Press release
Paris, 23 March 2021

Orange creates a Data and AI Ethics Council

Orange announces the creation of a Data and AI Ethics Council made up of 11 independent recognized experts. Chaired by Stéphane Richard, Orange’s Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, the role of this advisory and independent body is to support the company’s implementation of ethical principles governing the use of data and Artificial Intelligence technologies.

In particular, the Council will draw up ethics guidelines for the responsible use of data and AI at Orange, and monitor its implementation within the Group’s entities. It may be called upon by people outside the company, customer representatives or Orange employees to study concrete scenarios involving the ethical use of data and AI, and will put forward recommendations that will be submitted to Orange’s Executive Committee for approval. It will also issue prospective opinions on the use of data and AI technologies within the Group.

The Council will be involved in a large variety of topics, for example, to ensure that AI-based systems developed by the Group have incorporated the principles of non-discrimination and equality in their design, or that they do not run the risk of invading privacy when they analyze network data to detect the causes of a failure in the video over fiber service.

Orange’s Data and AI Ethics Council is made up of 11 members, selected for their independence and neutrality, their expertise on these topics and the diversity of their backgrounds: ethics specialists, lawyers, philosophers, researchers and professionals from public bodies, academic circles and the public and private economic sectors:

- Raja Chatila, Professor of AI, Robotics and Ethics at the Sorbonne University, France,
- Cécile Dejoux, University Professor at the Conservatoire National des Arts et Métiers, France,
- Lê Nguyên Hoang, Researcher and Computer Science Mediator at the École Polytechnique Fédérale of Lausanne, Switzerland,
- Mark Hunyadi, Professor of Moral and Political Philosophy at Louvain University, Belgium,
- Etienne Klein, Laboratory Director at the CEA (Alternative Energies and Atomic Energy Commission), France,
- Jean-Noël Lafargue, Lecturer at the Paris 8 University, France,
- Caroline Lequesne-Roth, Teacher and Researcher at the Cote d’Azur University, France,
- Claire Levallois Barth, Lecturer in Law at the Télécom Paris engineering school, France,
- Winston Maxwell, Director of Legal Studies at the Télécom Paris engineering school, France,
- Sasha Rubel, International expert in responsible AI and open data,
- Françoise Soulie-Fogelman, Consultant in AI; ex-university professor and start-up manager.

The creation of the Data and AI Ethics Council is another illustration of Orange’s desire to strengthen its bond of trust with its customers, employees and stakeholders, in connection with its official “purpose”.
The Group has been working on the topic of ethical and responsible AI for several years: it is conducting a research program to contribute to the responsible development, use and governance of human-focused AI systems. In 2020 it obtained the GEEIS-AI label (Gender Equality Diversity European & International Standard - AI) rewarding its initiatives to promote diversity and avoid the risks of discrimination in AI-based systems. Orange also helped produce recommendations for “Ethics guidelines for trustworthy AI” within the European Commission’s High-Level Expert Group and supports Impact AI, the benchmark Think & Do Tank for ethical artificial intelligence in France.

About Orange
Orange is one of the world’s leading telecommunications operators with sales of 42.3 billion euros in 2020 and 142,000 employees worldwide at 31 December 2020, including 82,000 employees in France. The Group has a total customer base of 259 million customers worldwide at 31 December 2020, including 214 million mobile customers and 22 million fixed broadband customers. The Group is present in 26 countries. Orange is also a leading provider of global IT and telecommunication services to multinational companies, under the brand Orange Business Services. In December 2019, the Group presented its new “Engage 2025” strategic plan, which, guided by social and environmental accountability, aims to reinvent its operator model. While accelerating in growth areas and placing data and AI at the heart of its innovation model, the Group will be an attractive and responsible employer, adapted to emerging professions.

Orange is listed on Euronext Paris (symbol ORA) and on the New York Stock Exchange (symbol ORAN).
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