Public Trust in AI and the Ethical Implications: A Comparative Study of Governmental Use of AI during the Covid-19 Pandemic.

This project is a collaborative initiative of the Global AI Ethics Consortium (GAIEC), lead through the IEAI. It uses a comparative case study methodology, examining the process and conditions surrounding specific countries' technology deployment choices during the COVID-19 pandemic.
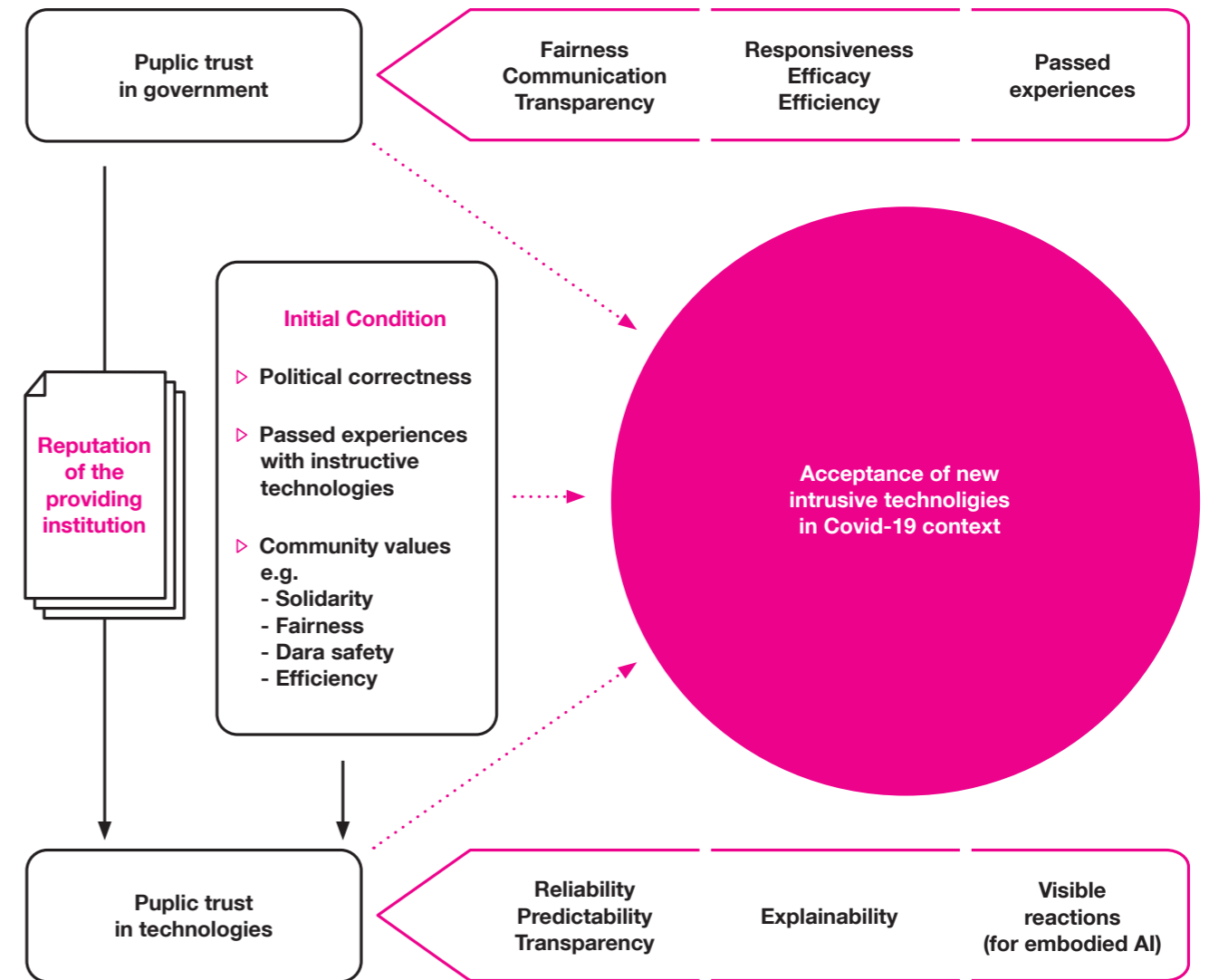
It expands upon the overview of this topic developed in the IEAI Research Brief: AI-enabled technologies employed. By utilizing existing description, statistical and survey data and conducting interviews of key experts in case study counties, the project aims to analyze and evaluate the boundary alteration in terms of surveillance technology-related governance in times of public health crisis and the corresponding government and public responses.

Finally, an estimation of the possible long-term effects and risks that those changes bring in terms of public acceptance will be assessed. The five countries studied include: China, Germany, Rwanda, Brazil, and Israel.

From these case studies and other public data, reflections on the 'new normal' will be proposed. Moreover, policy and ethical recommendations based on the analysis, as well as lessons learned will be presented with the intention of their use by governments, policy makers and the private industry.

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Plans for 2021
In 2021, the research team will collect data and interviews, conduct analysis and organizing a workshop on the topic at the Responsible AI Forum 2021. The goal of the research is to provide relevant information to practitioners, policymakers and developers. Thus, from the analysis and findings, we plan to implement several outputs to reach a non-academic audience (Science Popularization Videos, Interactive website with findings and graphics/maps and Policy and Research Briefs) to give easy to access and overviews of the research findings. Moreover, the research will produce publications in academic journals. ●

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2020 Papers and Projects
Ethics and the Use of AI-based Tracing Tools to Manage the COVID-19 Pandemic, EAI Research Brief, June 2020