Social Mining & Big Data Analytics

SoBigData

RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE ++

Deliverable D2.1

Board for Operational Ethics and Legality

DOCUMENT INFORMATION

PROJECT	
PROJECT ACRONYM	SoBigData-PlusPlus
PROJECT TITLE	SoBigData++: European Integrated Infrastructure for Social Mining and Big Data Analytics
STARTING DATE	01/01/2020 (48 months)
ENDING DATE	31/12/2023
PROJECT WEBSITE	http://www.sobigdata.eu
TOPIC	INFRAIA-01-2018-2019 Integrating Activities for Advanced Communities
GRANT AGREEMENT N.	871042

DELIVERABLE INFORMATION	
WORK PACKAGE	WP 2 - Responsible Data Science
WORK PACKAGE LEADER	TUDelft
WORK PACKAGE PARTICIPANTS	CNR, UNIPI, LUH, KCL, CNRS, URV, SSSA
DELIVERABLE NUMBER	D.2.1
DELIVERABLE TITLE	Ethic and Legality Board Establishment
AUTHOR(S)	Juan M. Durán (TUDelft), Francesca Pratesi (UniPi)
CONTRIBUTOR(S)	Iryna Lishchuk (LUH)
EDITOR(S)	Valerio Grossi (CNR)
REVIEWER(S)	All members of the Boards
CONTRACTUAL DELIVERY DATE	01/04/2020
ACTUAL DELIVERY DATE	09/06/2020
VERSION	1.3
TYPE	Report
DISSEMINATION LEVEL	Public
TOTAL N. PAGES	11
KEYWORDS	Ethics, Legality, Intellectual Properties

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This deliverable provides the structure, scope, and members of the new Operational Ethics Board (BOEL) and the core part of the High-Level Advisory Board (HLAB). This document also specifies how the BOEL is divided for its operation and for what purpose. The document also reports the relation to other Work Packages. The deliverable constitutes the first deliverable from WP2 - Responsible Data Science.

DISCLAIMER

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 871042.

SoBigData++ strives to deliver a distributed, Pan-European, multi-disciplinary research infrastructure for big social data analytics, coupled with the consolidation of a cross-disciplinary European research community, aimed at using social mining and big data to understand the complexity of our contemporary, globally-interconnected society. SoBigData++ is set to advance on such ambitious tasks thanks to SoBigData, the predecessor project that started this construction in 2015. Becoming an advanced community, SoBigData++ will strengthen its tools and services to empower researchers and innovators through a platform for the design and execution of large-scale social mining experiments.

This document contains information on SoBigData++ core activities, findings and outcomes and it may also contain contributions from distinguished experts who contribute as SoBigData++ Board members. Any reference to content in this document should clearly indicate the authors, source, organisation and publication date.

The content of this publication is the sole responsibility of the SoBigData++ Consortium and its experts, and it cannot be considered to reflect the views of the European Commission. The authors of this document have taken any available measure in order for its content to be accurate, consistent and lawful. However, neither the project consortium as a whole nor the individual partners that implicitly or explicitly participated the creation and publication of this document hold any sort of responsibility that might occur as a result of using its content.

GLOSSARY

EU	European Union
EC	European Commission
H2020	Horizon 2020 EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation
BOEL	Board of Operational Ethics and Legality
HLAB	High-Level Advisory Board
IP	Intellectual Properties

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1 Relevance to SoBigData++

This document provides a full description of relevant ethics boards established into SoBigData++ project. In particular, it highlights the key roles inside the project, and the role of each board defined into the project. Furthermore, it provides the name of the actual members inside every board.

1.1 Purpose of this document

The document corresponds to the deliverable **D2.1: Ethic and Legality Board Establishment** according to *Work Package 2: NA1 - Responsible Data Science*. The deliverable must be a report describing the composition of the new Board of Operational Ethics and Legality, as well as the core part of the High-Level Advisory Board. Hereby, both boards have been established, and their role and structured determined.

1.2 Relevance to project objectives

This document complies with the objectives established for *WP 2 - NA1 - Responsible Data Science* consisting in gathering innovative and proactive responses to structural problems currently emerging in social and cultural data analytics, such as online information disorder, the Facebook data privacy breach and algorithmic bias and discrimination. This will ensure that the project not only develops best practices and resources for social and cultural data analytics practitioners, but it will also grant a wider, informed, engaged and equitable participation and impact. To this end, the BOEL and the High-Level Advisory Board have been established.

1.3 Relation to other work packages

The BOEL as well as the High-Level Advisory Board will work in close collaboration with several other WPs in the analysis and validation of usage of data mining resources. Of particular relevance are:

- WP3: Dissemination, Impact, and Sustainability
- WP4: Training
- WP5: Accelerating Innovation
- WP6: Transnational Access
- WP7: Virtual Access
- WP8: Social Mining and Big Data Resource Integration
- WP10: Exploratories

Naturally, the BOEL as well as the High-Level Advisory Board will attend all ethical and legal consultations required within SoBigData++ by any WP and/or its members.

2   WP2 Board Establishment

We recall the general schema of WP2, as depicted in Figure 1, useful to understand the role of the two boards which are the objective of this document. In particular, we are interested in the task T2.1: Board for Operational Ethics and Legality and T2.3: High-level Advisory Board. I.e., this first deliverable of the BOEL describes the composition of the new operational ethics and legality board (BOEL), as well as the core part of the high-level advisory board (HLAB).
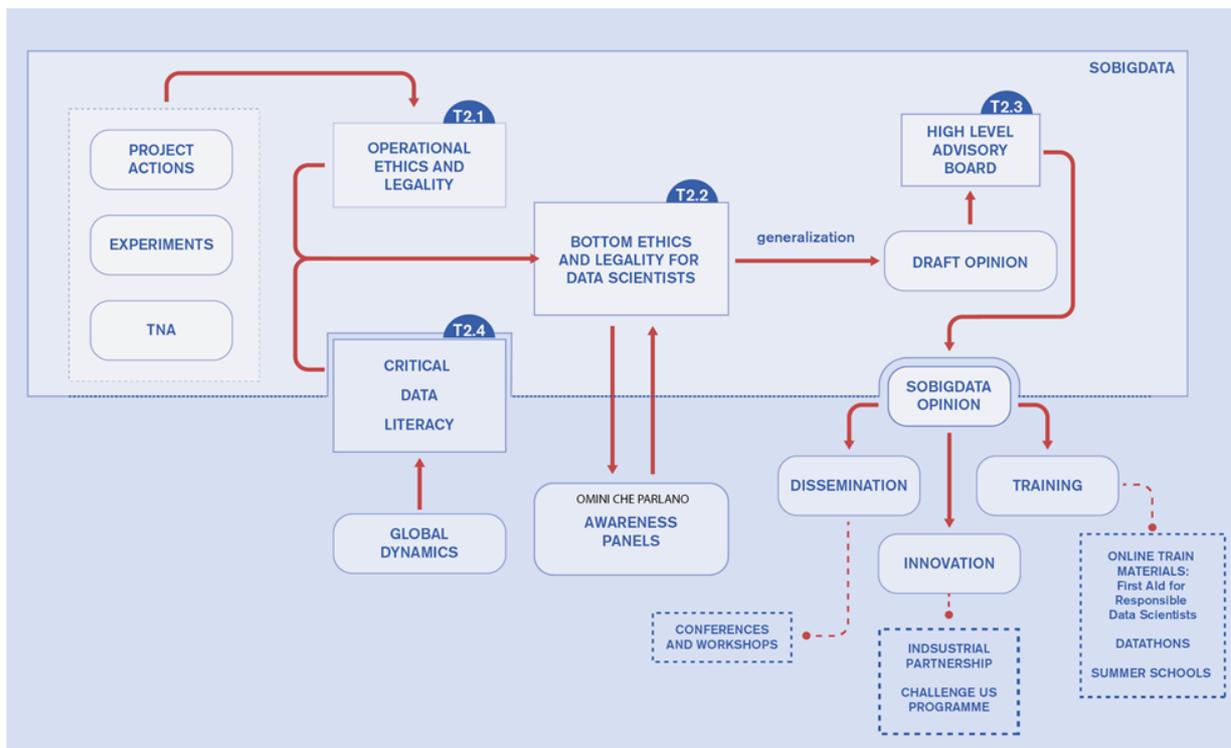

Figure 1 - SoBigData++ Ethical & Privacy-enhancing tools: The schema of the WP2

2.1   Board for Operational Ethics and Legality

Establishing the Board of Ethics and Legality (BOEL) is a central part of the functioning of SoBigData++. The board aims to offer an internal service to the project capable of addressing ethical and legal problems in sharing data and executing social experiments on them. The first goal of the T2.1 task is to establish and manage an Ethics Board with experts in IT law, IT ethics, IP law, data protection, and experts in various contexts such as Digital Humanities, Philosophy, Political Science and Sociologists. External specialists in data protection and research ethics have joined the Ethics Board.

The main role of the BOEL, which will be active for the entire life of the project, is threefold:

- To act as a Gateway for the data owners/managers/collectors who want to publish a dataset to the SoBigData Catalogue. This means that the BOEL will check the compliance with the GDPR rules.
- To help researchers, ensuring a first piece of advice regarding any project or experiment they are involved in.
- To offer ethical review and advice to all the transnational access applications, analyzing all the relevant ethical aspects of the projects, highlighting the potential weaknesses and providing practical solutions to remedy them.

To this end, the BOEL is divided into three Sub-boards for optimization of their functionality. Each sub-board is composed of three experts, namely, an expert in Computer Science, an expert in Data Protection Law and/or Intellectual Property, and an expert in Ethics. Unless it is stated the contrary, all members of the BOEL are beneficiaries in SoBigData++.

2.1.1 Structure and composition of the BOEL

The BOEL has three sub-boards. Each sub-board will be assigned specific activities. Although they will operate with certain level of independence, the BOEL will be lead by Dr. Juan M. Durán. The interface between the BOEL and the HLAB will be Dr. Francesca Pratesi.

The composition of the three sub-boards is the following:

Sub-Board 1:

1. Roberto Pellungrini - UNIPI - Computer Science
2. Caterina Sganaga - SSSA - Data Protection Law and Intellectual Property
3. Juan M. Duran - TUDelft - Ethics

Sub-Board 2:

1. Francesca Pratesi - CNR - Computer Science
2. Maria Francesca Donati - Independent - Data Protection Law
3. Iryna Lishchuk - LUH - Data Protection Law and Intellectual Property
4. David van Putten[1] - Erasmus University Rotterdam - Ethics

Sub-Board 3 (additional members):

1. Alberto Blanco - URV - Computer Science
2. Iryna Lishchuk - LUH - Data Protection Law and Intellectual Property
3. PhD To Be Announced - TUDelft - Ethics
4. Martin Sand[2] - TUDelft - Ethics

---

[1] Dr. van Putten will act as *ad honorem* external advisor.
[2] Dr. Martin Sand will act as *ad honorem* external advisor.

Since we are not able to foresee the actual number of requests that will be received from the BOEL, the Sub-Board 3 is needed to ensure to be able to manage a potential extra workload or to help in the case of necessity. For this reason, Dr. Iryna Lishchuck is present in both sub-groups 2 and 3. She will provide assistance to Sub-Board 2 mainly for the Intellectual Property aspects, while she will be fundamental for a whole legal support when Sub-Board 3 will enter in action.

2.2   High-Level Advisory Board

This deliverable also establishes the High-Level Advisory Board, whose chief role is to offer expert opinions and guidelines over ethical and legal aspects. This can be done collecting experiences through the T2.2: Bottom-up Ethics and Legality for Data Science, which should summarize and generalize the activity of the BOEL, as well as comparing with the literature studied by the task T2.4 Critical Data Literacy. These guidelines can be applied to all the different SoBigData++ activities, such as Datathons. The High-Level Advisories Board will be formed by members of the consortium (core part) as well as external experts, selected according to their expertise in specific topics. The board will be chaired by Jeroen van den Hoven, professor of ethics at TUDelft, while Professor Dr. Marc Stauch, IT law professor at LUH, and Giovanni Comandé, professor of legal informatics professor at Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna, will act as board Vice Chairs and legal counsels.

The complete High-Level Advisory Board as the following members:
1) Jeroen van den Hoven – TUDelft
2) Marc Stauch – LUH
3) Giovanni Comandé – SSSA
4) Marc Stauch – LUH
5) Salvatore Ruggieri – UNIPI
6) Josep Domingo-Ferrer – URV
7) Francesca Musiani – CNRS
8) Giovanni Sartor – University of Bologna, associated researcher to CNR

3   Conclusions

This document reports the scope, activities, and members involved in the Board for Operational Ethics and Legality. It also describes how the BOEL will be divided for its operation. The document also describes the scope, activities, and members of the High-Level Advisory Board. Both Boards have been planned to advise several WPs involved in SoBigData++.