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*Stay up-to-date with the latest news and trends from the application of Artificial Intelligence into the field of civic participation!*

## ITHACA Newsletter #1



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ITHACA's mission is to evaluate how Artificial Intelligence (AI) can amplify citizens' engagement in local governance while proactively addressing and mitigating potential adverse outcomes resulting from unregulated AI deployment. Our objective is to empower citizens with knowledge about AI through pilot activities, commencing in two EU countries, Romania and Slovakia.

[Learn more about the ITHACA project](#)

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## OUR GOALS

Maximize the positive impact of AI on civic participation by:

Developing and testing an online discussion platform in two cities, Brasov (Romania) and Martin (Slovakia)

Incorporating human and social perspectives into the design process, through co-design with citizens

Paying special attention to the needs of vulnerable social groups

Empowering citizens with knowledge about the AI models involved

Enhancing Transparency and Explainability in the Deployment of Artificial Intelligence for Civic Engagement

## OUR RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS



### KICK OFF MEETING in Athens

Consortium partners from Greece, Belgium, Austria, Slovakia and Romania, successfully



### INSIGHTS FROM THE ITHACA

CONSORTIUM's Online Workshop

kick-started the project, “artificial Intelligence To enHance Civic pArticipation” (ITHACA), during an initial meeting in Athens at the mid of January 2023. [Learn more ...](#)

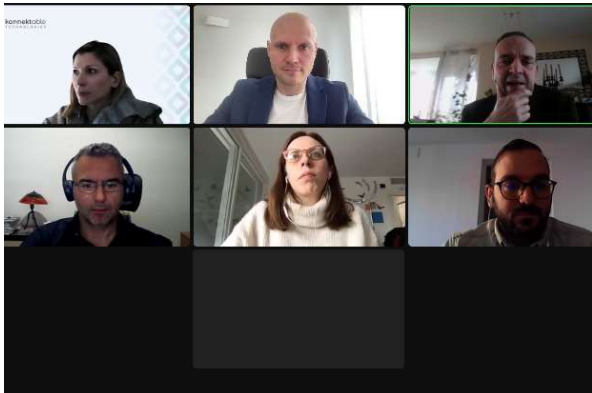


In July 2023, ITHACA project partners held an online discussion with reps from vulnerable social groups, harnessing their expertise and interactions for insights into citizens' needs, particularly in digital tools, inclusion, and civic participation. [Learn more ...](#)

### **WORKSHOP WITH CITIZENS' JURY in Martin and Brasov**

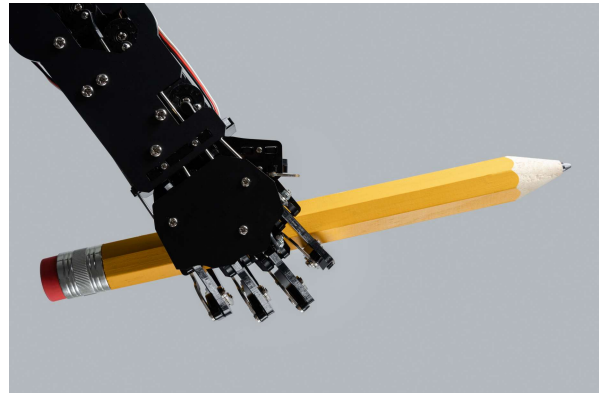
In September 2023, two significant introductory workshops were conducted in the pilot cities of Martin (Slovakia) and Brasov (Romania). The primary objective was to connect with the members of citizen juries, understand their needs, motivations, opportunities, and challenges. By doing so, we aim to enhance their engagement in civic participation. [Learn more ...](#)

## **PARTNERING FOR PROGRESS: SISTER PROJECTS HIGHLIGHTS**



### **AI, BIG DATA AND DEMOCRACY Task Force**

The ITHACA project actively participates in online meetings of the 'AI, Big Data, and Democracy Task Force.' Our collaboration with various projects funded under Horizon Europe (namely AI4Gov, KT4Democracy and ORBIS)



### **AI4Gov: Trusted Artificial Intelligence for Transparent Governance)**

Trusted AI fosters public trust, provides transparency in decision-making, and ensures fairness and equity. AI4Gov publication reveals the path to transparent, accountable, and

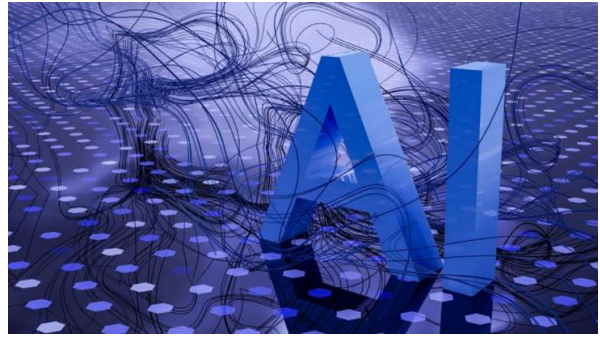
amplifies the promotion of synergies. [Learn more...](#)



### 1st AI4Gov training workshop

The AI4Gov 1st workshop, "Bias In Artificial Intelligence," was held in Ljubljana, Slovenia. It covered AI fundamentals, bias, and its impact on human rights, especially for underrepresented groups. Participants from the European Commission, Academia, IT industry, and public organizations engaged in case studies and practical exercises. [Learn more ...](#)

democratic AI systems, fostering trust, fairness, and evidence-based policies. [Learn more ...](#)

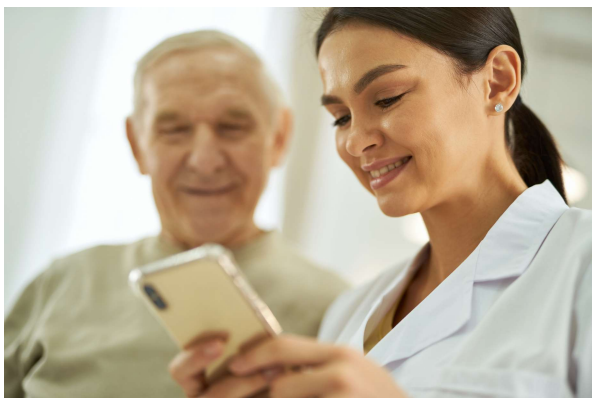


### Fostering Democratic Values with AI & Blockchain: AI4Gov (UPRC)

Can AI and blockchain technologies play pivotal roles in fortifying and advancing these democratic principles while strengthening the democratic processes and governance? Explore these questions in AI4Gov latest blog: 'Promoting Democratic Values through AI and Blockchain. [Learn more ...](#)

Find out more on AI4Gov project

## ITHACA RECOMMENDS



**Best Practices for AI in Citizen Engagement and Democracy**



**Exploring Civic Participation and AI Intersection**

Citizen engagement, whether individual or collective, impacts public issues and governance. ICT integration enhances accessibility and efficiency. AI tools boost citizen participation effectively. [Learn more ...](#)

In this digital age, the merging of civic participation and artificial intelligence has triggered curiosity and examination. Delve into how AI is reshaping our interaction with democracy. [Learn more ...](#)

**Meet our partners**



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