

Research report

COMMITTEE: Innovation (ILO4)

ISSUE: The impacts of artificial intelligence on the future of work: How to protect workers whose jobs could disappear and how to use AI to improve working conditions while allowing new opportunities.

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INTRODUCTION

Hello! My name is Gabriela Valle and I am 17 years old. I am Spanish and I live in Barcelona, but I was born in Brazil and lived 6 years in Colombia. Horse Riding is my passion. I am extroverted. I like to be productive and do a lot of things, be it going out with my friends, doing sports, going to the beach, etc. I participated as a delegate at EuroMad 2023 and will go to MUNUCCLE 2023. The work of our Innovation Committee at FerMUN 2024 will allow us to focus on the importance that artificial intelligence is taking in today's world, as well as the one it will have tomorrow. It is essential to begin to ask these questions since our future depends on them. Our committee will seek solutions for workers who see their jobs threatened by the relevance of machines in our society, and will also consider how to use technological advances to improve our current situation and our workers one's.



KEYWORDS

Implementation: the realization, execution or implementation of a plan, method or concept, idea, model, specification, standard or rule for a specific purpose.

Innovation: An evolutionary concept based on creativity, human ideas, knowledge and technology.

Artificial Intelligence (AI): Thanks to a set of technologies, intelligent machines have acquired the ability to learn, improve and make calculated decisions so that they can perform tasks previously reserved only for experience, creativity and reason.

Handicraft: Handicraft describes all workers engaged in a manual occupation, alone or with members of their family or apprentices and who derive most of his income from his manual work (e.g. locksmith, plumber). They carry out an independent professional activity of production, processing, repair or provision of services, often regulated.

Machines: Device or instrument allowing performing mechanical, automatic or simplified tasks and work of everyday life.

Small enterprises: They employ, on one hand a small number of employees and on the other hand they have a limited turnover, not exceeding, for example in France, 50 million euros for small and medium-sized enterprises. Micro, small and medium-sized enterprises “are the backbone of most economies and play a key role in developing countries” according to the United Nations, as they employ the most people.

Technological process: research of a technological solution to a specific problem or need following a series of steps.

Technical progress: Everything that helps to increase production and productivity: production techniques, organization and management of labor, enterprise and market.

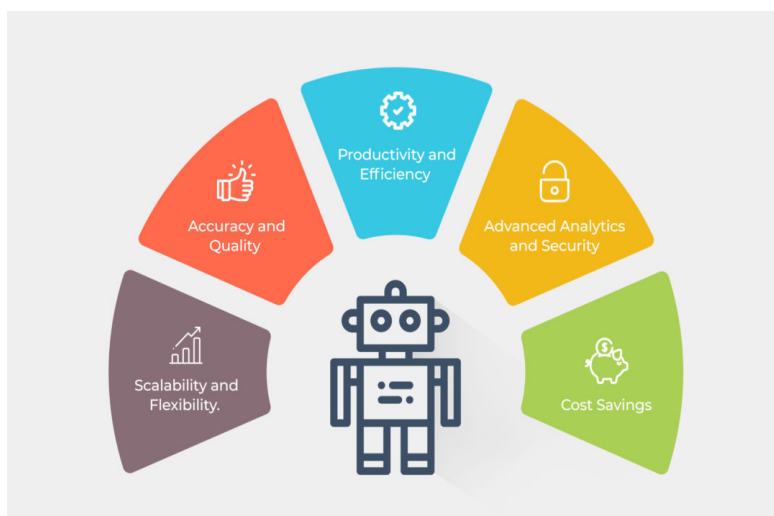
Telework: Professional activity carried out remotely; in most cases, from home.

Robotization: Substitution of human operators by robots for industrial tasks.

OVERVIEW

1. Why develop and use artificial intelligence in companies?

AI is a computer tool that allows machines to perform tasks and solve problems that require human intellectual abilities. It is therefore able, through programming, to simulate human intelligence and to replace the human being in certain aspects. This could lead to more efficient working environments, and consequently a lower demand for workers: indeed, according to a 2018 Human Capital Trends report, “Artificial intelligence has the potential to increase business profitability in 16 sectors by an average of 38% by 2035”.



The first stated objective is to help the human workforce; in other words, to become an extension of human capabilities.

Moreover, AI is also useful in the field of prediction. In today's market, it is essential to think about the needs of tomorrow's customers, to renovate, and to analyze large data. Artificial intelligence makes it possible to analyze historical data or to predict future consumption patterns and future needs and

competition.

2. Which jobs are threatened by the advance of artificial intelligence and technical progress?

According to a study by the University of Pennsylvania in partnership with Open Research and Open AI, “80% of the US workforce could see at least 10% of its tasks affected by the introduction of tools such as ChatGPT, while about 19% of workers could see at least 50% of their tasks affected by these tools.” The impact on workers will therefore be substantial.

The jobs that are most threatened are those that use numbers, technology, such as mathematicians, accountants, finance, administration, bank employees, etc. When a machine learns to do a person’s work, it becomes non-essential. Since AI saves a considerable number of hours, the employment of some people would be in danger.

3. In which countries and in which ways does artificial intelligence take more place in the market?

The United States remains at the forefront of technological advances, including artificial intelligence. There are very large and numerous companies specialized in the implementation of technological tools. Google, for example, is one of the leading artificial intelligence groups. Similarly, many American private companies are globally recognized for their technological processes. We think in particular of the personal voice assistant Alexa developed by Amazon or the machine learning system set up by Apple. There are nearly 6,000 startups and companies specializing themselves in this field in the United States.

However, the American giant is followed by the Asian giant, China, which is developing more and more innovative technologies. It aspires to become the world leader in artificial intelligence in a few years. Many training courses have been and are being implemented to increase the number of engineers and technology technicians. China was already the world’s largest investor in 2017 by funding thousands of tech startups. The country’s policy encourages the use of local products, which not only benefits Chinese startups and companies but also decreases the percentage of use of US products. In China, Google is replaced by Baidu, a company specialized in both technology and artificial intelligence.

UN TREATIES AND MAJOR EVENTS

25/11/2021

The first global agreement on the ethics of artificial intelligence. On 25 November 2021, all UNESCO countries adopted a historic agreement that defines common values and principles (investments in infrastructure, transport, irrigation, energy, and information and communication technology) needed to ensure the successful development of AI. UNESCO expressed its concern about the dangers inherent in the use of artificial intelligence, particularly in the legal field, and the impossibility (of the moment) of finding universal remedies: “We see an increase in ethnic prejudice, significant threats to privacy, dignity and free will, dangers of mass surveillance, increased use of unreliable artificial intelligence technologies in law enforcement, to name a few. Until now, there was no universal standard to address all these problems.”

28/06/2021

WHO advice on how artificial intelligence improves health and mitigates risks worldwide. According to the World Health Organization, AI “has enormous potential to improve the health of millions of people around the world, but only if ethics and human rights are put at the heart of its design, deployment and use.” WHO notes that artificial intelligence can be used to arrive at a faster and more accurate diagnosis for deadly diseases.

27/01/2023

The United States and Europe announce an agreement to accelerate and improve through artificial intelligence, agriculture, health care, emergency response, climate forecasting and the electricity grid (= grid consisting of computer resources). Prior to this agreement, previous discussions between the United States and Europe on this subject did not come out of the improvement of privacy (= data that belong to the domains of identity), according to a senior official of the US administration.

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

Faced with a society where everyone fully believes in the media, staying informed and varying its sources of information and then verifying them remains very important to fight against the power that artificial intelligence and the internet are taking nowadays.

Respect for fundamental human rights by AI is already a requirement for it to be implemented. Artificial intelligence can also be used to strengthen the security of companies or organizations.

In conclusion, Artificial Intelligence has several positive points, but also presents dangers. This is why the most effective solution to the threats it can pose will always be to know how to use what AI has to offer us, for all people and our planet.

Questions that should be considered:

- Should we encourage technological development at the work of the population?
- How can we ensure that the workforce is trained and educated to collaborate with machines rather than being replaced by them?
- What adjustments are needed to maintain a balance between the benefits of automation and core human values?
- What privacy protections should be in place when AI systems collect and analyze data related to workers?

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