outputs of the system at a certain level. However, “this becomes difficult to implement as algorithms become more complex and unpredictable”⁴¹¹.

Such an issue even may not arise from the complexity of the system just because it is an AI system, but because of the dozens of independently working developers behind, an uncountable amount of data that is analyzed and therefore brings complexity by nature⁴¹². Neural nets are not designed to reveal a “list or catalog of all learned information where we could have a look at the information that is stored inside the network, as well as see what information is not represented inside”⁴¹³. Moreover, systems operating with RL techniques are operated in a highly dynamic environment where “errors are a necessity” for the systems to learn the right behavior.⁴¹⁴ The only way to see the error is to train the system first, then let it collect the data which will then be transformed into knowledge and only after all by testing and experimenting it. However, merging the training and learning phases, and due to its dynamic nature, the RL technique makes it impossible to always check and predict the outcomes of the system⁴¹⁵. In our opinion, these technical issues could be overcome with the help of other technical opportunities. For example, Project *explAin* aims defining the obstacles before creating explainable AI systems and offer several solutions that could technically also be implemented. Another example could be

⁴¹⁰ Director of the Institute for Next Generation Healthcare, Joel Dudley, made a comment on the algorithm that could predict successfully schizophrenia which is a difficult case for doctors, he found out that “We can build these models, but we don’t know how they work.” *The Dark Secret at the Heart of AI*, Will Knight, [Online], MIT Technology Review, 11 April 2017, Accessed from: <https://www.technologyreview.com/s/604087/the-dark-secret-at-the-heart-of-ai/> Last accessed: 15 April 2019.

⁴¹¹ Barfield, p.196.

⁴¹² Burrell, p.5.

⁴¹³ Matthias, p. 179.

⁴¹⁴ Ibid. p. 177.

⁴¹⁵ Ibid., p. 171.

that IBM recently announced an explainability toolkit⁴¹⁶, academia has been considering the topic closely⁴¹⁷, and have been producing several theoretical solutions⁴¹⁸, although these solutions mostly focusing on explaining the algorithms leaving aside testing whether human understands these interpretations or not⁴¹⁹. DARPA⁴²⁰ and Google⁴²¹, also effort to open the black boxes. We believe that soon there will be a solution for algorithmic black-box problems, but let us hope that the solution will not reflect another justification for data controllers to skip their legal obligations.

2.4. Is consent the only legal basis?

When we start examining the legal basis for social robots processing data, we realized that the scope of the GDPR makes an exemption for data controllers operating social robots. Although these exemptions apply generally to the legal persons, we think that social robots at home serving personal use will meet other individuals, too. In addition to conflicts regarding data protection issues between individuals and legal persons, individual to individual conflicts could also arise easily. In the following, we would like to show how and why a social robot at personal use cannot be exempted from the GDPR but how it could lead collision of two fundamental rights (right to privacy and right to data protection). Since we will examine some of the GDPR exemptions in our case, we found it useful to discuss the household exemption first.

⁴¹⁶ “AI Explainability 360 Open Source Toolkit”, [Online], IBM. Accessed from: <http://aix360.mybluemix.net> and <https://xaitutorial2019.github.io>. Last accessed: 12 January 2020

⁴¹⁷ “Special Issue on Explainable Artificial Intelligence”, [Online], Elsevier. Accessed from: <https://www.journals.elsevier.com/artificial-intelligence/call-for-papers/special-issue-on-explainable-artificial-intelligence>. Last accessed: 12 January 2020.

⁴¹⁸ Ribera and Lapedriza, 2019, p.6.

⁴¹⁹ Tjoa and Guan, 2019, p. 13.

⁴²⁰ “Explainable Artificial Intelligence (XAI)”, [Online], Matt Turek, DARPA. Accessed from: <https://www.darpa.mil/program/explainable-artificial-intelligence> Last accessed: 15 January 2020.

⁴²¹ Some of the Google Brain team members run their researches in this field. See: Kim, et. al., 2018, n.p. (online). Accessible here: <http://proceedings.mlr.press/v80/kim18d/kim18d.pdf> Last accessed: 15 January 2020.

2.4.1. Household Exemption

The first and foremost discussion related to the GDPR's exemptions is not the household exemption. However, since this work focuses on the private use of social robots, it is worth to discuss why and how the household exemption could be thought for advanced technologies targeting personal use. As the analysis will show, whether the exemption is applicable, a natural person could also be exempted from consent obligations. However, if the exemption is not applicable, then there is a need for sharing the consent obligations among the main data controllers.

The main reason why the household exemption is placed both in the Directive 95/46/EC and the GDPR is the necessity to balance between the rights recognized in the data protection legislation. Thus, balancing right to privacy against right to data protection is a difficult task since the two rights are different but also interrelated, as it was discussed in Part II. One of the methods that European lawmaker uses to balance these rights is exempting data processing activities which are aiming personal or household activities (hereafter: household exemption). The household exemption was originally presented in Directive 95 and it was kept in the GDPR, too. However, not many cases were yet brought to the CJEU giving broader understanding on this exemption and its concept clearly, but we expect more cases before the DPAs or national courts since personal products and services enhanced with AI in embodied form could easily take place at homes for personal use in near future.

Since there has been no court case brought before the CJEU after the 25th of May 2018 related to this topic, we could find paths to understand household exemption only from the cases interpreted in the frame of Directive 95. Though, the concept of household activity has not changed much within the GDPR. The second indent of Article 3(2) of Directive 95 and the third indent of Article 2(2) of the GDPR is the same word by word as following:

“This Regulation does not apply to the processing of personal data...by a natural person in the course of a purely personal or household activity”.

The GDPR's Recital 18 clearly states that the it does not apply to the natural persons who are subjected to purely personal or household activities, however, it applies to controllers and processors if they provide the means and purposes for processing data under personal

or household activities. Compared to the Directive 95/46/EC, the GDPR's Recital 18 introduces terms such as "exclusivity of the processing," or "gainful interest" for deciding whether processing activity is household or not. However, the terms are comprehensive and not clearly defined in the legal text which might be confusing during the implementation.

First draft of the Recital 18 was designed in a way that the exemption would be applicable to the all controllers and processors. The Council modified the draft as the exemption would not be applicable to the controllers and processors⁴²², and the possible reason for that it would cause a total dysfunctioning of the GDPR on today's personal based technology use. Our opinion is based on the Council's next step, which then added social networking and online activities into the "list" of household and personal activities. As a result, pure household activity in which purposes defined by a member of a family could not be evaluated under the household exemption, according to the GDPR.

The Recitals in regulations are not legally binding texts even though they were referred to in some of the Court cases which we discuss below⁴²³. However, they are important to understand the concept of the rules which then at the utmost help for the application. In this case, the final text of Recital 18 of the GDPR should worth to be placing here, as following:

"This Regulation does not apply to the processing of personal data by a natural person in the course of a purely personal or household activity and thus with no connection to a professional or commercial activity. Personal or household activities could include correspondence and the holding of addresses, or social networking and online activity undertaken within the context of such activities. However, this Regulation applies to controllers or processors which provide the means for processing personal data for such personal or household activities".

⁴²² Comparison of the Parliament and Council text on the General Data Protection Regulation. [Online], Accessed from: https://edri.org/files/EP_Council_Comparison.pdf Last accessed: 17 January 2019

⁴²³ In Planet49 case which was closed in 1 October 2019, AG Szpunar states that a "good legislative practice by the political institutions of the EU tends to aim at a situation in which the recitals provide a useful background to the provisions of a legal text". para71 of the Opinion of Advocate General Szpunar. This means that if a Recital is considered in a case interpretation by the CJEU (in practice, in other words), it can have a legal meaning in a narrow sense.

Since the GDPR focuses on the protection of individuals' data protection rights against legal persons, protecting individuals from other individuals' privacy interferences may seem less observed even though the natural persons also can be controllers. In this case, the responsibilities and liabilities of natural persons as taking either small or big part in data processing activities of certain technologies may fade away within the text. Especially, exempting the GDPR from individuals' household and personal activities without a clear definition and interpretation of the terms raise some questions in today's technology-dependent world. It is not crystal clear how the GDPR may help for an individual whose privacy was breached because of a robot placed at home and operating under personal usage, and for an individual who operates a robot for such personal purposes such as healthcare. In case of breach of rights, finding out whether the user or the producer of the robot shall be liable in the capacity of data controller worth further analysis. During the years of enforcement, the household exemption was practiced in the frame of Directive 95/46/EC in few cases. Some of the CJEU cases interpreted in the frame of the household exemption which form the basis for understanding its concept. These cases prove that natural persons could be indeed data controllers from different points of view and could be held liable as a result. Further, we will present relevant court cases where the household exemption was directly questioned, and which made an impact in relevant EU case law by adding a new element.

2.4.1. Household exemption for Household Social Robots

As presented above, cases brought to the CJEU related to household exemption yet related to old or already widely used technologies. No case related to the use of smartphones, IoT devices, or a social robot has yet been brought before courts (neither before a national court nor the CJEU). However, the data protection community of the EU already is aware of the fact that such a case could be difficult to interpret especially if natural persons are likely to be a data controller. Some below-given examples from the interpretation of the GDPR may help to explain our statement.

EDPS's opinion on cloud computing supports our view of some sense. It states that since it is the provider who provides the means for processing, the household exemption may not

be applicable even if the service is used for personal purposes⁴²⁴. In such cases, EDPS defines individual users as data controllers but WP29 states that their responsibilities related to security requirements to be lighter than the providers⁴²⁵. Furthermore, natural persons as data controllers should inform other people about the existence of data processing, legal bases for data processing, and they should comply with data protection principles. They should allow the data subjects to exercise their rights such as the right to rectification and the Right to be Forgotten.

In another opinion, the EDPS refers to the nature of the business model of the IoT and concludes that the user's data are systematically transferred outside of the scope of personal activities, therefore device manufacturers, application developers, and other third parties qualify as data controllers. In case of personal usage of an IoT device, the household exemption will, therefore, be of limited application⁴²⁶. This assumption does not seem fair since the risks of data processing activity do not arise from data processing activity of robot manufacturer, developer or a third party, but may well be because of personal usage.

Finally, the WP29 identifies some questions to guide natural persons whether data processing activities they proceed with are under the household exemption, or not. This practical approach could be useful to understand the basics of household activities before starting to use particular services like what a personal robot could offer. One of the questions seeks an answer for whether “the potential adverse impact on individuals, including intrusion into to data subjects' privacy” is the case with data processing activity, or not. While all the other questions, (e.g., regarding the number of people whose data is disseminated, scale and frequency of processing activity, and relationship between the individuals whether they are in a personal or household relationship) are pointing possibility of defining data processing activities carried by a personal robot to be personal or household activities, potential adverse impact is the only one which may not fit into this concept. In parallel with it, WP29 warns individuals to be careful about the data sharing

⁴²⁴ European Data Protection Supervisor Opinion of the European Data Protection Supervisor on the Commission's Communication on "Unleashing the potential of Cloud Computing in Europe" (16 November 2012)

⁴²⁵ Article 29 WP, 2013, p. 5

⁴²⁶ Article 29 WP_ 8/2014, p. 13.

activities of other people on mobile applications they use⁴²⁷. This is strong evidence on how responsibility could exchange between legal persons to natural persons according to the use of certain technologies.

Before finalizing, we would like to refer a comprehensive work where the household exemption was analyzed in the frame of current technologies at personal use. Butler's analysis⁴²⁸ proves that purpose-oriented personal or household activity was unfortunately not considered in Directive 95, therefore using drones for personal hobby, or wearables for personal development, or taking pictures at school party may all be interpreted outside of personal and household activity exemption, although they might be interpreted oppositely under national law of the UK. As the GDPR carries the same characteristics with the Directive 95, and still not referring to purpose-oriented use of technology, having a personal robot serving personal use at home and home affairs may not protect individuals from sanctions. In this case, difficulties to interpret cases related to the use of personal robots at home in a frame of the GDPR are expected, but in my work, we assume that such a robot should not be exempted from the scope of the GDPR.

2.5. A Note on the Security of Social Robots

In some jurisdictions, e.g. Germany, "word privacy is sometimes used as a synonym for data safety in the area of protection of personal rights"⁴²⁹. Since we are not intending to make research on the privacy effects of unintended attacks to a system or data breaches related purely to system security issues, we will keep this part as short as possible. Indeed, hacking and different types of possible attacks to AI systems are one of the most frightening events that may happen not just from the privacy point of view but also from economics, business, technology and even reputation of the data controller points of view. Since robotics research has been shaped in parallel with cloud computing, hardware and sensor technology, as well as developments of network and software, all these components of a robot need special and sometimes independent from each other requiring some security safeguards. There are works in the literature showing that how to open household

⁴²⁷ Article 29 WP_5/2009, p. 7.

⁴²⁸ Butler, 2015, p. 8.

⁴²⁹ Leroux, et. al., p. 48.

robots are for outside attacks and how those attacks seriously damage people's privacy, for example, by leaking identification information, letting attackers enter into the home's network, camera and microphone interception which enable an attacker to sneak in video and audio streaming.⁴³⁰ The security of robotic systems is one of the hottest topics in the robotic field.

Data controller already takes several security safeguards to protect their systems from attacks whether the GDPR obliges them to do so, but still, Article 25 of the GDPR somehow refers to the essence of secured systems from a data protection point of view. Article 25 and Article 32 of the GDPR states that "data controller shall implement appropriate technical and organizational measures, such as pseudonymization, which are designed to implement data-protection principles, such as data minimization, efficiently and to integrate the necessary safeguards into the processing to meet the requirements of this Regulation and protect the rights of data subjects" and Article 32 of the GDPR refers to the security of data processing stating that "taking into account the state of the art, the costs of implementation and the nature, scope, context and purposes of processing as well as the risk of varying likelihood and severity for the rights and freedoms of natural persons, the controller, and the processor shall implement appropriate technical and organizational measures to ensure a level of security appropriate to the risk". Article 32 indicates that the security measures should be taken based on risks that should be assessed by the nature and amount of the data but not always an easy task for the data controller. Even the models used in ML are personal data since they consist of personal data regardless of pseudonymized or anonymized and it is hard to prove whether the attack was initially done to reveal personal data or not⁴³¹. Technical constraints to understand and prove the nature of the attack may put the data controller in a stressful position to comply with the GDPR which remains abstract regulation for ML and AI. A work⁴³² revealing the possible security risks of using personal robots as household prove that they are vulnerable to attacks yet and could be solved by enhancing security in technical meaning. But in this work, however, we do not question the effects of unintended attacks on privacy.

⁴³⁰ Denning, et. al., 2009, p. 105.

⁴³¹ Veale and Edwards, 2018, p. 5-6.

⁴³² Denning et. al., p. 107.

VI. Analysis of the Research Questions and Expert Opinions

As described in detail in the method section, expert opinions were collected from 10 November 2019 until 6 December 2019 in four EU countries. In total, 16 experts delivered their opinions via pre-established questions. Analysis of the answers will be presented firstly as a general evaluation, then will follow a question specific analysis approach. Differences and similarities will be highlighted at country-based, and no expert name will be disclosed during the interviews. If it is necessary to directly quote from the interviews, the quotation will be presented in the “Expert A, from (country name)” form. To keep the integrity of the analysis, we first present the scenario and then present the expert opinions.

1. Scenario

This is the future where humans became more dependent on technology. Autonomous cars replaced public transportation and reduced personal cars in traffic; drone delivery replaced the traditional door to door delivery services. Waste disposal robots sweep the streets all day with a smiling face, food and drinks are served at the hands of robo-waiters in cafés. Human beings spend more time developing their personal selves, doing more sports, learning science, and developing the technology for their own good.

This is the age of technology in which the cost of hardware and software requirements for producing not just a single robot, but dozens, equal only to that of an Apple® computer made in 2019. Most of the people in Europe can easily afford a personal service robot enhanced with several Machine Learning techniques. These robots are the so-called Social Robots that are able to enter into social interactions with human users to serve them in different fields, starting from maintaining the home to providing health care services (also in the private home). Depending on their level of AI, these robots are able to fulfill single to multiple tasks for personal use. For this reason, they are also called, ‘personal household social robots’. These multi-purpose robots are very popular since they offer tailor-made services for anyone who opts in sharing their personal life with them. Their humanoid specifications and features make the user feel comfortable during their interactions, which makes it easier for the robots to collect necessary data to develop their algorithms to the

personal satisfaction of the user. Companies⁴³³ behind these robots ensure a high level of security and abide by the strict principle of no-surveillance by third parties and are operating the robots in a safe and trustworthy way. The machines can make highly accurate and bias-free decisions, thanks to the Machine Learning research and technology investments made in this field a decade ago.

Life with a Social Robot at Home

Julia is a successful businessperson in her early forties living alone since she and her husband got divorced two years ago. She has a son whom she meets quite often in a week. Since she works more than a usual after she got divorced, she realized that she could replace some of the repetitive household work with a robot and share her loneliness with it, just like her colleagues did so. She purchased the personal HSR called Robinsan⁴³⁴, a Social Robot, whose algorithms run based on and defined by the objective of “maintaining and optimizing the well-being of people”. It is able to complete several tasks related to home maintenance and personal care, from cleaning to ordering food, from home security to entertainment, etc., based on the service module the user subscribes to. Robinsan’s algorithm runs several applications in one central cloud-based database owned and operated by the Company selling it.

Julia evaluated the first month with Robinsan as “very efficient” due to the robot’s high level of performance in completing the tasks she assigned to it. She decided to go on with Robinsan by notifying the Company and upon that, the Company mentioned some of the other functions of the HSR, such as personalized health-care assistance.

A couple of months later, Julia was informed that she has early-onset Alzheimer’s disease (AD). She already received treatment from her doctor, but she believes in the benefit of a supportive treatment besides the medical one on reducing the AD’s effects. Such a supportive treatment can be, for example, daily activities improving her cognitive skills

⁴³³ Companies are understood as the entities producing, selling, and maintaining the robots, and dealing with few problems arising from personal use.

⁴³⁴ This name consists of two words which one of them is robot and the other is “insan” meaning human in Turkish.

(memory) or herbal tablets based on her physical and psychological needs⁴³⁵. She remembers the information given by the Company regarding Robinsan's function as a personal health care assistant and she decides to extend her subscription to the basic personal health-care module which then could be specially tailored to her specific disease. Since it is a matter of her health, she did not much care about all the informative documents and consent papers that the Company made her sign, she took a quick look at them upon purchase.

While the installation was on-going, Julia felt exhausted with the many interruptions during her interactions with Robinsan, as consent panels were embedded in the installation process to fulfill the Company's relevant obligations. She paid attention to the consent statements several times but did not understand why all these repetitive information (name of the data controller, address, data processing purposes, etc.) was presented each time. She also did not understand some of the statements, thinking they were too technical for her. Once Robinsan was updated with the new health-care functionality, she could then start uploading all personal information regarding her health status, by scanning the papers, or by oral introduction. Besides Robinsan collecting data such as pulse, blood pressure, sweat concentration, hemoglobin saturation, etc., through a chip (owned only by the Company) embedded in Julia's arm, it could also analyze physical indicators such as fatigue, happiness, depression, dizziness, etc., via Facial Recognition, without needing the chip.

By that time, Robinsan became an important part of Julia's life. She trusted the robot and let it move freely at home without territorial restrictions. She had no fear to share her personal issues with Robinsan since she felt like it was human, due to its humanoid behavior. Whenever Julia felt sad, Robinsan could detect it and cheer her up with several personalized services, such as, playing her favorite song or talking with her. She interacted with Robinsan every day, disclosed her feelings and opinions, and she actually was no longer lonely in this way. She finally decided to approve all the consent statements

⁴³⁵ The idea of core genomic medicine targeting to deliver personalized medicines and treatments to the patients by analyzing their genomic data (e.g. DNA) is based on the House of Common Science and Technology Committee's Report entitled "Genomics and genome editing in the NHS" generated in 2018. The report is accessible here: <https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201719/cmselect/cmsctech/349/349.pdf>

delivered by the Company and Robinsan's user interface without giving them a further thought.

As part of the health care function, Julia taught the robot to prepare her medicines and bring them every day at a certain time. She also taught Robinsan to order her medication whenever it ran out and to make her recommendations on OTC, holistic herbal medicines if the robot *thought* those could be helpful for her. Robinsan decides about the additional medication based on Julia's monthly health status evaluation compiled from several resources such as data describing her physiological and emotional status.

Robinsan also prepares personalized memory training exercises based on Julia's own settings. It can present slices of videos and pictures from the events which Julia can decide about and "teach" the robot. Robinsan could keep records of particular family activities through videos or pictures, which could then be presented in a gamified way to make her engage more with the activity. Robinsan's algorithm chooses the most important moments such as when she is happy, as well as important events such as birthdays, name days, and so on. It could then project the pictures or videos on flat surfaces, or displays them on its small touchscreen or using the smartphone Julia has to display them. Besides voice and face recognition and natural language processing, the HSR could analyze mimes and emotions of people, so it could decide on what level of confidence Julia might remember a certain moment. Julia taught the robot to choose some moments from her daily activities, including when her son visited her. She already asked her son's consent for being part of such recording, and naturally, he did not receive a negative answer. After the recording was finished, Robinsan shared the files with them.

After the HSR placed the second refill order for Julia's prescription medication, when she opened the delivery box, she found her medicines, a box of herbal vitamins, and a leaflet introducing a non-clinical treatment for drug addiction. She discussed the leaflet with her son, since he is the only one who interacts with Robinsan, and who immediately looked for an explanation for the leaflet in Robinsan's operating system. Besides very basic information such as a non-exhaustive list of data the Robinsan used for prediction, they found some technical information that they could not understand much. He sent an e-mail to the Company asking an explanation, and the Company gave one saying that personal data might be collected in the course of placing food orders, or in preparing for the

memory exercise, from both of them (Julia and her son) during their interactions with the HSR. The Company claimed that the information on the decision-making procedure of Robinsan was already explained in an easy-to-understand way to the general public. Furthermore, the Company delivered a report revealing the 85% probability of drug usage by the data subject (in the form of anonymized data). The Company indicated that it was Julia who purchased Robinsan and enabled it to collect data, therefore data collection means and purposes were communicated to her. Finally, the Company pointed out the notification which simply informed the users of the risk of having Robinsan at home, generating some “unpredictable” results. The National Supervisory Authority is now preparing for an investigation, with several questions in the case file.

2. Preliminary analysis of the scenario

In our scenario, we assumed that Julia’s son first refers to the DPA (in any MS) and then file a case before a local court. We believe, that such a case, as it would be the first of its kind, would be referred to the CJEU for a preliminary ruling. For this reason, before we analyze the expert opinions, we shall first present the analysis of the existed case law that applies to the questions we referred to together with our analysis.

2.1. The Household Exemption Questions

We should first of all stress that we do not question Robinsan’s company’s position as a data controller, because it is quite obvious that the company’s data processing activities can never fall under the household exemption. We are confident about the fact that if such a case is brought before any court, the main company behind the robot probably would claim that it is not the only data controller, but the user also contributes for data processing, therefore, no full liability shall be applicable⁴³⁶. Therefore, we will below discuss Julia’s position whether she could be assigned controllership, or not, since the case cannot be interpreted under the data protection legislation if it falls under the household exemption for Julia. There are two cases (Lindqvist and Ryneš cases) in which the household exemption was questioned from the natural person’s point of view, and there is a recent case that gave another dimension for interpretation of the household exemption before the

⁴³⁶ In the Fashion ID case, Fashion ID claimed precisely that it could not be considered as data controller, but Facebook was the only data controller. C-40/17 - Fashion ID, para. 34.

CJEU (Jehovah's witnesses case). Our analysis shows that the particular case we presented does not fall under the household exemption, but Julia may not be named as a data controller although there could be possibilities for her to be held liable in certain cases, as we will show below.

Bodil Lindqvist case

In the Lindqvist case, the household exemption was questioned for the first time. It is not a coincidence, that the case was brought in the earlier years of the start of personal internet use (in 2002). According to the facts of the case, Mrs. Lindqvist, a Swedish national living in Sweden, established a webpage for a group of her friends knowing each other from a parish. The website's link was an offline link, meaning that it was accessible only by the ones who has it. Some but a limited number of personal data of her friends, including their sensitive data such as data related to their health-related data besides their names and affiliation, was published on this website to keep acquaintance. She, for example, mentioned on the website that one of her colleagues injured her foot which reveals the colleagues' health condition. Upon some of her colleagues' negative feedback, she removed the website immediately. However, the public prosecutor brought a prosecution against her, based on the Swedish Data Protection Act by that time, claiming that she did not notify the Swedish DPA about the website, she processed sensitive data without this notification, and transferred personal data to third countries (the website provider probably was not located in Sweden). As she went through appeal procedures, the Swedish (Göta District Court) Court of Appeal referred several questions to the CJEU. One of those questions was regarding the household exemption, as following:

“Can the act of loading information of the type described work colleagues onto a private homepage which is nonetheless accessible to anyone who knows its address be regarded as outside the scope of [Directive 95/46] on the ground that it is covered by one of the exceptions in Article 3(2)?”

At the first sight, Mrs. Lindqvist claimed that what she was doing basically cannot be considered as an economic activity, but was related to her right to freedom of expression (a freedom that cannot be restricted or regulated unless national law says), therefore the question could not have been evaluated under the Community law. Very interestingly, the AG Tizzano who submitted his opinion as Mrs. Lindqvist's data processing activity should

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be kept outside of the scope of the Directive⁴³⁷ was not followed by the CJEU. Since the case was evaluated only from the data processing by a natural person's point of view, Mrs. Lindqvist's claim was not supported by the Court. The EC took the position that the Community law should not be evaluated only it was limited to economic activities connected to the four freedoms (freedom of persons, capital, services, and products) but free movement of data should also be considered as both economic and social activity. The EC stressed that integration and functioning of the common market could be succeeded in this way, because free movement of data in the EU was guaranteed by safeguarding the protection of people's right to data protection. The Directive is not restricting the data processing activities, but giving a framework for legal data processing activities (consent, in this case).

In connection with that, excluding Mrs. Lindqvist's case from the data protection legislation would cause a large number of websites to (try to) be excluded from, which, in the end, would create several inconsistencies. The Court took a similar position with the EC, stating that excluding Mrs. Lindqvist's case from the Directive 95/46/EC would cause unsure and uncertain applications. The Court also compared the household activity exemption with the other exemptions, such as data processing activity in the course of a criminal offense, and interpreted the current case as religious or charitable activities that Mrs. Lindqvist carried out cannot be excluded from the Directive's scope. The Court anyway expressed that the exemption applies only to those activities which are carried out in the course of private or family life of individuals, "not the case with the processing of personal data consisting in publication on the internet so that those data are made accessible to an indefinite number of people."⁴³⁸ Further, while she did not notify her friends about the existence of this website, she also missed the opportunity to ask their consent. Swedish DPA received no information about the existence of the website, either.

The case is particularly important from our point of view because it is the first case describing a natural person of a web-based service user as a data controller. The EC's position on evaluating the offline link which "is accessible not only to anyone who knows

⁴³⁷ Opinion of AG Tizzano, Case C-101/01, para. 35.

⁴³⁸ Ibid., para. 47.

its address but to anyone using a search engine⁴³⁹ is remarkable since it refers to the possibility of personal data on the Internet to be accessible by an indefinite number of people. However, this statement which indicates the web page to be accessible by anyone who knows its address raises a question, since Robinsan does not have any public link on web, but as the company states, that anyone who consented for their data to be processed by Robinsan to get an access to her data via a private link.

- Our position is that, maybe, if Robinsan disclosed Julia's son's health condition to someone else, the household exemption would never be a question. In such, there is a risk for data to be not accessed, but to be obtained by others, meaning that household exemption should not be applicable for Julia.

František Ryněš case

In the Ryněš case, the Court developed the interpretation of the household exemption by strengthening the idea that a natural person could be a data controller while they use certain technologies if it also records some part of public spaces. The case was brought before the CJEU according to the facts that Mr. Ryněš, a Czech national living in Czechia, placed a CCTV system monitoring the entrance of his home as well as some part of a public place around his home for purpose of his family's and his property's security because they experienced several attacks carried by unknown people to their home for some years. The system was working offline meaning that no data was transferred outside of Mr. Ryněš' home and he was the only person who had access to the system and data recorded. Right after another attack, he successfully identified the attackers via the system and initiated a criminal procedure against them. However, the Czech Data Protection Office claimed that Mr. Ryněš breaches the Directive 95/46/EC since he did not fulfill his obligations as a data controller. These obligations were the consent requirements, the purpose statement, notification obligation, and obligation to report data processing to the Czech DPO, as all also referred to the Lindqvist case. Mr. Ryněš counterclaimed that he placed the CCTV by his family's health and security, therefore the case should be interpreted in the frame of household exemption.

⁴³⁹ Ibid., para. 32.

On the contrary, the Court was not in the same view as Mr. Reyneš. Firstly, analysis of the Court stated that offline use of technology is not a criterion to evaluate data controller within the limits of the household exemption since it still identifies the people in an automatic meaning. This was the question referred to in the Lindqvist case, too, so the answer was that either online or off-line, automatic processing of personal data is the keyword. Further, AG Jääskinen⁴⁴⁰ pointed an important aspect in the case which is related to seeking real damage to possible data subjects is not applicable because there was a real risk arising from recording other people's data outside of the home, even if it was placed for strong personal reasons. Again, AG Jääskinen made a very important contribution to the interpretation of this case by indicating that placing a camera in which surveilling people (either inside or outside of the home) cannot be considered within the meaning of household exemption, but this does not mean that recording was illegal⁴⁴¹. The recording activity was falling under the legitimate interest of Mr. Ryneš who established the camera only to protect his property, his and his family's health and life. Such a legitimate interest, however, cannot override the others' right to privacy and data protection, as the CJEU later stated in its decision.

Since the case was a preliminary ruling request, the Court did not take into account the claims regarding the obligations of Mr. Ryneš as a data controller, however, confirmed that he was the data controller. What should have Mr. Ryneš done, to fulfill his obligations as the data controller, was not considered to be referred to the CJEU.

- The Ryneš case carries several important elements for the interpretation of our scenario. First of all, Julia brings the robot home which can surveil not only her daily routines but also other people's entering home. Moreover, besides the Company, she is the one who can access data in Robinsan's system and make use out of it for her daily memory activities. Further, she is now in a position of knowing her son's drug use issue, and she may, based on her legitimate interest, could visit a doctor to seek a solution for her son. This may raise an issue for her to be counted as a data controller in a bigger possibility than what the Lindqvist case presented.

⁴⁴⁰ Opinion of AG Jääskinen, C-212/13 – Ryneš, para. 19.

⁴⁴¹ Ibid., para. 54.

Jehovah's Witnesses case

In the Jehovah's Witnesses case, another question was raised to clarify what does the household exemption means. The question referred to the CJEU was basically whether data processing activities carried by religious communities in course of religious activities would fall within the household exemption. As a result, the religious group, Jehovah's Witnesses Community, and its members were refrained from collecting personal data such as name, address, beliefs and family circumstances of people who are unknown to the Community and which occurred during the course of the door to door preaching activities. The Community collected such data to use in further visits which are not in knowledge of data subjects. Neither such preaching activities were requested by data subjects nor they were aware that their data is being recorded. Moreover, collected data was shared between the Community's other members unless they indicate not to receive it further. The Court decided according to merits that data collection activity went beyond its purposes which was to engage those data subjects with the Community who are not a member yet, and refers to the indefinite number interpretation as similar to the Lindqvist case.

This case is important for the strong emphasis on what AG Mengozzi makes it clear, that just because the Community members enter into people's homes does not mean that the activity is a household activity, therefore household activity is not related to a physical location⁴⁴². Thus, a critical approach to this statement which claims that the activities outside of the home but between family may well fall within the scope of the exemption.

From the above-presented cases which makes it significantly clear the fact that for understanding household exemption rule of data protection law of the EU, the following summary could be reached: Each case balance the other fundamental rights with the right to data protection is not an easy task and especially if two very related rights, right to privacy and right to data protection are at the core of the case. In light of the case law, it is safe to say that the Court takes into account the risk of processed data by a natural person to reach an indefinite number of other people which would not be the case if the robot is only deployed at home for household use. The Court also considers that although the household activity is not related to physical settlements such as walls of the home of the data controller, if the data controller collects data from public spaces, then processing is

⁴⁴² Opinion of AD Mengozzi, C-25/17 - Jehovan todistajat, para. 51.

surely not falling under personal or household purposes. To make a recording of the public space reasonable, the data controller must fulfill his obligations such as providing information, obtaining consent, or creating grounds for withdrawing consent. This rule may be interpreted as people recorded by Robinsan considered to be a “public” since they are not belonging to the household, even if Julia’s son is subjected to the evaluation. Either any DPA or a court interpreting the scenario would evaluate Robinsan’s actual use space partially public and would consider the fact that people under Robinsan’s surveillance must be informed about the operation of the robot at home. On the other hand, Julia, as the main user, would be under surveillance (just like the CCTV camera does) and even more, under autonomous evaluation of Robinsan. The Company of Robinsan shall inform both Julia and, maybe, the people entering home subjected to the Robinsan’s data processing, and obtain their consent. How consent should be obtained and what information should be presented to the actual and potential data subjects to ensure the consent is valid will be the second part of our analysis. As well as these questions are important, how to obtain the consent of others will be then analyzed.

2.2. The Consent Question

Upon the claim that the Company failed to obtain Julia's and her son's consent, the Company now brings all the evidences before the Court, such as, the privacy statement attached to the sales contract, signed consent forms, videos where consent was taken orally by the time for new updates were made, and the user manual which was given before their purchase to all users. The company presents the off-line user interface where data subjects could see some information about their data and limited management competences. From the company's point of view, it has fulfilled all the informing duty which includes presenting transparent information indicated in Articles 12, 13, and 22 of the GDPR.

The question of whether data controllers have to ensure each data subjects' understanding, which is not explicitly stressed in the GDPR, carries the discussion to another dimension. Based on this loophole, data controllers like the tech-giants (e.g. Google, Facebook, Amazon) which provide their services based on algorithmic calculations, do not pay attention to whether the users would be able to easily understand the information provided, and track and control their data within the system. However, "the requirement to inform the data subjects about the processing of their personal data is all the more important since it affects the exercise by the data subjects of their right of access to, and right to rectify, the data being processed, and their right to object to the processing of those data"⁴⁴³, as AG Cruz Villalon stated in the Bara and others case. In this interpretation, too, ensuring understandability is a missing point, but the responsibility of data controllers is huge since informing activity is one of the most important safeguards for data subjects to be able to exercise their rights. This interpretation was given without any AG opinion and was later developed after the GDPR entered into force as we will prove below.

In the Robinsan case; the data controller does not have any chance to explain the purpose of Robinsan in any way else than stating that "Robinsan is your friend who learns from you and serves you to fight against Alzheimer's disease. We created Robinsan's basic algorithm, but what it can do for you depends on what you teach it". The company believes that a technical explanation would not be understood or even of interest in the data subjects. Moreover, the company refrains from stating that the algorithm may end up with

⁴⁴³ Opinion of AG Cruz Villalon, C-201/14- Bara and Others, para. 74.

unpredictable results. Besides, the company proves that each data subject was instructed on how Robinsan works and how could it repurpose their data and reach unpredictable results. The company delivered all the necessary questions regarding Article 13 of the GDPR (name of the controller, purposes, etc.). In this case, since the GDPR does not order data controllers to prove whether the data subject understood all these explanations or not, the applicant should not claim that the company failed to obtain her valid consent. Here, mention should be made about a general practice that is presented by many data controllers to trick data subjects. Especially data controllers providing online services, ranging from a simple website to social media tools, or from specific websites such as shopping or online film services, present a consent box where data subjects opt-in via clicking on “I understood” box. This is an illusionary and tricky practice that must be prohibited, but as it was stressed above, the GDPR does not have any provision about the data controller’s duty to ensure the understand-ability of the information they provide. However, two very current cases interpreted by the CJEU may provide some opposite interpretation than what we have just claimed.

In the Planet49 case, two questions that are at the utmost importance for our analysis were referred to the CJEU; one of them was related to the concept of the data controllership and the other one was regarding data controllers’ duty to fulfill informing obligation based on the Directive 2002/58/EC on privacy and electronic communications⁴⁴⁴. The case was brought before the CJEU since the Planet49, an online gaming company, placed two pre-ticked consent boxes to conclude a consumer lottery agreement on its website which enables cookies to collect personal data from the website visitors' devices. The referring Court (Higher Regional Court, Frankfurt am Main, in Germany) firstly asked the CJEU on determining what information does the service provider has to give within the scope of the provision of clear and comprehensive information to the user. In the analysis of this case,

⁴⁴⁴ The referring Court asked the following precise question to the CJEU which is pointing an important deficiency on the interpretation of the data protection legislation: What information does the service provider have to give within the scope of the provision of clear and comprehensive information to the user that has to be undertaken in accordance with Article 5(3) of Directive [2002/58]? Does this include the duration of the operation of the cookies and the question of whether third parties are given access to the cookies?’ Although the question seems only seeking for an answer for whether the duration of the operation of the cookies and the existence of the third parties should be communicated to the users, interpretation of the information to be communicated to the data subjects still lacks a comprehensive concept. Besides, new technologies, like the cookies in the Planet49 case, brings new challenges on the interpretation of the concept of the informing obligation.

AG Szpunar⁴⁴⁵ pointed out an important aspect of cookies which carries a certain complexity refraining the average internet user from fully understanding how the cookies are functioning as it is already a very technical topic. Moreover, the AG stated in his opinion, that if the data controller does not present sufficient information to the data subjects, this puts data subjects in an asymmetrical situation⁴⁴⁶ (before the provider) who already rarely changes the pre-ticked boxes offered online⁴⁴⁷. The user must be able to assess the consequences arising from data processing activity and then give consent, therefore should be fully informed. AG's position was adopted by the Court which further emphasized that the consent text should be presented "with sufficient clarity from a typographical point of view"⁴⁴⁸ to ensure that the data subject has realized the consent boxes. Besides, the Court adopted the storage and duration of the data to be processed as information to be provided to the data subjects, although these were not included under Article 10 of Directive 95/46/EC, but indeed are now included in the GDPR⁴⁴⁹.

Finally, the CJEU stressed clearly that the pre-ticked boxes refrain data subjects from reading and digesting the information, and raises the risk for data controllers to verify the information was read which invalidate the consent to be unambiguous and freely given⁴⁵⁰. In our scenario, Robinson's company should make an exceptional effort to ensure whether they provide sufficient information to Julia on the functionality of the robot and its AI-brain.

Besides the question related to the interpretation of the informing obligation of data controllers, the referring court asked whether the data controller should obtain the consent of the data subjects to store and/or gain access to information already stored in users'

⁴⁴⁵ Opinion of AG Szpunar, C-673/17 - Planet49, para. 114.

⁴⁴⁶ Prohibition for data controllers to make consent statements causing imbalances between the data subject and the controller is placed in the Recital 43 of the GDPR.

⁴⁴⁷ Ibid., para 37.
Lynskey, 2011, p. 880.

⁴⁴⁸ C-673/17 - Planet49, Judgement of the Court, para. 35.

⁴⁴⁹ Article 13, point 2 incident a requires data controllers to present "the period for which the personal data will be stored, or if that is not possible, the criteria used to determine that period" to the data subjects.

⁴⁵⁰ C-673/17 - Planet49, Judgement of the Court, para. 62.

devices via cookies. The Court gave a clear answer to the prohibition of data controllers to access such information without the users' consent.

- If we turn to our scenario, and as we mentioned at the end of the analysis of household exemption, it is crystal clear for data controllers to obtain the consent of people automatically recorded by Robinsan once they entered into Julia's home. If Robinsan's company plans to use this data for, e.g., commercial purposes, the Company must obtain a separate consent. If Julia forces people entering her home to accept the robot around them, that could even be a joint controllership, in this case, Julia must obtain a separate consent besides the general informing activities. What information to be provided to the potential data subjects and what information the Company should provide to the data subjects remains vague, due to the complexity of assessment of the functioning of robots, and there is no case yet assessing the concept of the information to be provided to the data subjects in case ADM is deployed in an embodied machine. For example, there could be a question whether only the clear purposes, or also the possible purposes should be communicated with the data subjects, or unless the purpose is unborn, there should not be any communication in this sense. Is there any possibility for data controllers to provide sufficient and understandable information on the functionality of the ADM which changes based on the inputs data subjects put through everyday interaction? We will assess these and more questions during the analysis of the interview results.

2.3. The Liability Question

“A social network, like any other application or program, is a tool. Similar to a knife or a car, it can be used in a number of ways...But it might perhaps not be the best idea to punish anyone and everyone who has ever used a knife. One normally prosecutes the person(s) controlling the knife when it caused harm.”⁴⁵¹

⁴⁵¹ Opinion of AG Bobek, C-40/17 - Fashion ID, para. 90.

We proved that informing obligation must be fulfilled by data controllers to legalize data processing which Robinsan executes. The GDPR has slightly changed the concept of the data controller, by introducing a more detailed description and more obligations for other data controllers else than the main data controller. However, Directive 95/46 already set up the basis for the interpretation of data controllers in broad terms. Technological developments make a clear identification of data controllers involving and sharing responsibility for data processing activities complicated, and AI technologies complicate it even more. Ever since social media entered into people's lives, many questions on the clear identification of liable persons using such tools have been a question under law. One of those legal questions belongs to the data protection field, according to the CJEU cases. For example, whether an administrator of a fan page established on Facebook would be a data controller was once referred to the CJEU as a preliminary question in the *Unabhängiges Landeszentrum für Datenschutz Schleswig-Holstein v Wirtschaftsakademie Schleswig-Holstein GmbH* (shortly, *Wirtschaftsakademie*). The Court held the position that there is no doubt on Facebook's position as a data controller since it decides about the processing purposes and process data via cookies and it is the fan page administrator who gives Facebook a chance to reach those purposes by triggering the data controllers to visit the fan page. On the other hand, fan page administrators gain benefits from this activity, such as learning about the audiences, so delivering better advertisement for them, and use also for statistical purposes besides assisting Facebook to reach its purposes.

Further, AG Bot pointed out the fact that the "processing could not occur without the prior decision of the fan page administrator to create and operate a fan page on the Facebook social network"⁴⁵² and we adapted this sentence to the present situation as: processing could not occur without the prior decision of Julia to purchase and operate Robinsan. In the Robinsan case, it is very clear that processing would not occur if Julia never had Robinsan at home. Her benefit from the Robinsan is purely improving her health conditions. The company also strongly claims that they are not processing data outside of this purpose, and all data processing activities that might turn out of this purpose are not under their control since Robinsan makes the decisions itself.

⁴⁵² C-210/16 - *Wirtschaftsakademie Schleswig-Holstein*, Judgement, para. 56.

In the Robinsan case, the company uses the data for assisting algorithms to make personalized services for Julia, and Julia triggers this activity in return for making a benefit of it (personalized health care). Although Julia does not process data herself, he uses automated tools to process data.

In the Fashion ID case, the CJEU made a precedent interpretation on the role of joint data controllers on their obligations specific to informing activities and obtaining consent. Facts of the case summarize, that the online retail shop Fashion ID once embedded a Facebook plug-in to collect “Likes” from the people who visit the official website. Such a plug-in, either the website visitor hits the Like button or not, and independently from the visitor’s Facebook use, helps Facebook and its parties to collect personal data of the visitor via the browser. A German public service association, Verbraucherzentrale NRW, filed a suit against Fashion ID claiming that placing this plug into their website gives the company a responsibility to obtain the visitors’ consent. Further, the company should also have informed them about the existence of such data processing in order to obtain a valid consent. Fashion ID, as the data controller, argued that it could be named as a data controller since it had no means of controlling the personal data of the website visitors. In the preliminary request referred to the CJEU, Fashion ID’s position as a data controller has been questioned, besides other questions. AG Bobek started his analysis with an effort to identify the data controller(s) in the case.

AG Bobek first drew the attention to the fact that divergent opinions raised regarding who is data controller and who should have the consent been given to⁴⁵³. According to the applicant, it is the Fashion ID who embedded a Facebook plug-in on their website, so it should have obtained the consent of the data subject because non-Facebook users’ consent was not obtained before. However, Fashion ID claimed that the consent should have been obtained by Facebook (Ireland). Irish DPA indicated that the case was not about who should have obtained the consent, but how it was obtained (whether free, specific and informed). Polish representative was in a view that the consent should have been obtained either by Fashion ID or Facebook Ireland since they are both responsible for the processing. Italian representative stated that the consent must have been given to both of them. Belgian DPA and the EC stated that it was not clear per the Directive 95/46/EC who

⁴⁵³ C-40/17 - Fashion ID, Judgement, para. 88.

should have obtained the consent. The situation is still the same in the GDPR, besides, data processors are also obliged to obtain consent and there are cases where the user of Facebook was suggested to obtain consent since it is the one who gains benefit from Facebook's services. The Court took the position that Fashion ID facilitates the data collection even though it does not have any control over the data after the transmission⁴⁵⁴.

Apparently, informing obligation was also related to the existence of the plug-in, in the first place, and then it should provide other general information related to that plug-in. Fashion ID, however, did not provide any information to the data subjects neither before nor after the data collection via that plug-in. giving as a reason that Facebook was the only data controller. However, the consent should first have been obtained by Fashion ID since the visitors first consult with its website which triggers data processing⁴⁵⁵. In this case, we believe that Julia should at least inform people about the existence of the robot, what data it may collect and for what purposes, whom the data is being disclosed, duration of storage, and whom to contact in case they wish to exercise their rights. For this to become logical, Julia first should be aware of this obligation, but can a simple user always be in such a situation?

- As soon as people visit Julia interacts with a robot (by entering into a conversation or only by being around the robot which records their videos or photos) they become data subjects whose data is being collected via the possibility that Julia brought by placing the robot at her home⁴⁵⁶. Julia is the beneficiary of the robot and is a decision-maker, even in a limited capacity, about the purposes of use. Due to the robot's capability to record personal data through profiling them and assessing their certain and unknown aspects to be disclosed to the others, the responsibility of the data controller (either Julia or the Company) is greater.

⁴⁵⁴ Ibid., para. 74-75.

⁴⁵⁵ Ibid., para. 102.

⁴⁵⁶ Ibid., para. 78. Fashion ID is the liable party triggering the data processing for Facebook by placing the plug-in on its website. Julia, may also be, "exerting a decisive influence over the collection and transmission of the personal data of visitors" to her home to the provider of Robinsan, which would not have occurred without operating Robinsan at home. Moreover, the paragraph continues referring to the liability of data controllers including natural persons' role on determining either the purposes or means of data processing assisting to the overall of chain of processing. We are aware of such interpretation would indeed be an extensive one, but still might be challenging the national courts.

The AG Bobek further asked the question whether everyone who uses social media should be responsible for their actions, therefore the protection would be more effective⁴⁵⁷. How to identify the joint controller, for this reason, is the most important step since the interpretation of the rest of the case depends on who are and what responsibilities do the joint controllers have. AG Bobek refers back to the *Wirtschaftsakademie* and *Jehovah's Witnesses* cases which identified the joint controller in a general term referring to who made a collection of personal data possible⁴⁵⁸. However, the AG did not find this criterion specific enough giving a reason that it could pave the way any user of social media or other technological tools to be potentially held liable⁴⁵⁹. The AG summarized his opinion on the liability of any user, including the other parties in the personal data chain which do not directly trigger data processing directly such as internet service providers, to be very restricted, or even to be avoided. Still, the AG accepts that the GDPR broadened the definition of a controller which could result in some natural persons to be co-responsible for data processing. While the AG's opinion was not regarding a specific question referred to the CJEU, we are unsure whether the CJEU would consider it in the future in case a specific legal analysis is needed.

The *Lindqvist* case could be recalled here since it is the first case where a natural person was found liable under the Directive 95/46/EC. However, the problem with the *Lindqvist* case (and so the other similar cases) was that what obligations a natural person as a data controller has never been questioned. Neither in the GDPR nor in any guidelines, no specific explanation on what should natural persons do as data controllers for fulfilling their duties were mentioned, although the cases were concluding a certain liability of the natural persons. Indeed, their duties are not clear since their obligations are unknown. Do they have the same duties as companies like Facebook? How could Robinsan's company and Julia share the liability? The idea of establishing an agreement between them seems even more chaotic since, by the time of conducting this research, we did not find any case where a natural and legal person agreed to be a joint data controller and sign an agreement with clear responsibility division. This means, that there is a lack of practice in this sense.

⁴⁵⁷ Opinion of AG Bobek, para. 71.

⁴⁵⁸ *Ibid.*, para 36.

⁴⁵⁹ *Ibid.*, para 73.

On the contrary, Article 26(3) of the GDPR gives data subjects to exercise her rights ‘in respect of and against each of the controllers’ without such a practice. In the Robinsan case, it would be illogical to expect Julia to guarantee her son’s rights granted in the GDPR. Such an unclear issue is unfortunately opposed to the philosophy of data protection law which should protect people ex-ante, not ex-post since once data is processed, it is impossible to undo.

3. Expert Opinions

In this section, we present the results of the interviews conducted with the experts in the frame of the scenario and the questions deriving from the theoretical part of this work. To keep unity and ensure better understandability of the analysis, as well as to ensure the anonymity of some of the experts upon their request, we use the following coding in the analysis. The codes are randomly representing the experts, and the letters assigned before the numbers shall represent the country the expert is from.

Finland	Hungary	Italy	The Netherlands
	Expert H1		Expert N1
	Expert H2		Expert N2
Expert F1	Expert H3	Expert I1	Expert N3
Expert F2	Expert H4	Expert I2	Expert N4
	Expert H5		Expert N5
	Expert H6		

Table 2. Codes assigned for the experts to be used in the analysis

It will be indicated during the analysis whether the expert opinion is from the practical or from the supervisory authority point of view. In general, we did not observe significant differences among the experts’ opinions specific to their affiliations, but some of the questions were answered significantly different by the experts from specific countries. This will also be indicated, when necessary.

3.1. General Evaluation

Under this title, we focus on the expert feedbacks regarding the general evaluation on the scenario, specifically, what do they like and what do they dislike about the scenario; whether such a technology referred in scenario would become fully real within 20 years; their opinion on the applicability of the GDPR on AI technologies in general; and other issues outside of the questions, but still related to the present work.

Most of the experts (12 experts in total) found the scenario an intelligent and gradually evolving scenario making the reader keep thinking about the borders of the application of the GDPR on new technologies. Most of the experts also indicated that the scenario looks futuristic, but it has many realistic elements that are happening even now. They like the scenario because it shows well the usefulness of the technologies, but also unexpected negative effects they bring. Expert N1 said that the scenario mentioned the right aspects of the existed problems and future risks of robots when (will be) used by people. Expert N3 and H5 said that the legislator could see whether the legislation is effective or not with the help of this and many more like this scenario before it is too late to act. Expert N5 said that it was more worrying to see how human intervention faded away during Julia's and her son's interaction with Robinsan.

Expert F2 noted that the scenario refers to the relevant aspects of the GDPR very clearly, for example, the problem with the sustainability of the consent, people's tendencies on refusing the possible risks of certain technologies, and problems deriving from data processing in ubiquitous environments. Expert F2 also referred that technology's ability to serve the wellbeing of people is remarkable. This view was also shared by the Expert H4. Furthermore, some of the experts indicated that the scenario brings the legal, practical, social, and technological perspectives together (shared views by the Experts N3, N4, H2, H3, H4, F2). Here, dependent on a social robot that impacts Julia's life greatly and making her forget about the company behind Robinsan plays the social aspect of this technology making the story also a legal one.

Expert F1 noted that this is the expert's favorite scenario, but prefers to remain optimistic from the point of view that humans had always dealt with the technology well at some level. The scenario reflects what is going to happen in the future, but there are always be

human rights, privacy, and institutions protecting these values. The scenario indeed looks worrying, but the Expert F1 thinks that questions referred to in the scenario would be handled correctly.

The elements that the experts did not like in the scenario are quite a few, and are listed below:

- Expert N1 and N4 indicated that Julia's son's drug addiction and its discovery by Robinsan were unexpected for the expert. The expert noted that it took some time and some reading to understand the connection. Expert N1 also noted that the situation will be even more complicated in real life, so it might have been better to involve the other persons engaging data processing in the scenario. Our position is that we would not have intended to make the scenario more complicated which would then make it impossible to interpret for the experts. We also aimed to know what persons the expert would identify already, as referred to in Question 6.
- Expert N3 notes that the scenario could refer to broader principles such as Article 8 of the ECHR and the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU.
- Expert N5 indicated that it was hard to see the real problem in the scenario. The Expert N4 could not identify the problem clearly whether it was the drug addiction or Julia's experience with the company. We explained the expert, that both of them are jointly referring to the different problems we are analyzing with this scenario. Our explanation was welcomed by the expert so the analysis went on further.
- Expert H1 does not think that the scenario will happen exactly as drafted. Specifically, the expert does not believe that people will easily buy those robots in the future if they do not trust them. Still, the expert believes that the average user still is acting as illustrated in the scenario.

Besides the specific feedbacks, we received some general feedback on the scenario from some of the experts. Expert F2 did not evaluate the scenario, but the problems referred to in the scenario that are real and need to be solved immediately. Expert F2 evaluated the consent, replacement of humans from social concept, and lack of transparency of data processing as the negative elements in the scenario.

Expert I2 also evaluated the scenario's essence, instead of making a general evaluation. Expert I2 indicated that these technologies are very important for human life, and sometimes it is the privacy that we pay the price for, as it is clear in the scenario.

Expert N4 gave the same general interpretation on the elements of the scenario which are the fact user becoming more dependent on a single vendor (referring to the single central database in the scenario) for receiving health care. Expert N4 referred to the current practices of the tech-giants making the users addicted to their services and changing their privacy policies in which leaving users no option, just accept.

3.1.1 Opinions on the timing of the HSR

Most of the experts (10 experts in total) think that such technology referred to in the scenario either already is happening or will happen within 20 years. Expert I1 said that the next industrial revolution will occur within 10 years and the changes will even be faster than the past. Expert N1 noted that such robots (with limited capacity) have already been introduced in the Dutch hospitals for child care⁴⁶⁰. Expert N1 also noted that these robots make life easier, so people soon will adopt them easily. The expert also indicated that many consent pop-ups make the user difficult to use the services of Robinsan properly. Expert H5 thinks that the technologies referred in the scenario exist separately, but will be once put together in at least a software form within 10 years.

Expert F2 noted that it may be real in 20 years, but not in 10 years for sure. Two of the experts (one from the Netherlands and the other from Italy) indicated that they could not foresee whether it would be real, but there are many ongoing promising pieces of research.

⁴⁶⁰ There is no specific implementation, but we found several project based introduction of the robots at the Dutch hospitals. A robot interacting children with diabetes and a project under the TU Delft aiming to introduce robot-friends at hospitals could be given as an example.

“Robots interact with children to help with their diabetes”, [Online], Euronews, 13 March 2017. Accessed from: <https://www.euronews.com/2017/03/13/robots-interact-with-children-to-help-with-their-diabetes> Last accessed: 28 January 2020.

“A robot friend for ill children”, [Online], TU Delft, December 2016. Accessed from: <https://www.tudelft.nl/en/eemcs/current/nodes/people/a-robot-friend-for-ill-children/> Last accessed: 14 December 2019

There are many scientific researches on introducing robots at children hospitals in the Netherlands. The latest one belongs to Moerman, Heide, and Heerink, 2019.

3.1.2. General evaluation of the Application of the GDPR on AI technologies

The GDPR is fully applicable to the scenario we presented, according to all experts interviewed. Besides, all experts, without any doubt, stated that there is no need for amending the GDPR for answering to the questions related to AI technologies, and the other legislation such as the long-awaited e-Privacy Regulation, consumer protection law, competition law, civil law, and criminal law could sufficiently cover AI technologies. No more law needed since it complicates the implementation more (indicated by the Experts N1, I1, F1, H2, H3). The experts agreed on the fact that implementation of the GDPR and the future case law will clarify how to apply it to AI technologies, too. Expert N1 raised the example of blockchain technologies which took so long to interpret the GDPR on. Interestingly, Expert N1 and N3 delivered an opposite opinion on generating more guidelines for the implementation, while the former referred that they are an important part of the implementation, and the latter stated that the guidelines are useless since they are not legally binding documents. It was also remarkable when the Expert N1 did not refer to the Dutch DPAs guidelines, but the EDPS guidelines explicitly.

In this case, problems regarding the application of the GDPR and the general issues on AI technologies were referred by the experts. Expert I2 referred that the technology develops so fast, and lack of a common definition on the terms that the technology brings every day may implement the law on those particular technologies (such as cloud, Big Data) quite hard. Also, the definition of the user, whether he is a data subject, patient, or a customer could complicate to find suitable legislation to be applied. Which rule is to apply to the particular case will be a future problem, especially since the GDPR is not going to be implemented by the national judges in the same way, as the expert stated. Some of the experts indicated this could be tackled with the general principles referred in the GDPR, such as the principle of fairness, accountability, transparency, and they sufficiently can apply to the new technologies like AI (Expert I2, N5, F1, H4, H5). Expert F2, on the other hand, stated that AI is difficult to regulate with the general rules hindering the EU's innovative power in this field. The expert believes that it will take almost 10 years for the

GDPR to be harmonized, based on the different interpretations of the national judges⁴⁶¹. Expert H5 identifies the GDPR as a barrier for the profit companies until the NSAs gains expertise on certain technologies such as AI technologies, and the motivation to go after those companies breaching the rules without being exhausted.

Expert N3 identified the lack of clarity in the wordings of Article 22 of the GDPR when ADM “produces legal effects concerning him or her or similarly significantly affects him or her”. For the expert, it is not clear how the significance of the legal effect could be defined by the courts.

Expert F1 and N4 noted that besides the GDPR, *lex specialis* could also apply to the questions referred in the scenario. The Expert F1 pointed out the fact that Robinsan is a medical device and there are related Directives⁴⁶² applicable on devices in such (although they have not been updated in line with the GDPR, yet). Expert N4 thinks that there could be a law regulating the AI technologies and the GDPR could be amended in line with that.

Expert N3, N5, and Expert H1 said that, since the AI does not always deal with the personal data, it excludes the GDPR from the application. Especially, training data may not fall under the GDPR in the beginning, but there can be many personal data/ outcomes based on training data. In this case, it is a question of whether the GDPR will only be applied to the output or also on the input.

Expert H1 stated that there is a need for drafting a new responsibility scheme for clear identification of the data controllers (not only related to AI technologies but in general). Data controllers tend to escape from the responsibilities making the implementation of any law difficult (statement shared also by the expert N1).

⁴⁶¹ Expert F2 gave the example of Estonian approach which lets data protection legislation to be applied more casual based on the Estonian government’s technology oriented political agenda. In the Nordic countries, as the expert stated, that the way GDPR’s implementation will have more business focus, such as the case in the US. The expert further stated that the US has even stricter privacy rules than Europe in certain cases, for example, children’s consent.

⁴⁶² These directives are quite old-dated; since 1990 technology in medical sciences has also been drastically change.

Council Directive 93/42/EEC of 14 June 1993 concerning medical devices

Council Directive of 20 June 1990 on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to active implantable medical devices (90/385/EEC)

Directive 98/79/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 October 1998 on in vitro diagnostic medical devices

Expert H3 stated that the GDPR seems restricted in comparison to the US approach from the point that the US legal system defines personal data as a property where the GDPR approaches it as a fundamental rights perspective (also noted by the Expert N1). The expert finds this approach counterproductive for the EU in developing AI technologies.

Experts H4, H5, and H6 referred to the problems presented in the scenario and stated that these are the exact problems currently existed with the GDPR. Expert H6 also noted that the GDPR was very lately entered into the EU's legislation and without considering certain technologies like AI and blockchain, so this could raise some difficulties in the application.

Finally, Expert I1 and H5 made a general evaluation of the GDPR and said that the GDPR's derogations are very wide which would result in very different implementation in the 28 MS.

3.1.3. Risks Specific to the AI and HSR

“There is no human-human interaction anymore. Generally speaking, legislation regulates humans to human relationships. AI introduces a new type of relationship; human-machine relationship, or even more, machine-machine relationship, and this relationship is fake”

Sandra van Heukelom-Verhage (expert interviewed)

Experts reported different risks deriving from AI technologies from the data protection point of view. Expert I1 reported that the use of a robot could be compared to using cars from the usual risks and accidents point of view. In this case, Expert I1 did not make a difference between robots with AI and cars or motorbikes. Expert I2 stated that data storage and hidden usage of outcomes of algorithms together with such data to be sold for any reason, but also political marketing, constitute the biggest risks (e.g., the Cambridge Analytica case). Expert F2, similar to the Expert I2, noted that third party disclosures are the biggest risk with the AI processing personal data.

Expert N1's approach was regarding the complexity of the AI technologies which make it hard to foresee the consequences, to estimate what self-training algorithms were priority taught (whether the data carries some biases, shared view by the Expert N4) and therefore to estimate the outcomes. The expert pointed the problem with explainability of such

technologies (also shared view by the Expert N4), due to its high technical and connected nature (with the other technologies) which also makes it hard to implement the principles of transparency and accountability, even some of the rights given by the GDPR to the data subjects such as Right to be Forgotten⁴⁶³ According to the expert, this complexity challenges assigning the responsibility and liability in a right way (therefore there should be a more interpretation and a standard liability scheme, as the expert stated). The expert thinks that the courts or the DPAs could generate such interpretations, based on scenarios like we presented. Finally, the expert pointed out that disclosure of other persons' data to the robot by the main user could form a risk.

Expert N2 referred to the risks deriving from the use of AI in public institutions and government. The expert referred to the text published by the Dutch Ministry of Justice reporting the risks and the guidelines to minimize these risks. According to the Letter from the Minister for Legal Protection to the President of the Lower House of the States-General⁴⁶⁴ transparency of the algorithms, verifiability of their outcomes and legal protection against the ADM are the risks in the context of AI. The letter further states that the algorithms are not sufficiently addressed in the GDPR, therefore there is a need for specific safeguards⁴⁶⁵ (within the specific legislation such as administrative law and consumer protections) to reduce these risks⁴⁶⁶.

Expert N3 noted the dependence on the robot and the HRI manipulating the people to disclose more data as the biggest risks. The expert stated that the robots should only follow the human orders and complete the tasks assigned by humans; business models (mostly

⁴⁶³ The expert gave the example of blockchain technologies in which the data becomes a unit in a block to make it chain, basically, and it is not practicable to delete that unit from the entire blockchain.

⁴⁶⁴ Brief van de Minister voor Rechtsbescherming Aan de Voorzitter van de Tweede Kamer der Staten-Generaal Den Haag, 8 oktober 2019 p.5.

Transparency risk recognized in the letter is almost the same as we identified in the Second chapter of this work. The Dutch Ministry of Justice raises a solution on how to ensure transparent information is provided to the data subjects. In this sense, “the clarity about the model or algorithm used, the procedures followed by the algorithm, the data sets used, including their quality and origin, and the variables and/or assessment criteria that are decisive for the outcome” could be some steps to take to ensure the transparency principle.

⁴⁶⁵ Ibid., p.4. There are eight guarantees expressed in the Ministry's letter which are laid down as a result of expert opinions: Awareness of risks, explanation, data recognition, auditability, accountability, validation, testability, information to the public.

⁴⁶⁶ Ibid., p.3.

followed and imposed by the companies in third-countries) should not prevail in this fact to sell these robots.

Expert N5 stressed the problem with the possible risk of excluding people who cannot afford to have the means of technologies to access personal services. The expert referred to a mobile application collecting notifications from the citizens regarding the services of the municipality (e.g., left trash on the street). The picture is then analyzed by the algorithm and sent to the related department of the municipality. The expert stated that not everybody may have means of technology to use the application and make their statements to the municipality.

Expert H2 made a general risk statement with the AI technologies developing out of human control and limitations to be evil for humans.

Expert H5 indicated that the biggest risk towards AI technologies is the level of consciousness which may lead AI to decide on removing the human being from the earth to protect the environment.

3.1.4. Summary

- The scenario presented in this work is valid and reliable; all the experts fully understood the scenario and the questions, and they accepted the scenario without serious criticism that may affect the reliability and validity of the scenario. Experts most like the scenario's multi-touch in several fields, such as social, legal, practical points, and the fact that it is not only futuristic but includes realistic elements. Some of the experts indicated that the method we chose is a good practice for lawmakers to foresee the possible loopholes in the GDPR.
- The experts sometimes reflected agreed problems, but also noted different ones regarding the application of the GDPR on AI technologies. These problems are, definitional problems (such as the definition of training data and social robots) in the current EU legislation, lack of clarity in the wording of the GDPR ("significant effect" in the Article 22), and lack of practices and implementation which could take a long time. One expert stated that questions referred in connection with the scenario are already the real problems the expert also would point out.

- Some of the experts, without a significant difference between an expert from NSA or a law firm, stated that the GDPR is an obstacle for the companies to tackle with many consent papers proving their compliance with the rules identified in the GDPR.
- There are several risks identified by experts regarding AI technologies. In general, bias, third party disclosures, and hacking were listed in the first case. AI-specific technological complexities and their effects on the practicability of the GDPR (from the transparency, accountability, right to explanation, liability, and R2BF point of view) also significantly stressed. From those, unpredictable outcomes and difficulties to practice the principle of transparency were defined in this work, too. Sharing other people's data with robots and the robot's possible manipulative effect on human forcing them to share more personal data were both identified by some of the experts, and treated in this work.
- We noted that although Directives are regulating some of the specific technologies, the definition of a social robot is not referred specifically in any of them. In other words, there is no definition of a social robot made in the EU legal texts.
- Some of the experts stated that either the GDPR's derogations, the national interpretations or a lack of knowledge on AI technologies will result in different implementations of the GDPR in the EU.
- Finally, as we also observed during our research, and as the Experts F2 and H3 verified, the bigger problem with the application of the GDPR is the visible tendency in most of the National DPA's waiting for the EU to do something, instead of generating guidance for the AI businesses. In the course of the analysis we were making, we realized that the Dutch and Finnish DPAs are more actively preparing agendas and working on the AI and ADM, while there is no such preparation observed in the Italian and Hungarian DPAs.

3.2. Evaluation of the GDPR Specific Questions

In this section, we will present the outcomes of the experts' opinions on the specific questions related to the GDPR and AI technologies. Aim of those questions that investigate

the practicability of the GDPR was to find out whether there would be different opinions among experts from different countries.

3.2.1. The Household Exemption, the Joint Data Controllorship, and the Liability Questions

First of all, there is no doubt that the first and the utmost controller is the Company, so we are not questioning whether the Company would claim the exemption, therefore exempted from being a data controller. We noted different views of the experts on Julia’s possible controllership and interpreting the household exemption, not only among the countries but also within the same country. During the interviews, besides the question for Julia to be assigned a joint controllership, possible separate data controllership for Julia was also discussed. Experts’ views are sharply divided into two groups:

- Julia absolutely is not a joint controller and is not a separate controller. Robinsan’s company and the other persons referred to in Question 6 (related to identifying the other persons in the scenario) are the absolute controllers and liable persons.
- Julia might be a joint controller but absolutely is a separate data controller based on the scenario, therefore she should bear a certain level of liability.

The household exemption is applicable	The household exemption is not applicable
Experts I1, H1, H4, N4	Experts F1, F2, N1, N3, N4, H2, H3, H4, H5, H6

There are several reasons for the experts’ statements. According to Expert I1, using Robinsan is not different from using an agenda for personal records since it is not intended in the public space. Just like a possible risk for the agenda causing data leak, the user of Robinsan would not be responsible for any data leak. The expert also said that even the company could claim that Robinsan’s use falls under the scope of household exemption, it

does not carry any liability in the frame of the GDPR (but probably does carry under the consumer or competition law). Similar to that, Expert H1 stated that the case would fall under the household exemption for Julia, since the expert compared the use of social media by natural persons, as also indicated in Recital 18. The Experts H1 and H4's joint opinion is, as we observed, regarding the civil liability of Julia (she puts the input and should be aware of the consequences) to inform her son and take care of the well-functioning of the robot. This means, that Julia does not have obligations as a data controller, but may have under the civil law to inform people entering her home about the existence of and risks of Robinsan.

Expert H2 thinks that there is a possibility for Julia to be considered as a data controller, but certainly not as a joint controller. Expert H3 stated if Julia chooses the settings of Robinsan for her wishes, there could be a joint controllership, but it still should be assessed on a case by case basis.

Expert H5 identified two types of data processing activities based on our scenario: one of them is the data processing activity based on a relationship between Robinsan and Julia, and the other one is the Company's processing activities. If Julia has a connection between Robinsan and her public social media accounts where she shares the outcomes of Robinsan's data processing activities, such as her therapy results, or other data including other persons' data, then she could be identified as a joint data controller. Regarding the Company's data processing activity, it should be made clear that what the Company is doing; only putting the hardware, or collecting data based on certain means and purposes, according to the expert. In the expert's opinion, the Company would not be a data controller if it only ensures hardware equipment for Robinsan. In case Julia is a data or joint data controller, then she is obliged to ensure all the requirements of Article 7 of the GDPR to have Robinsan at home, the expert added.

Expert F1 clearly stated Robinsan's data processing activity does not fall under the household exemption, and Julia could be held liable if she starts streaming her home-life with the other people or if she shares other people's data with Robinsan. We think that during the HRI there is a high possibility for Julia to disclose other people's data to Robinsan as long as she lives and becomes dependent on Robinsan. Specific to our case, the expert stated that Julia would not be a controller since, first, she could not be a

controller of her data, and second, her son is not happy with the outcome of the robot, not with his mother. The expert noted that when there is a health-care service given via technology at home, other people entering a home must be protected (“the device should be kept in a box”, as the expert stated). According to the expert, it should be absolutely the company that should inform the users about the usage and risks of such technologies. On the other hand, the expert gave an example of the persons creating Facebook groups for promoting solidarity events without considering the risks before other people’s data protection rights. To our understanding, there is a sharp difference whether Julia uses his son’s data somewhere else (publishing or disclosing to a public or other legal persons). We then realized that we could have inserted an extra event in the scenario, indicating Julia’s automatic data sharing activity with the help of Robinsan on her social media account, because this would certainly make her a joint controller.

Expert F1 said that if Julia disclosed her son’s situation to a doctor, this would automatically make her a data controller. On the other hand, Expert H5 stated the opposite, and it is important to note that both experts have experience in the field of DPA practice.

Expert F2, N3, and H2 do not give any chance for Julia to be considered as a joint or data controller by the DPAs and courts. They are in favor of the full liability of the Company. Expert F2 especially stated some worries on the CJEU’s broader interpretation of the data controller after the GDPR entered into force. The expert also stated that the bar for a natural person to be counted as a controller is very high (“should we informed everybody coming our home about the smart lightning which turns on and off based on a weight of persons?” the expert noted).

Expert N1 thinks that Julia is a joint controller based on our scenario and the case does not fall under the household exemption for her. The exemption is very strictly applied for a small number of cases, as the expert stated. The reason why the expert considered Julia to be a joint data controller is the fact that she actively was putting several specific data in Robinsan and make it work by learning directly from Julia. She controls the robot, according to the expert. Julia should have beared at least the informing obligation, in this case, as it is clear that Julia cannot perform data correction and data deletion activities within the robot’s system. Expert N4 stated an opposite view; the algorithm is designed by

the Company even if Julia teaches the robot, and even if Robinsan could find new means and purposes for data processing, Julia cannot be assigned a liability.

Unlikely the Expert N1, the Expert N4 indicated that Julia is an end-user, and she only puts data to develop the machine. She is not sharing the same purposes, but she might be a separate controller because she must inform her son.

The most different opinion among the experts on Julia’s liability was delivered by the Expert H6 who made a general evaluation on the applicability of law on non-human beings and stated that it will be always human who is the main responsible behind any type of technology. Specific to our scenario, the expert noted that both Julia and the Company are jointly responsible, but Julia bears most of the responsibility since she is operating and using Robinsan although Robinsan seems like making the decisions (it is the output what the expert refers). Such operating brings a heavy risk for the data inside Robinsan’s system, because according to the expert, “It is the technology we bear the most risk. Information is the risk. All the words we do speak will not be remembered unless it is recorded somewhere electronically which makes it unforgettable”.

Expert N3 stated that the expert would never think about Julia’s data controllership, so it is an interesting aspect. Especially the companies trying to escape responsibilities would try assigning the persons using AI technologies. This complicates not only the responsibilities of natural persons, but a clear distribution of liabilities among the government, and also small companies. Finally, the expert said that if Julia was given all proper information on the “hazards” of Robinsan, then she could be held liable for not following the rule.

Data controllers matrix	Julia is/might be a controller	Julia is not a controller
Joint controller	Expert N1, N3, H3, H5, H6	Expert I1, F1, F2, H1, H4, N5, N6
Data controller	Expert N4, H2, H5, H6	(Not Applicable)

Table 5. Data controllers matrix.

There is only one expert who did not give a clear answer to this question, and the expert stated that more details are needed for a clearer evaluation. The expert was looking for more detail on the person deciding the means and purposes of the data processing activity. Even though, the expert stated that the case would not fall under the household exemption from the Company's point of view⁴⁶⁷.

Although it is not referred as a research question in this work, we asked some of the experts' opinion on the electronic personality of AI systems or robot's liability, but except the Expert H5, none of the experts gave even a small chance for introducing such a new concept in European legislation. Expert H5 raised the situation in which Robinsan could work offline (no data is transmitted to a company) and can make its own decisions that cannot be predicted by a human. In such a situation, the expert thinks that there could be a concept for artificial personality for a robot, but this is yet far from the current legal framework.

According to our scenario and the question on the household exemption, there is a probability for natural persons as users of personal robots at home to be assigned a controllership and therefore to be held liable for their actions related to data processing activity, either they do or the AI robots execute. Table 5 proves the diversified opinions of the experts in different countries with this sense. In Italy and Finland (although the case's details would change the experts' opinion in Finland, as the experts clearly stated), the possibility for a natural person to be a data controller is almost impossible. In the Netherlands, while the Dutch DPA would share the Italian expert's opinion, some of the law offices in the Netherlands would assign a controllership to a natural person. In Hungary, there might be even more diversified approaches; experts independently from their affiliations would interpret the case differently; either within the Hungarian DPA or among the lawyers there would be different approaches to the question. Especially, some of the lawyers indicated that they would definitely try to use this question before the court if there were to defend the Company in a referred case. Either under the GDPR or the civil law, Julia has an obligation to inform people entering her home about Robinsan. Indeed, to do this, first Julia needs to entirely know what Robinsan can do and can raise as a risk.

⁴⁶⁷ Some of the experts were initially interpreting the case as we were asking for the validity of exemption for the Company. We clarified the situation by giving more explanation during the interview.

Referring back to the scenario, Julia represents the average data subject who does not pay much attention to the information presented by the data controller; and the Company represents the average data controller who provides some technical and long-lasting information.

3.2.2 Sharing the Responsibilities: Article 26 of the GDPR

As it is clear from the previous title, there is a probability for a natural person to switch her role from data subject to a data controller, and even to a joint data controller. In this case, Art. 26 of the GDPR provides a legal basis for joint controllers to share their responsibilities deriving from data controllership based on a contract. We asked those experts who assigned a joint controllership to Julia whether and how contractual relations between Julia and the Company could be established in this sense. Most of the experts indicated that there is a need for establishing rules on how to make joint controllership contracts as referred to in the Art. 26 of the GDPR. Question on how to make a valid contract with the companies from third countries (such as the US-based companies) is a difficult one, as the Expert N6 stated. We think that such contracts often fall under the consumer law (which might have a national application since there are only Directives⁴⁶⁸ in the EU) and which law to apply is another question, as the experts stated before. Expert H6 thinks that regulating the relationship between Julia and the Company is what the law serves in people's life and contracts are the most flexible tool to regulate this relationship. The expert believes that writing down a valid joint controllership contract between Julia and the Company is a lawyers' duty since they know the law and how to practice it. Expert N1 already indicated that where the expert works, there already provide legal assistance for data controllers to identify the joint controllers and conclude contracts with them (although none of them is a natural person, yet).

We asked those experts who indicated that Julia cannot be considered as a joint data controller to make some statements on Art.26 to see their opinions. Experts F2, I2, and H4 said that there shall never be a contractual relationship between a natural and legal person since it creates imbalanced powers on the natural persons. A possible joint data

⁴⁶⁸ Directive 2011/83/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2011 on consumer rights, amending Council Directive 93/13/EEC and Directive 1999/44/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council and repealing Council Directive 85/577/EEC and Directive 97/7/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council Text with EEA relevance

controllership agreement between the companies, all the responsibilities and obligations, liabilities and the responsible persons should clearly be divided and written in the contract, according to the expert. Expert N1 said that ensuring the existence of the joint controllership is the main data controller's duty, so does establish the contractual relationship with the joint controller. Expert H4 noted that two companies can sign a joint controllership agreement since they share the same level in terms of, for example, implementing the security safeguards, but this is not a valid issue between Julia and the Company. In this case, the expert said that even the Company could impose certain conditions to ensure secure data processing for Robinsan, it will always be the Company holding the obligations and responsibilities, without sharing with Julia. Some experts stated that the NSAs are exactly there to not to put the natural person in an asymmetric power situation⁴⁶⁹.

Our position is that, if there is a clear joint controllership relationship between a robot user and the company providing the robot, there could be a contractual relationship, but the only responsibility of the user should be to “know how to use and how to not to use” the robot. We will explain this statement in the recommendations section.

3.2.2.1 Responsibilities of the User

All the experts answered this question (8 experts) stated that there is no difference between natural and legal persons in the GDPR in terms of their obligations and responsibilities as a data controller. In particular, to our scenario, there are different opinions noted by the experts on Julia's responsibilities. Expert F1 stated that natural persons' responsibilities are equal to the legal persons and depending on a case, Julia could even conduct a DPIA. For this reason, Expert N1 said that there is a need for more interpretation in this sense and the expert's opinion is that humans and machines could work together on fulfilling these responsibilities. Expert H1 noted that the obligations of Julia may not derive from the GDPR, but from the consumer law which puts the responsibility on the users to fully understand the product they use.

⁴⁶⁹ Article 57, 1 (e) of the GDPR states that: “(NSA) upon request, provide information to any data subject concerning the exercise of their rights under this Regulation and, if appropriate, cooperate with the supervisory authorities in other Member States to that end”.

Expert H6 stated that since the user is the decision-maker on the use of this technology, she should ensure the safe and right operation of the robot together with fulfilling her informing obligations.

Expert H2 made a general comment on the question and stated that the GDPR mistakenly did not consider the size and impact of the businesses in terms of sharing the responsibilities, and the same goes for the difference between natural and legal persons. Expert N5 noted the same statement and agreed with the Expert N1 on the statement for a necessary interpretation. Expert H3 noted that from the risks point of view, Julia and the Company cannot share the same responsibilities and an NSA would never investigate the natural person in this sense. However, the expert we interviewed from the Hungarian NSA said that Julia must conduct, for example, DPIA if she is a data controller which makes her a subject to investigation by the NSA.

Our position to this question is that Julia cannot alone ensure exercising of other people's rights guaranteed under the GDPR, however, as the case law we analyzed under the "Preliminary analysis of the scenario" title, she must at least fulfill her informing obligation on Robinsan and on the rights that data subjects have.

3.2.2.2. Other controllers and processors in the Scenario

Although we restricted our scenario among three main players (the Company, Julia, and her son), we asked the experts' opinion on the other possible persons involved in Robinsan's data processing activities to see how could the scenario be much more complicated.

All the experts more or less referred to the same possible actors as part of the data processing/controllership chain related to the services Robinsan offers. Expert I2 stated that in real life, there are a few probabilities on the Company providing Robinsan is alone; there will be more than one company providing Robinsan. Hardware provider (e.g., company delivering the sensors), software provider, data service (e.g., network provider or company providing training data) and database provider will all take a part in Robinsan's services in the real-life application (Experts N3, H4, and F2). Manufacturers, developers, engineers, and all the users are also the persons involving Robinsan's operation. Expert H3

made a special note regarding authorization which may raise the number of users accessing Robinsan's services.

3.2.3. Defense of the Company, Defense of the User

Since we built our scenario on an assumption that the Company's behavior blaming Julia to get rid of some of its responsibilities, we asked the experts how would they defend the Company against Julia and her son, if there was to be a court hearing afterward. The same question was asked for the situation to defend Julia and her son against the Company.

Almost all the experts said that they would try to "blame" Julia for not using the robot properly, although the Company presented all the related information to her if they were to defend the Company. Similarly, almost all the experts stated that they would blame the Company for not presenting clear information on Robinsan's use and the possible risks for Julia and also her son. We observed that it would significantly differ, if a lawyer takes the case to defend the Company and if an expert in the NSA is responsible for defending Julia and her son. We are sure now if such a case will be real in the future, lawyers defending the robotics companies will try to put the responsibility and liability on the HSR users.

Expert F1 illustrated the situation as the cigarette companies who just provide the cigarette and leaving the responsibility to smoke or not to smoke to the people. The expert said that the administrative court in Finland would not accept such a defense, but the criminal court would consider as a valid argument. Expert F2 stated that the expert would collect all the valid consent statements and bring before the court against Julia, but the expert does not think that it would be acceptable by the judge. The expert also stated that AI and ethics courses should be given to avoid such complicated issues since it would make even more complications if such a case is referred to a court.

Expert H4 also would try to put the blame on Julia, but then stated that the Hungarian NSA probably would not accept this claim in the first place even before referring the case to a national court. However, if the expert does have to defend the Company, the expert would refer to Article 29 WP's transparency rules which the Company is assumed fully in accordance, and Julia and her son should not be surprised about Robinsan's data processing in return offering those services. On the other hand, the expert would claim that

the Company misused the instructions related to Robinsan and did not fully make Julia and her son aware of the risks it could raise.

Expert H1 would refer to the Basic Law of Hungary Article O starting with “Everyone shall be responsible for him or herself,” if the expert was to defend the Company. The expert would claim that Julia had to be aware that Robinsan and her together start a new life; Robinsan is a new entity with its decision-making capabilities (even if at a restricted level) to serve her. If the Company presents sufficient documents to the court, it would be enough to save the Company, according to the expert. The unpredictability of Robinsan would not be persuaded, according to the expert, but would be worth trying. If the Expert H1 was to defend Julia, the expert would surely refer to the design of Robinsan which was not considered in line with the DPbD rules, letting the system disclose information about people to others.

Expert H5 would point to personal use of Robinsan and claim that purposes of usage of Robinsan are identified by Julia (e.g., ordering the medicines) who should bear the responsibility, in this case. The expert, on the other hand, would defend Julia by stating that the information provided by the Company was not transparent, even Julia’s son who is a lawyer did not understand the information, and the Company did not offer testing opportunity before the purchase. The last point is already one of the solutions referred to in the recommendation part of this work. The expert also would claim that the Company did not implement the data minimization rule by collecting all data without a border and irrelevant to its main services (cheering up the user, not making her sad with the information on her son’s possible drug addiction).

Expert H6 said that the Company would use all means of training to close the doors to any of its liability. This is already one of our main solutions in this work.

3.2.3. Consent and Purpose Limitation

One of the novel parts of this work is the investigation of consent as a legal basis which probably the data controllers operating personal robot would try to refer to. In the theoretical part, we assumed that ensuring the validity of the consent of a HSR user is very difficult, if not impossible. Almost all the experts we interviewed shared our position in this sense and stated that purpose limitation and transparency of algorithms in robotic

brains are some of the most difficult issues to ensure from the data protection point of view. They also think that consent alone is never enough for such comprehensive data processing, but the other legal bases, such as performance of a contract or legitimate interest rules would constrain the data controller's business logic, therefore the data controllers will still hold the tendency to take consent as a legal basis.

Expert I1 clearly stated that the Robinsan's system should be constrained in a way that only the expected purposes should be operating during the actual serving to Julia, but the expert also would be happy with the other suggestions by Robinsan to make the expert's life easy (e.g., the robot could "guess" the users eating habits from the goods in the fridge, and suggest some restaurants in line with it). In our view, this is easy to assume purpose, but we are not sure whether the data controller could foresee the other possible purposes from the beginning without the actual use. Expert I1 added that what we stated is true, but at least general information on the capabilities of the robot could be drawn and presented to the user. The user should be informed very clearly from the beginning, as the expert noted, and as we also stated before.

Expert I2 said that consent in this scenario is not sufficient, but this would surely be the legal basis chosen by the robot companies in the future. Prior consultation with the NSA is needed before placing these devices to the market, as the expert thinks and, it is not possible to regulate them before there is actual use. We think that this is a wrong approach if one of the aims of the GDPR is preventing data breaches proactively. We always should remember what happened with people's data on Facebook in the last three years.

Expert F1 evaluated the consent in the scenario as it is similar to what the American companies (still) do which is not acceptable in Europe. The expert said that some American companies do execute informative activities to their users before introducing their services (we then immediately stated that these are few companies doing the right thing with their initiative in order not to lose their clients' trust) because their business logic is different; for example, they work for public institutions. The expert pointed out a very important problem related to consent in the medical sector where a patient is under stress when giving consent, otherwise, the patient's accession to the medical services may not be possible. From our scenario's point of view, the expert questioned whether Robinsan

is operating for offering treatment to Julia or for processing her data, since this would change the interpretation from the core.

Expert F2 noted that obtaining consent is the duty of the company only (so Julia should not obtain anyone's consent), but how the company could do is a difficult question since using such a robot may have multi-ways in real life. The expert thinks that the user's condition could be a starting point meaning that the information to be provided should be personal, not a generic one. While the expert believes that ensuring valid consent is a fiction and the data controllers in Finland are not aware of how invalid consent they obtain, the expert would not recommend data controllers to use consent as a legal basis, but the legitimate interest rule (later, two more experts stated the same). Finally, the expert said that consent in the scenario is not valid, because the context and the consequences of usage are not clearly stated to the user before.

Expert N1 thinks that the company should have obtained the consent of Julia and her son, but it is clear for the expert that her son is under power imbalance since he has to give his consent for contributing her mother's treatment offered by Robinsan (Expert H2 made a very similar statement on the consent misleading Julia negatively affecting her informational self-determination). In this sense, the expert thinks that Julia also should inform people entering her home about Robinsan, but first, she must know every aspect of it, and this should not be thought of any interruption of people's daily lives. The expert stated that people should separate much more time understanding how the robot or any technology they involve with works which we completely agree with. Users should check their knowledge on these technologies from time to time, according to the expert. Similar statements were shared also by the Expert H1 in a way that Julia must be aware of the possible risks coming with Robinsan (the expert gave the example of a toaster "if you do not switch it off, you could burn the house").

Expert N2 made a general evaluation of the wrong practices in obtaining consent and said that companies always use data for their profit without disclosing this fact to their clients. The expert further placed the following question: "How do they use data is never clear neither to the users as public institutions or to the natural persons?".

Expert H1 thinks that Julia and the Company should have a contract also certifying her consent ensuring the right use of Robinsan.

Expert H2 noted that even if there is no crystal clear legal basis for operating such robots, in the beginning, it could derive later, but consent should never be alone a legal basis.

Expert H3 referred to three ways of strengthening valid consent for the data controllers like the Company in our scenario: delivering visual, textual, and oral information which all of them should be used at the same time. Then the consent would be valid, according to the expert.

Expert H4 does not think that Julia's son's consent should be obtained, but Julia's consent should be taken in a paper based-signed form under Hungarian legislation. The expert further stated that the expert would use Article 9 point 2/h of the GDPR⁴⁷⁰ as a legal basis for operating Robinsan's healthcare support services. Expert H4 also stated that providing information on the operative aspects of the algorithm may cause disclosure of the Company's trade secret, therefore the Company may refrain from delivering some of the information to Julia, and deciding which information may fall or not under the trade secret would be defined by the Company.

Expert H5 strongly believes that Julia must obtain other people's consent when they enter her home without an exception to Article 13 of the GDPR or she should switch Robinsan off.

Expert N5 stated that data collection by Robinsan should be based on consent and the GDPR's consent rules are very clear and strong, but in practice, there are too many consent statements in real life making it hard to ensure right and specific information was given to the users.

Expert F1, N1, and N3 stated that it is true that there is no rule for ensuring the understandability of the information data controllers provides to the data subjects in the GDPR. There are other standards and guidelines according to the experts, to be used for that, but we believe that these are only under the data controllers' initiative to follow or not.

⁴⁷⁰ This Article is one of those derogations in the GDPR leaving the Union or MS law, or to a contract to regulate data processing activity for the purpose of "preventive or occupational medicine, medical diagnosis, the provision of health or social care or treatment or the management of health" with the condition of ensuring the secrecy provisions under the Union or MS law, or to national competent bodies. This rule could overarch the consent as a legal basis and may cause different implementations EU-wide.

3.2.4. Providing Information to the Certain User Groups

All the experts without an exception stated that if the user of a robot is an elder person, the company should provide different information. Their health conditions (Expert F2), culture, age, education, (Expert I2), and their vulnerability (Expert H1) must be taken into account when providing information. Different groups need different attention and treatment from the awareness-raising point of view, as the Expert N1 stated since they are not raised with these technologies, as the Expert N5 completed this statement. However, the experts noted that this rule is not directly inserted in the GDPR, and some of the experts stated that such a rule could be found in the consumer protection law. Expert N5 also said that the guidelines generated by the different NSAs and the EDPS, EDPB/Article 29 WP highly affect the NSAs decisions in this sense, so the guidelines should be taken into account by the data controller when preparing information to their users from different user groups.

Only the Expert F1 said that the GDPR should not discriminate against the data subjects based on their age, but about delivering information, it may depend on a case by case analysis.

Expert H5 stated that Julia already is a vulnerable person and should be given specific and personal information by the data controller.

Lack of information together with manipulatively designed robots would certainly cause data subjects to disclose more information to robots. All the experts stated that the GDPR cannot prevent data controllers from designing such systems that are encouraging people to disclose more data. Some of the experts stated that the GDPR should not restrict companies in this sense. Expert H1 stated that it might be even a positive aspect of the robot to encourage people to share their lives with it since there are many lonely and desperate people in Europe, but they must be aware of the consequences of their interaction with the robot. The expert gave the example of smoking which the law failed to prevent people from and stated that law could not always prevent people from making a mistake. Expert H4 does not think that this is related to the GDPR, but to consumer protection (shared view by the Expert N6), in a way that persuasive robots might breach consumer rights. The expert further thinks that it should be researched in psychology

before those robots become more common in society. Expert N6 thinks that this question is related to ethics, besides consumer protection, and the expert stated that it is a very interesting question to be thought on, further.

3.2.5. Right to Explanation is a Reactive Right

All the experts we interviewed stated that there is a right to explanation placed in the GDPR although not explicitly stated, and it is an ex-post right complimenting the other ex-ante rights, such as the right to be informed before processing started or the general principles such as fairness and transparency (Experts F2 and N5). Expert H5 stated that exercising the right to explanation is for just a starting point for data subjects to look for a possible remedy and only with an explanation from the Company, Julia or her son could apply to a DPA or a court.

Expert I1 pointed out the intended “why and because relationship” with the right to explanation and stated that it could be the engineer or even the robot who could explain. While exercising this right, the data subject should receive an answer to the following question: “Is it the conclusion what I want?”, the expert continued, and said that this is more related to the Consumer Law than the GDPR.

Although it might be difficult to change the outcome of the algorithm, data subjects still should know what should they have done for the algorithm not to generate this outcome, as the Expert N1 noted. The expert also drew our attention to the difficulty of making the algorithms forget data or a set of data since they are all interconnected in the AI system.

Expert N3 gave the example of judges who first make the decision and then explain why did they decide so. The expert believes that the right to explanation at least ensures how the system could be designed after the data subject’s request. The expert also noted that the data controllers could generate explanations for everyone to understand how their algorithms work simply, but they do not do so in practice.

Expert N4 said that it is not acceptable if the decision-makers (based on algorithmic assessments) state that they do not know the rules of the algorithm they work with, anymore. It is true that once Robinsan generated an outcome that might be even highly likely to be true it is difficult to make afterward explanations.

Expert H3 thinks that the robots in such should not be given a chance to make a decision which should always be under the controller of the data subject, and data controllers should block the unwanted decisions immediately.

Expert N4 indicated that there is yet no case brought to any jurisdiction and the CJEU on algorithmic explanations, so we do not know how the court(s) will interpret such an issue, hence, we do not have any guideline on right to explanation. The expert thinks that humans always could justify her decisions, but this might not be as easy for the algorithms.

Our observation from the experts' opinions on the right to explanation is that there is no understanding of how it shall be interpreted if they receive a case and when they receive a case, they do not have any resource to benefit from, so they would make their interpretations. This, alone itself, could cause many different GDPR practices in the future.

3.2.6. Summary

- Expert feedbacks on the responsibilities of the user of HSR approve that natural persons should have a certain level of understanding of the technology they use. Our scenario and the questions related to consent proved that consent in practice does not work (agreed by Expert F1, F2, N2, N3, H5, H6, and I1). There should be more activities on raising the awareness of the users not only in AI-specific but technology in general. Since the data controller also can claim Julia to obtain her son and other people's consent, it is an ultimate issue to make her fully understand Robinsan's operation.
- On the other hand, we ensure the data controllers' possible claim (or blame) on data subjects (or users at public institutions) to fail to understand and properly using the robot caused other person's' privacy infringements. We also proved, that ensuring the understandability of the information data controllers provide, together with safe operation rules, are the certain responsibilities of the data controllers.
- Although there are not data subject groups identified in the GDPR except a general classification of "children and the others", data controllers must ensure the information they provide to be in line with their user groups' needs, such as the elders. This necessity may not derive from a specific Article dedicated to the GDPR, but from

the fairness and transparency principles as two general rules. Data controllers must design their information based on the information needs of these groups.

- Proactivity should never be underestimated even if we are referring to the EU's slow pace in regulating AI and robotics sectors. During our interviews, we identified the Netherlands and Finland as have been preparing regulation of ADM and AI, and have been consistently working with related ministries and NSAs to make it happen. We did not identify such a preparation in Hungary and Italy. If there will be no common approach in the regulation of AI technologies in the EU, we should be ready for different applications which then will bring up a possible AI Regulation taking some years to enforce. By this time, some of the MS and the third countries will already be speeded up with their AI technologies as the others will just start. If this happens, we cannot truly expect the EU as a leading structure in the AI sector.
- People should spend time understanding the technology they interact with and they should be encouraged to do so, if not obliged by law. We believe that who gains (financial, personal data, time, reputation, etc.) most from HSR must fulfill their informing obligation towards their clients. Expert N1 once said that big tech companies must effort more because they gain a lot. We agree with both the statements and draw our solutions based on them.
- We think that the classification of these robots in the legislation is the key factor in how to interpret the possible legal cases in the future. However, one should never forget that whatever legislation these robots will be classified in, there will always be the main issue with data processing, therefore data protection rules must be dictated within any specific legislation regulating the HSR.

VII. Conclusions and Recommendations

1. Conclusion

In this work, we used a scenario method to test our hypotheses deriving from comprehensive literature analysis and case law analysis on the applicability of the GDPR on HSR. We proved that there are several practical problems with the consent rule; people do not read the privacy statements or do not understand those statements even if they read. Besides, they might not always be conscious about the possible consequences of AI technologies, especially, HSR. They might also not be aware of the fact that they may share some responsibilities and liabilities for having HSR. Data controllers of HSRs do not always keen on presenting fully understandable information to their users on the usage and risks of HSR.

Technical aspects of AI technologies make it hard for the data controllers to comply with the GDPR fully. Their unpredictable nature may not always make it possible to put very clear statements on purposes the HSR is operating for. However, this should not mean that the data controllers could use those purposes for their hidden purposes. Algorithms may generate unpredictable outcomes, but as long as they fall outside of the purpose of the AI system, data controllers must ignore and not display them to the users. The GDPR cannot prevent robotic companies to produce such robots gaining the trust of people and make them disclose more personal issues. The companies even should not be stopped by doing so since trust may increase the level of user's treatment.

The GDPR fully covers and gives a comprehensive legal framework for personal data protection in the AI era. However, more interpretation and guidelines are needed to reach a uniform application. For example, the concept of meaningful information and intelligible form should be interpreted specific to AI technologies. Our analysis showed that the experts all have either different opinions on the questions referred, even though they represent the same country, or they fully agree with an issue raised. The right to explanation in the GDPR is reactive and there is no common understanding of how the explanation should be. Finally, there is a probability for the natural persons using HSR to be held liable under the GPDR. After this summary, we would like to present the whole conclusion in the table below. As a result of our research, it is safe to state that we would

have a very complicated case with HSR and their data processing activities within the purpose of serving their users. The below figure should present this complexity and it should be read in connection with the other figures presented in the analysis part.

As it could be observed, the Solutions and Safeguards figure was left empty and was not explained before. Following, we deliver our solutions and recommendations to the specific groups possibly involving AI technologies.

2. Recommendations

2.1. For Developers and Data Controllers

- Our analysis showed that the first and the biggest responsibility is on the shoulders of the data controllers. In this case, we propose a compulsory user education and training program about the system usage such as training for the system's technologic elements, for personal data management, possible risks for the right to personal data protection; by introducing several user cases, and based on the user's skills. They can engage users in the development and testing phase of the robot, as suggested by Article 29 WP's DPIA opinion⁴⁷¹. Pieces of training must be set by the level of user's understanding and understanding must be verified and proved. We propose lifelong training for the people using AI systems to be able to catch any new developments within the system. The company should provide informative presentations to the other possible data subjects, mainly to the family members of the main user. All training must be provided free of charge unless the user would ask for extra training. Training should be delivered in a personalized way and the use of specific ML techniques for creating user-specific training content could be time and cost-efficient⁴⁷². This way, full user control on the AI system could be ensured.
- An entire and a comprehensive internal training program for the company could help to raise the awareness of own staff.

⁴⁷¹ Article 29 WP, Guidelines on Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) and determining whether processing is "likely to result in a high risk" for the purposes of Regulation 2016/67, p. 15.

⁴⁷² For example, the robot could act as an agent to analyze the user's personal informational choices and bring only that information to be read and understood by the user. Even more, the robot could be the cyber representation of the user, acting like the user and represent the user's behavior whenever the user should be informed or request information about the system. Conti and Passarella's work could be a starting point to design such robots. See, Conti and Passarella, 2018.

- The second solution we propose for the data controllers is to ensure the validity and understandability of the information they deliver to the users. We already noted before, that the information prepared for the users should be specific to their personal conditions (age, gender, education, etc.) and personality (mood, behaviors, character, etc.). Besides, data controllers could use very simple, but effective ways to test their users' knowledge of the systems they offer. For example, after the informing activity, a small quiz could pop-up on the user's screen. This quiz could include basic questions generated from the given information and there should be no way to skip it if the user wants to continue using the system. In the same way, there could be set up a certain amount of time for anyone to read the consent statements. If someone is skipping the consent box in, for example, 5 seconds, it means that he or she did not read it.
- Recently, software developers work on AI-based systems analyzing users' privacy needs and design their systems according to these analyses. Companies deploying AI systems could easily use such systems to comply with legislation.

2.2. For Users/Data Subjects

- They must be aware of the dark side of the technologies they use.
- They should always be aware that a robot is a machine, although it could humanly interact with them.
- They could place a sign in the entrance and inside of their homes indicating the operation of a HSR. If someone does not wish to be under the surveillance of the robot, the user must shut it down and should not create stress on family members and visitors to accept the robot.

2.3. For Lawmakers

- Bearing in mind the technology's development speed, using scenarios could help make future-friendly laws to avoid unwanted legal issues.
- Find a way to make standards⁴⁷³ and codes of conduct to be compulsory to comply with for the robotic companies.

2.4. For Data Protection Authorities

Article 42 of the GDPR, data controllers are called for a voluntary certification proving their GDPR compliance by the MS, the supervisory authorities, the EDPB and the Commission. The certification includes not only paperwork but also obtaining seals and marks. We would like the GDPR to introduce a compulsory certification system for the companies offering services via personal house robots, unlikely the voluntary expression of the GDPR. The certification could be established under at least three criteria:

- Compulsory user education and training under the oversight of the NSA in collaboration with the specific national authorities (e.g., National Alzheimer Association).
- Compulsory user and company licenses: without the user license, the user cannot purchase the robot; and without the company license, the company cannot produce robots. For user licenses case, the user license should be a valid maximum for a year and the user must meet certain criteria to get a new license (e.g. accomplishment of a new training). Such a solution already exists for developers choosing a safeguard plan for themselves against the possible misuse of AI solutions by any user⁴⁷⁴. For a company license, it should be first obtained from the competent authority (e.g. EU Agency for Robotics and Artificial Intelligence⁴⁷⁵)

⁴⁷³ For example, the IEEE project *P7006 - Standard for Personal Data Artificial Intelligence (AI) Agent*, Accessed from: <https://standards.ieee.org/project/7006.html>. Last accessed: 31 January 2020.

⁴⁷⁴ Responsible AI. Accessed from: <https://www.licenses.ai> Last accessed: 31 January 2020.

⁴⁷⁵ The idea behind this expression could be found in the European Parliament resolution of 16 February 2017.

- Compulsory insurance system applicable both for the creators and users of the robot: when the creators and users are found jointly liable for the robot's actions, the insurance system should support the parties to bear the court orders.

Besides the certification:

- They should raise their knowledge of AI technologies.
- They should generate more guidelines on AI technologies and should not wait for the EU authorities to deliver some.
- They could launch pieces of training for data controllers on how to design consent statements.
- Specific explanations on the responsibilities and possible liabilities of the natural persons using AI technologies could be useful.
- Promote “AI and law courses” for the lawyers and the developers or robotic companies together with the related national or international authorities. These courses should be starting from the BA level, if not possible to settle at high schools. There could be pieces of training prepared or offered by the NSAs or Bar Associations⁴⁷⁶.
- Oversee the validity and understandability of the information and consent statements the data controllers provide⁴⁷⁷.
- Revising the guidelines: WP29's explanation of consent should be obtained for data processing activities that are related to each other. As it may seem like photo editing application does not require to enable GPS localization of a device, but if the application has an AI enchanted service to edit the background based on location, then there will most probably no need for consent.

Finally, we believe that more interdisciplinary studies, like we did here, should be encouraged in academia to translate each other's language in a mutually understandable

⁴⁷⁶ Hungarian Lawyers Association organized a special event entitled Artificial Intelligence and Law on the 28th of November 2019 for the lawyers. A day-long and free of charge event was organized in a way that after each presentation delivered by a professional, participants took an online exam to reinforce their knowledge. The participants collected a certain amount of credits to earn a certificate.

⁴⁷⁷ Actually, Recital 66 of the Directive 2009/136/EC points granting more powers to enable national authorities such as the NSAs to make informing activities more effective.

way. Those studies could be also conducted by the government in the frame of public education and awareness-raising programs.

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Appendix

(Survey questions referred to the experts)

Proposed Case Study for PhD Project

A. Preliminary questions (before the participant reads the case study)

1. Do you think that current European data protection legislation is addressing issues related to Artificial Intelligence sufficiently?
2. What kind of “data breaches” would you identify as being likely with AI technologies?
3. Have you ever experienced a case (either as an expert or a lawyer) which refers to AI technologies, or at least algorithmic decision making? Do you know any (national) court case(s) related to this topic?
4. What is your overall opinion regarding current discussions regarding defining data controllers/data processors in AI technologies? (This refers to the question of liability)

B. Questions to be asked to the participant after the case study has been presented

General Questions

1. What is your overall opinion about the scenario?
2. What do you like most about this scenario? List (at most) your top 3 aspects (if any).
3. What did you not like about this scenario? List (at most) your top 3 aspects (if any).
4. Do you think the type of technology referred to in the scenario could possibly be achieved in the near future (say next 10-20 years)? Yes/No/Don't know
5. What further problems or risks regarding personal data protection might occur within the scenario? (E.g. robot is stolen/hacked, the user is deceased...)
6. Who would be the relevant “persons” in the scenario? What would be their responsibilities/liabilities, according to you?
7. Would your interpretation of the scenario differ if the data subject was an elder (or otherwise vulnerable) person?

8. To which national or CJEU case(s) would you refer in order to resolve the relevant legal issues in this scenario? (optional)
9. If such a case is referred to the national court, how would you defend the company? (claims and evidences)
10. If the case were referred to the national court in your country, how would Julia and/or her son be defended? (claims and evidences)?
11. To what other legislation would you refer in order to interpret this case, besides GDPR? (if any)
12. Does the "right to explanation" make sense in this scenario where the machine already made a decision about the data subject? (opinion)
13. Could the GDPR prevent data controllers to create robots persuading the users to disclose information about themselves? (natural interaction, constant interruption, or silence)
14. What would be your final decision regarding the case, if you were to act as a decision maker? (who is liable and what might be the sanction)
15. Could you propose any solution(s) in order to prevent such scenarios from occurring? Do you think the GDPR rules should be or could be updated to prevent or avoid such situations?