



Deliverable 1.4

Societal impact report – First

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D1.4: SOCIETAL IMPACT REPORT – FIRST

Summary

The document presents an overview of eco-bots work on developing a first consensus, on societal, gender and ethical issues. As this is the first report, only the primary findings are included. The final report D 1.5 will contain all the conclusions gathered throughout the project.

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DISSEMINATION LEVEL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PU = Public <input type="checkbox"/> PP = Restricted to other programme participants <input type="checkbox"/> CO = Confidential, only for members of the consortium

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List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

CA: Consortium Agreement

CO: Confidential

DoW: Description of Work, referring to the Annex I of the Grant Agreement

EAB: Ethics Advisory Board

EC: European Commission

DMP: Data Management Plan

GA: Grant Agreement

IPR: Intellectual Property Rights

OA: Open Access

PPR: Project Progress Reports

PSB: Project Steering Board

PU: Public

QA: Quality Assurance

SAB: Security Advisory Board

SMD Smart Metering Device

SOA: Service-oriented Architecture

STC: Scientific and Technical Committee

WP: Work Package

1. Introduction

1.1. Objectives of the deliverable

The reporting of societal, ethical and gender issues to the European Commission for the project eco-bot will occur iteratively through this deliverable D 1.4 at M018 and D1.5 at M39 at the end of the project respectively. This report focuses on the Ethics Advisory Board's activities, assessments and recommendations.

It aims to give an oversight over ethical, legal, privacy, gender and data protection scopes in the eco-bot project. It summarizes the results of assessments which conclude the compliance of eco-bots' project activities and outcomes with current national and EU regulations and ethics standards

1.2. Structure of the deliverable

This societal, ethical and gender issues report is structured into four sections, which are as follows:

- An introductory chapter where the objectives of the document its structure and the relevant audience are briefly described.
- An oversight chapter where the findings of the societal, ethical and gender issues assessment, in terms of status, policy, mitigating actions and safeguarding is given. This assessment was conducted at project level, with general ethics-related remarks on the platform/system under development and its components. In the ongoing project phase the assessment will also be conducted for the demonstrators.
- A description of the ethics-related work performed by the members of the EAB and by the partners during the first reporting period
- The conclusions.

1.3. Audience

This document will be made publicly available. The outcomes of the research are interesting for people who are working for organisations in the public sector (e.g. consultant officers) or for people involved in the private sector (especially the SMD and chat-bot related). More specifically, the target audience for this deliverable includes:

- Partners in the eco-bot project
- The European Commission
- Organisations and experts involved in the eco-bot case studies
- Public and private smart metering and chatbot organisations
- Authorities (regional and national level) that develop and enforce policies and legislation

- Consumers
- Facility Managers

2. Oversight of ethical, legal, privacy, gender and data protection scopes in eco-bot project

Using the eco-bot system data will be collected and processed. All partners are therefore aware of their responsibilities and obligations to respect the data subject's privacy and confidentiality, in compliance with European standards and best practices.

To support the partners the EAB was established and is fully operational since the start of eco-bot. It consists of one ethical expert from the three main partners executing the demonstrator and development activities (EYPESA, SEC and DEXMA). The EAB scope is to guarantee that project procedures and outcomes are compliant with legal and ethical requirements as well society impacts, while at the same time overseeing the compliance to the ethical management strategy of the consortium. The board has a complete overview on eco-bot activities as well as access to relevant eco-bot deliverables. More details on the activities performed by the board are contained in the next section of this chapter.

- A specific Ethical, Privacy and Data Protection Strategy had been elaborated at the beginning of the project as part of D1.3 which is the data management plan of eco-bot, consisting of requirements, but also recommendations, key principles and guidelines to be followed by each partner and thus by the consortium.
- Eco-bot partners follow legal compliance, for instance about the provisions of GDPR. The partners take measures and safeguards in order to comply with both the applicable European and national rules (in particular Spanish, Greek, German, UK and Polish national legislations).

The personal data that is going to be collected during the project, will be used solely for the specific project (research activity) and will be completely deleted and removed from the eco-bot system after the project finishes, remaining available only to the participating utilities. This fact is positive and neutral regarding ethical issues. Regarding the end users, the fact that only people that have explicitly declared their agreement (informed consent) in supplying their data and in turn receive personalized notifications and warnings is a positive fact. The consent should take under consideration the following issues:

- Be in a language and in terms that are fully understandable by the end user
- Describe the aims, methods and the implications of the project and the benefits and problems or risks that might arise
- Explicitly describe that the use of the Smart Home meter and the chat-bot demonstrator is voluntary and that anyone has the right to refuse to participate and to withdraw their participation, samples or data at any time — without any consequences

- Describe how data will be collected, protected during the lifetime of the project and either destroyed or reused subsequently
- Describe which procedures will be implemented in the event of unexpected or incidental findings (in particular, whether the participants have the right to know, or not to know, about any of such findings).

The data process lifecycle of eco-bot could raise ethical issues if:

- Personal data is not stored locally and / or uploaded to the eco-bot platform during the Data Collection process.
- The collected data are not subjected to the appropriate offline pre-processing workflow and/or the anonymization process of deleting any sensitive element during the data preparation step.
- The datasets can be retrieved after their deletion during the storage step.

Some additional clarifications pertaining specific types of data arriving from these devices are discussed and need to be clarified; geo-locational data will be processed after acquisition to keep only the minimum necessary information and not data which represent sensitive data pursuant to articles of the GDPR.

2.1. Gender issues

In eco-bot consortium, a mindful effort has been made to achieve equality between men and women. Therefore, eco-bot counts a high participation of women – more than 70% of the key personnel involved in the tasks. Female participants are also in leading roles in the management structure.

The eco-bot consortium will not create any particular gender or equal opportunity issues. Principle equal rights will be emphasized in, during, and following the project for all legal entities and physical persons irrespective of sex, age, race, gender, handicap and nationality.

3. Description of the ethics-related work performed during the first reporting period

During the first reporting period several activities were undertaken by the Ethics Advisory Board, if opportune in conjunction with eco-bot Consortium, and significant results were achieved in relation to ethical, legal and societal aspects raised by the project. They are reported in the interim Progress Report.

Furthermore, ethics-related considerations were considered in WP2, WP3, WP4 and WP5, in the overall design of the system and preparation of validation activities, in view of ensuring strict adherence to Privacy-by-Design and Privacy-by-Default paradigms.

Besides co-creating and/or reviewing selected parts of the ethics and privacy related deliverables, the EAB or one or more of its members participated at the following meetings:

- EAB's discussions during the Kick-off Meeting in Berlin (Face-to-Face Meeting, 29th October 2017)
- EAB's discussions during the Marathon Meeting (Face-to-Face Meeting, May 3rd – May 4th, 2018)
- EAB's discussions during the Meeting in Katowice (Face-to-Face Meeting, 23rd October 2018)

In addition, the EAB or one or more of its members participated to other eco-bot meetings or Telco's (F2F or Virtual) conducted during the project, where they were invited, as well as discussed with the partners in bilateral meetings ethics, gender and societal concerns, for the best possible compliance with the eco-bot ethics strategy. Hence, the EAB is closely involved in eco-bot progress and activities and actively contributes to the project.

The Board also supervised the legal issues and assessed them in order to ensure that the framework being proposed is conform to a minimum set of ethical and legal requirements.

4. CONCLUSIONS

The Consortium treats all arising privacy and data protection issues in a proper manner, as well as the ethical and societal dimension in general of the eco-bot project, demonstrating a high level of awareness, attention and knowledge in relation to ethical, privacy, data protection and societal implications.

The eco-bot system design takes privacy and ethics issues into appropriate account, by balancing operation between ethical, privacy and data protection requirements and the requirements of different nature (e.g. usability requirements, economic requirements).

To summarize, the EAB considers the up to now conducted project work as treating ethical and privacy aspects in an adequate way.

The deliverable D1.5 which will be the final report on societal, ethical and gender issues will be submitted at the end of the project in M39. As being the final report it will be on a more detailed level.