AI Community Juries®
Civic Governance Framework for Public-Sector Artificial Intelligence
National Foundation for Artificial Intelligence (ENIA) – Italy
Public Methodology & Replication Guide (OECD Submission Version)

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Purpose and Scope

This document presents the public governance framework of the AI Community Juries, a civic mechanism designed to support public administrations in the responsible design, deployment, and oversight of artificial intelligence systems. The framework establishes a structured method for integrating citizen deliberation, expert review, and institutional accountability into AI-related decision-making processes across government and regulated public-interest sectors.The model is intended for use by municipalities, regional authorities, national agencies, and public-sector partners seeking to strengthen transparency, reinforce accountability, and build public trust in AI-enabled services. It provides a common methodological reference that can be adapted to different institutional contexts while preserving consistency and auditability across jurisdictions.

Governance Rationale

Public-sector AI systems increasingly shape access to services, the allocation of resources, and the exercise of administrative authority. While existing legal and technical compliance

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mechanisms address regulatory obligations and operational requirements, they often leave a gap in social legitimacy and public understanding. Citizens may be subject to algorithmically informed decisions without having clear insight into how such systems operate or how their impacts are assessed.The AI Community Juries framework responds to this gap by introducing a civic governance layer that complements formal compliance processes. It enables structured public review of concrete AI use cases, creating an institutionalised channel through which communities can examine risks, fairness considerations, and broader societal impacts. Through documented recommendations addressed to public authorities, the framework contributes to more informed and accountable decision-making. This approach is aligned with international principles for trustworthy AI, including the OECD AI Principles, the European Union's risk-based regulatory model, and internationally recognised standards for AI management and risk governance.

Institutional Architecture

The framework is designed as a multi-level governance system that ensures scalability, methodological consistency, and institutional accountability across different territorial and administrative levels. At the national level, a central coordination body provides strategic direction, methodological guidance, and ethical standards. It defines governance guidelines and evaluation criteria, maintains alignment with regulatory and standards-based frameworks, and consolidates the outputs of local and regional activities into periodic public reports on civic AI governance. This level ensures coherence between local practice and national or international policy orientations. At the regional and municipal levels, dedicated nodes operate as operational interfaces between public institutions and community juries. These nodes organise jury sessions, facilitate engagement with public administrations and sectoral stakeholders, and ensure that deliberations and documentation adhere to the common methodological framework. Their role is to preserve local relevance while maintaining national consistency. Multidisciplinary expert and ethics committees provide technical, legal, ethical, and socio-economic input throughout the process. They translate complex characteristics of AI systems into accessible formats for civic deliberation, review alignment with regulatory and ethical standards, and advise on sensitive or high-impact use cases. In this way, they ensure that citizen engagement is informed by rigorous and balanced expertise.

Civic Review Process

The core of the framework is a structured and documented deliberation and reporting cycle that connects public-sector AI initiatives with civic evaluation and institutional feedback. The process begins when public administrations or institutional partners submit AI use cases, pilot systems, or deployment scenarios for civic review. Jury members then receive structured briefings and training materials that explain the purpose of the system, its data sources, and its operational context in clear, non-technical language. This phase is designed to establish a shared baseline of understanding and to enable meaningful participation in subsequent deliberations. Facilitated sessions allow participants to explore perceived risks, accessibility, fairness, and potential social impacts associated with the AI system under review. Technical and legal experts contribute contextual analysis and clarifications, helping to connect civic concerns with regulatory and operational realities. Each review cycle concludes with the production of a formal, structured report that documents observations, impact considerations, and policy-oriented recommendations. These reports are shared with the relevant public authorities and, where appropriate, integrated into procurement processes, regulatory sandbox activities, or post-deployment monitoring frameworks. This feedback loop ensures that civic input is not merely consultative, but institutionally anchored in decision-making processes.

Outputs and Institutional Use

The framework produces formal, documented artefacts designed for direct use within public-sector governance and policy processes. These include civic impact reports, structured representations of perceived and observed risks, recommendations for procurement criteria and system design, and follow-up notes supporting ongoing monitoring and evaluation. These outputs are intended to complement existing regulatory instruments such as data protection impact assessments, conformity assessments, and technical audits. By adding a socio-institutional perspective, the framework enriches formal compliance processes with insights into public perception, fairness considerations, and broader societal implications.

Alignment with Regulatory and Standards Frameworks

The AI Community Juries model is designed to operate in coherence with established international and European governance frameworks for trustworthy AI. It reflects the

principles of transparency, accountability, and inclusiveness set out in the OECD AI Principles and aligns with the European Union's risk-based regulatory approach under the AI Act. In parallel, it is structured to be compatible with international standards such as ISO/IEC 42001 for AI management systems, ISO/IEC 23894 for trustworthiness, and the NIST AI Risk Management Framework. This alignment ensures that civic review activities support and reinforce formal compliance mechanisms rather than duplicating or conflicting with them.

Evidence and Knowledge Infrastructure

To support long-term institutional learning and policy analysis, the framework promotes the creation of a Common Evidence Environment. Within this environment, all outputs generated by the juries are treated as structured evidence objects that are contextualised, versioned, and auditable. This approach enables longitudinal analysis across time and cross-domain comparison of risks, impacts, and governance responses. It allows public authorities and coordinating bodies to identify recurring patterns, emerging trends, and areas requiring policy attention. At an advanced level of maturity, this infrastructure can support the development of a socio-technical digital twin of public-sector AI systems, enabling scenario analysis and systematic evaluation of governance effectiveness.

Replicability and Scalability

The model is designed to be transferable across jurisdictions and adaptable to different institutional settings. Standardised training modules for facilitators and jury members, along with template-based reporting formats, support consistent implementation while allowing for local contextualisation. Public authorities can adopt the framework incrementally, beginning with pilot juries and expanding over time into regional or national networks. Modular governance structures and shared methodological standards enable cross-jurisdictional learning and support international cooperation on public-sector AI governance.

Conditions for Successful Implementation

Successful implementation depends on formal engagement by public administrations and access to real AI use cases and deployment contexts. Institutional support for documentation, follow-up processes, and the integration of civic outputs into decision-

making frameworks is essential. Additional enabling conditions include stable funding for coordination and training, sustained political and administrative commitment to transparency and accountability, and the availability of multidisciplinary expertise to support both civic deliberation and institutional review.

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