

NEWSLETTER

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INSIGHTS FROM THE PORTUGUESE HORIZON SCAN WORKSHOP ON FUTURE ETHICAL CHALLENGES

The Horizon scan exercise to address research future ethical challenges was conducted in November 2023 involved five signal spotters, including three scientists and representatives from public and Third Sector organizations focused on child-related issues, digital practices, migrants, and refugees. Eight scans were identified during this exercise and analysed in an online workshop held on March 2024. Attendees included [COORDINATE](#) team members at [ISCTE-IUL](#) and four experienced researchers from academia, public institutions, and civil society, specializing in child and youth studies, migrant and refugee populations, and digital practices.



Each horizon scan was examined to uncover underlying future drivers, which were then presented, mapped, and categorized as threats, opportunities, or both. Participants prioritized these threats and opportunities based on urgency and draw an action plan to capitalize on opportunities and mitigate threats.

The identified threats to research initiatives encompass various challenges, including language and cultural barriers hindering the inclusion of migrant populations, refusal, or insecurity among migrants regarding formal acts and information, mobility issues among migrant populations, resistance within the Portuguese ecosystem to child protection policies, AI's impact on research relationships, and challenges associated with children's interpretation of survey questions.

To mitigate these threats, strategies such as simplifying consent procedures, fostering partnerships with civil society, using schools as mediators for inclusion, adapting communication methods, and implementing cybersecurity measures are crucial. Additionally, prioritizing children's well-being, involving civil society partners, and enhancing collaborative relationships with institutions are vital responses to resistance within the Portuguese ecosystem.

Furthermore, implementing longitudinal consent processes, transparent communication, and protocols with stable institutions are key strategies for addressing challenges associated with AI's impact on research relationships and children's interpretation of survey questions.

Participants identified opportunities which offer avenues for enhancing research effectiveness and inclusivity, including recognizing children's agency and reflexivity, and leveraging AI's potential for systematic data organization and fostering trust. Strategies such as implementing longitudinal consent processes, simplifying procedures, and transparent communication are essential for realizing these opportunities effectively. Additionally, regular monitoring, clear communication, involvement in research phases, and adaptation to evolving realities are crucial for maximizing the potential of AI's impact on research relationships.

Overall, the workshop provided valuable insights that should be carefully considered when planning future initiatives for [GUIDE](#).

