



GIRAI: Research Summary for Albania

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Global Index on Responsible AI: Albania

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As of the end of 2023, Albania has yet to establish a solid foundation in any of the **Responsible AI Governance** thematic areas through national frameworks, including policies, strategies, laws, or regulations. The ["Digital Agenda of Albania"](#) along with its [Action Plan for 2022–2026](#), while mentioning AI, stops short of articulating a cohesive approach to AI design, development, deployment, and impact. Albania has yet to develop a comprehensive National AI Strategy. However, the initiation of planning for a National AI Strategy by the [National Agency for Information Society \(NAIS\)](#) signals a preliminary acknowledgment of the necessity for a structured policy framework that can navigate the complexities inherent in AI adoption and application. It is expected for this strategy to be drafted and consulted in 2024. Also, another anticipated national framework in Responsible AI Governance, is the [legislative alignment](#) with the [General Data Protection Regulation \(GDPR\)](#). The current [Data Protection Law](#) emphasizes the 'data minimisation' principle, but lacks specificity regarding AI, underscoring a gap in regulatory detail that necessitates rectification.

In the context of Public Procurement, the [declarations](#) made in 2023 regarding the application of AI to enhance transparency and efficiency in public procurement processes reflect an awareness of AI's potential to improve governance mechanisms. The [proposed draft law](#) aiming to reform procurement practices in alignment with EU standards, including the utilization of AI for tender evaluations to mitigate corruption and enhance transparency announced in December 2023, represents a significant development, but it is important to ensure embedding AI into governance frameworks in a manner that aligns with Responsible AI Governance. The examination of non-governmental actors' engagement with Responsible AI Governance related to AI in Albania reveals almost a nonexistent level of activity as defined in GIRAI. While there are emerging indications of Albania's engagement with the complexities of AI integration within its governance structures, the current state reflects a significant shortfall in developing a comprehensive, strategic approach to Responsible AI Governance.

In terms of **Responsible AI and Human Rights**, as of the end of 2023, Albania has yet to establish a solid foundation in these thematic areas through national frameworks, including policies, strategies, laws, or regulations. There is evidence of a Governmental action regarding Education through the [Pre-University Coding Programme of the Government of Albania](#). Within the Education TA, non-governmental actors also have initiated actions regarding AI such as [Generation Next Programme](#), [AI for Youth](#), [Digital and Technology Programmes for Kids](#), and new [education programmes](#) at university level. The research shows that both governmental

and non-governmental actors are primarily working on issues of digitalization rather than with a specific focus on AI. For instance, in terms of Children's Rights there are [several actions](#) referring to safety of children online but with no specifics on AI.

In terms of **National Responsible AI Capacities**, there is one national framework regarding Public Sector Skills Development, as outlined in the ["Digital Agenda of Albania" Intersectoral Strategy and its Action Plan for 2022–2026](#), which articulates ambitions to formulate guidelines and principles for the ethical utilization of AI within public administration. Moreover, it has committed to the organization of digital courses on AI, aimed at enhancing the AI knowledge and capabilities of government organizations, citizens, and private companies. Despite these intentions, the first training session identified—focusing on [Human Rights and Artificial Intelligence](#), conducted by the Albanian School of Public Administration (ASPA) in December 2023—occurred outside the monitoring period. Furthermore, ASPA's [reports](#) do not foresee plans for 2024 nor identify specific AI training and skills development needs for administration and civil servants.

When it comes to government actions, there is evidence for 3 government actions focusing on international cooperation, public sector skills development, and education. For example, Albania's endorsement of the [Political Declaration on Responsible Military Use of Artificial Intelligence and Autonomy](#) underscores its commitment to a normative framework that governs the use of AI capabilities in the military domain, but also its strategic alliance with the US. Further emphasizing Albania's engagement in international AI cooperation, the NAIS Director's participation as a member of [NATO's Data and Artificial Intelligence Review Board](#) highlights efforts to develop a responsible AI certification standard in Albania as well considering that it is a [NATO member](#). Moreover, Prime Minister Rama's reference to [cooperation with Microsoft for AI usage in e-services](#), along with the Deputy Minister of Justice's mention of a digital cooperation system with foreign donors, further illustrates Albania's active pursuit of international partnerships and collaborations in the realm of AI. In the area of AI and Public Sector Skills Development, the [School of Magistrates](#) has been organizing continuous professional development trainings for magistrates. These trainings include a specific focus on Judicial Ethics & Deontology & Discipline, with an emphasis on the ethical aspects of cyber justice, cybercrime, and artificial intelligence. Furthermore, in December 2023, the Prime Minister announced [plans to employ AI and ChatGPT within the justice system](#) to expedite the adaptation of EU Acquis and the processing of legal cases.

About The Global Index on Responsible AI

The Global Index on Responsible AI (GIRAI) is the first tool to set globally-relevant benchmarks for responsible AI and assess them in countries around the world. This study constitutes the largest global data collection on responsible AI to-date. In its first edition, the Global Index on Responsible AI represents primary data collected by researchers from 138 countries, including 41 countries from Africa, between November 1, 2021 to November 1, 2023

The first edition of the Global Index on Responsible AI 2024 was launched on June 13th 2024 at the closing Keynote panel of the [USAID Global Digital Development Forum](#). The report is made available online at www.global-index.ai, together with an interactive portal providing open access to all the data gathered as part of the project.

The Objective

The Global Index on Responsible AI (GIRAI) is a flagship project by the [Global Center on AI Governance](#) aimed at tracking and measuring countries' commitments and progress towards responsible AI. The tool is comprehensive and multidimensional, involving data collection and analysis from 138 countries to provide a comprehensive understanding of how nations are addressing the ethical, social, and regulatory challenges posed by AI technologies.

The Index highlights global trends and gaps in responsible AI, serving as a critical tool for policymakers, researchers, and stakeholders to understand the current landscape and drive improvements. It promotes international cooperation, encourages the adoption of human-centric AI frameworks, and fosters a sustainable and ethical future for AI.

The Rationale

At present, there is a lack of globally representative data on how countries are addressing AI's challenges and opportunities, especially in relation to the protection and promotion of human rights. Despite the growing recognition of responsible AI's importance, without benchmarking and measurement the concept remains abstract.

To move from principles to practice, we need to clear benchmarks against which to track and measure country efforts and progress over time.

In response, the [Global Index on Responsible AI](#) has established a comprehensive set of measurable, human rights-based benchmarks for responsible AI and assessed the performance of 138 countries through first-hand country-level data collection. This initiative is the largest global effort to gather data on responsible AI, addressing major data gaps, particularly across Africa, South and Central America, Asia, the Middle East, and the Caribbean.

This unique source of information and assessments at a country level provides the global community with the required tools to address the challenges that AI is bringing. Journalists are invited to explore global trends regarding responsible AI, as well as sharing country level results to compare local conditions and set the agenda to protect citizens rights.

Top 10 Take-Aways of the Global Index on Responsible AI

1. AI governance does not translate into responsible AI

While 39% of countries assessed have national AI strategies, most lack enforceability and comprehensive responsible AI principles. As a result, AI governance remains more theoretical than practical, falling short of ensuring responsible AI deployment

2. Limited Mechanisms for Protecting Human Rights

The Global Index on Responsible AI found that few countries have mechanisms to protect human rights from AI risks. Essential measures like AI impact assessments, access to redress, and public procurement guidelines are often missing.

3. International Cooperation: A Cornerstone of Responsible AI

UNESCO's efforts have prove key in building country-level capacity for responsible AI, with many countries adopting the UNESCO Recommendation on Ethics in AI and committing to its implementation tools, showcasing a strong foundation for global solidarity

4. Gender equality remains a critical gap in efforts to advance responsible AI

Despite increasing awareness of gender equality in AI, most countries have not made significant efforts to ensure women and gender minorities are not negatively affected by AI. Only 24 assessed countries have government frameworks addressing gender and AI.

5. Current responsible AI practices do not adequately address the key issues of inequality and inclusion

The GIRAI reveals that most countries are not prepared to advance inclusive and equitable AI systems. Marginalised groups' rights are among the lowest-performing areas, indicating that governments often overlook inclusion and equity in AI.

6. Workers in AI economies are not adequately protected

Only a few countries assessed ensure labour rights are protected as AI use increases in workplaces and new AI-driven platforms emerge. Upskilling efforts do not correlate with sufficient protections for workers at risk of displacement or those in new AI-related industries

7. Responsible AI must incorporate cultural and linguistic diversity

Responsible AI must respect and promote cultural and linguistic diversity to address imbalances in current AI models, especially large language models. However, few countries prioritise this in their AI strategies, according to the GIRAI results.

8. There are major gaps in ensuring the safety, security and reliability of AI systems

The Global Index on Responsible AI revealed that few countries have measures to ensure AI systems' safety, security, reliability, and accuracy. This is concerning given the interdependence of global cyber systems and the rise in maleficent AI use, putting the technical integrity of AI at risk.

9. Universities and civil society are playing crucial roles in advancing responsible AI

Universities and civil society organisations play a pivotal role in advancing responsible AI globally. They lead in filling critical gaps within national AI ecosystems

10. Long Road Ahead for Achieving Responsible AI Worldwide

The Global Index on Responsible AI reveals that most countries are far from adopting responsible AI, leaving nearly 6 billion people without adequate measures to protect their human rights in the context of AI. Critical areas lagging include gender equality and labour protections. Regionally, Africa needs the most support, followed by the Caribbean, Central and South America, Asia and Oceania, and the Middle East.

Once launched, delve deeper into the key takeaways from the 1st Edition of the Global Index on Responsible AI report, exploring country-specific data that examines various thematic areas in the implementation of responsible AI. Additionally, the report will include rankings showcasing how well the 138 assessed countries have performed in developing, implementing and maintaining national responsible AI frameworks.