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Abstract

This document provides an archive of the materials used during the CyCAT project's opening and closing events, as well as the public engagement activities that are not reported elsewhere.

Keyword(s):   Press conference, public engagement, stakeholders event

Contents

1.   Executive Summary

As described in the CyCAT DoA, Work Package 2 aims to generate maximum visibility and public awareness of CyCAT's mission and services through outward-facing initiatives that engage our primary target groups. In particular, Task 2.2 involves the organization of and/or participation in informative public events with key stakeholders. These planned public events are described in Section 2. In Section 3, we describe the additional activities that were undertaken in order to engage the public, particularly during the second half of the project, during which face-to-face events were extremely limited due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

2.   Planned Public Events

In the CyCAT DoA, three key public events are described - the opening press conference for the project, the annual European Researchers' Night event, and finally, the end-of-project event.

2.1 CyCAT Kick-off Meeting and Press Conference (October 2018)
The project's kick-off meeting was held in Nicosia, Cyprus during the 7th to the 10th of October. The full meeting agenda for the week can be found here. Representatives from all partners were in attendance.

On the 9th of October, the team held a press conference, which was hosted at the Bank of Cyprus Cultural Center, located   in downtown Nicosia. Invitations were sent to 230 individuals representing government officials, journalists, industry leaders, education specialists, as well as fellow researchers. The invitation and event program can be found below. More than

CyCAT Press Conference Program
Tuesday, 9th of October 2018 - Bank of Cyprus Cultural Center

9.30 - 10.00: Registration of guests, coffee and refreshments

10.00 - 10.45: Presentation of the CyCAT Project

- Welcome
  Prof. Sokratis Katsikas, Rector of the Open University of Cyprus

- Screening of the CyCAT video

- The mission and vision of CyCAT
  Assistant Professor Jahna Otterbacher
  Coordinator of the CyCAT

- Intervention: Education
  Professor Michalinos Zembylas

- Intervention: Developers
  Assistant Professor Loizos Michael

10.45 - 11.00: Questions and discussion

The archive of all photos and videos from the event is located here.

In addition, the slides for the project presentation can be [found here](#).

2.2 European Researchers' Night (September 2019)

CyCAT OUC team participated in the annual Researchers' Night, an event organized by the Cyprus Research and Innovation Foundation (RIF) in the context of the European Commission's initiative that takes place simultaneously across Europe (Project No. 818355). The CyCAT team presented an interactive demo entitled "Do you see what I see? Filter bubbles in search engines". (26-27 September 2019 at the Filoxenia Conference Center in Nicosia.) Estimated number of persons attending the event according to RIF:

-26 September (9.30 - 13.30 - public primary schools attending): 1.500 participants
-27 September (9.30 - 13.30 - public secondary schools attending): 1.500 participants
-27 September (17.00 - 00.00) - open to the public: 5.000 participants

2.3 CyCAT Final Meeting and Stakeholders' Event (November 2021)

The final consortium meeting and stakeholders' event of CyCAT took place during the week of 29th of November to the 4th of December 2021. The detailed program of the week can be found here. The consortium meetings were held in downtown Nicosia, in a large space (The Weaving Mill Co-working space), in order to ensure proper social distancing.

A public press conference, similar to the event held for the project's kick-off, was not possible due to the ongoing pandemic. Instead, the team planned a high-impact, by-invitation event to engage important stakeholders of the outcomes of the CyCAT project, and the plans for CyCAT beyond the duration of the twinning project. Although a Plan B was in place for an online event, should the epidemiological situation prevent a physical event, it was fortunately not needed. The Hilton Nicosia hotel ensured that all COVID-19 protocols were enforced, including the checking of safe passes and the maintenance of data required for contact tracing. Thirty-five people, the maximum number allowed for the physical space of the room, were in attendance. The details of the interactive program, which featured two panel sessions to examine the role of algorithmic transparency in Cypriot society, can be found below. In addition, the event featured a 30-minute poster session, in which attendees could interact with all CyCAT researchers and discuss the details of our work, as presented in the posters that were displayed in the room. In summary, the event was designed to *engage* our stakeholders, as well as to communicate results.

CyCAT Closing Event Program

Held under the auspices of the:

Wednesday, 1 December 2021
Hilton Nicosia - Dionysios Hall

17.00 - 17.30: **Arrival of guests** (coffee and refreshments)

17.30 - 17.50: Welcome

- Welcome from Professor Stavros Stavrou
  (Dean, School of Pure and Applied Sciences, OUC) - 5'
- Welcome from CyCAT Coordinator - 10'
  Dr. Jahna Otterbacher
  (Associate Professor, OUC; Team Leader, CYENS CoE)
- CyCAT video screening - 3'

In the panels, we explore the topic of algorithmic transparency in the context of Cypriot society. What would it take to ensure that citizens of all backgrounds have adequate algorithmic literacy in order to thrive in the Fourth Industrial Revolution? What consequences (positive or negative) will increased oversight of algorithmic processes have on innovation?

18.00 - 18.45: Panel 1 - *Algorithmic literacy and public oversight*

Moderator(s): Michalinos Zembylas (Professor, OUC)
Participants: Miranda Christou (Associate Professor, University of Cyprus), Frank Hopfgartner (Senior Lecturer, The University of Sheffield), Athena Michaelidou (Director, Cyprus Pedagogical Institute)

18.45 - 19.15: Cocktails and poster session

19.15 - 20.00: Panel 2 - *Algorithmic transparency and its relationship to innovation*

<u>Moderator(s)</u>: Michael Rovatsos (Professor of AI, Deputy Vice Principal of Research, Director of the Bayes Centre, U. Edinburgh)
<u>Participant(s)</u>: Tsvi Kuflik (Professor, The University of Haifa), Efstathios Stavrakis (Co-founder, Senior Scientist and Algorithms Engineer at Algolysis LTD), Christina Orphanidou (Senior Manager, Head of Data and Artificial Intelligence Lab, PwC Cyprus)

20.00 - 22.00: **Dinner at the Hilton Olympia Restaurant**

As can be seen from the above program, the event was held under the auspices of the [Deputy Ministry of Research, Innovation and Digital Policy](#) of the Republic of Cyprus. Approximately six weeks before the event, the CyCAT OUC team communicated with the Deputy Minister, Mr. Kyriakos Kokkinos, to inform him of the CyCAT's activities and accomplishments during the past three years. We were honored that he agreed to hold our event under his auspices. In attendance at the event, on behalf of the Deputy Ministry, was Mr. George Komodromos, Director of the [Department of Electronic Communications](#). This department is responsible for implementing the Cyprus Digital Strategy, as well as initiatives related to digital transformation, including Radiocommunications, Electronic Signatures, Information Society and Space issues.

Another target stakeholder for CyCAT is the [Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports and Youth](#). Thus, we were pleased to welcome Dr. Athena Michaelidou, who is the director of the Cyprus Pedagogical Institute, which is the branch of the Ministry that trains, certifies and provides ongoing support to public school teachers in Cyprus. Dr. Michaelidou also participated in the first panel discussion, sharing her experiences with us concerning the ongoing needs for digital literacy training for both educators and children.

The IT industry was also a target group that we aimed to engage. Thus, we invited representatives from both multi-national and small-to-medium enterprises in Cyprus. We were honored that two attendees from industry also participated in our panel discussion on the role of algorithmic transparency and innovation. Dr. Christina Orphanidou, Senior Manager and Head of Data and AI at PwC Cyprus, shared her experiences in helping companies in Cyprus adopt AI and data science techniques for transforming business processes. She explained the reasons why, in her view, while the need to be sensitive to ethical issues and the upcoming EU legislation on AI will impact innovation, it is necessary for ensuring long-term benefits to industry and the larger society. Dr. Efstathios Stavrakis (Co-founder, Senior Scientist and Algorithms Engineer at Algolysis LTD), shared his views as someone who manages a small (or "micro") company in Cyprus. He shared the challenges faced by very small organizations when called to comply with new regulations (such as GDPR, which he used as an example). He suggested that the local government should

provide support to such enterprises and outlined a few ideas of how that might work from a practical standpoint.

The slides from the opening presentation given by CyCAT Coordinator, Dr. Jahna Otterbacher, can be found here.

3.   Additional Activities for Public Engagement

3.1 Year 3 Online Open Event (15 October 2020)

In light of the ongoing pandemic, the consortium annual meeting for Year 3, which was due to be held at the University of Sheffield, was moved to a fully online format. In order to promote the dissemination of the project results, as well as communication with the broader public, a two-hour, open event was organized. The event was advertised broadly and was hosted on the Open University of Cyprus' teaching platform, with 60 people in attendance.

	Speaker(s)	Topic
16.00	CyCAT Coordinator, J. Otterbacher (OUC)	*CyCAT: Key challenges*
16.10	Michalinos Zembylas (OUC)	*Educating the Educators*
16.20	Styliani Kleanthous, Maria Kasinidou (OUC)	*Educating the Developers*
16.30	Kalia Orphanou (OUC)	*Bias in Algorithmic Systems: Problems, Solutions and Stakeholders*

16.50	**SOCIAL BREAK**	
17.00	Avital Shulner Tal, Tsvi Kuflik University of Haifa, ISRAEL	*Explainability, Fairness and Between*
17.20	Jo Bates, Frank Hopfgartner The University of Sheffield, UK	*Integrating FATE into Data Science Curricula*
17.40	Michael Rovatsos, Lena Podoletz The University of Edinburgh, UK	*Developing an Algorithmic Watchdog*
18.00	CyCAT Coordinator, J. Otterbacher (OUC)	*Concluding remarks*

The program featured seven presentations, which were designed to be accessible to a broad audience, as well as a social break, during which participants introduced one another and engaged in informal conversation.

The material presented at the event can be found here.

3.2 *Everyday AI (Τεχνητή Νοημοσύνη στην Καθημερινότητα)* - (October - November 2021)

In order to engage the public further, and as detailed in the project's COVID-19 contingency plan, the OUC team offered a free, online course. The course followed the Open University of Cyprus teaching methodology, offering both asynchronous and synchronous educational interaction, in order to accommodate individuals with different needs and time constraints.

A total of 395 people were registered for the course. 108 participants requested to receive an attendance certificate and 34 completed all of the quizzes and received the certificate as of the date of this deliverable submission. (The participants have until the end of January 2022 to complete the readings and quizzes.)

The instructional materials can be found at the course website: http://www.cycat.io/everydayai/

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Artificial Intelligence in Everyday Life:
An Open, Distance Learning Course

Jahna Otterbacher, Maria Kasinidou, Kalia Orphanou, Styliani Kleanthous
Open University of Cyprus (Cyprus)

Motivation

Artificial intelligence (AI) is expected to lead to the next Industrial Revolution, transforming all sectors of society. Thus, new educational programs, which foster a spirit of lifelong learning, are essential to help prepare the public. The course *Artificial Intelligence in Everyday Life* was launched in Fall 2021. Registration was open and free of charge. The main goal of the course was to bring to light the functions of "everyday" applications of AI — but also their moral and social consequences — so that the public can utilize the AI in the best way.

Figure 1: Structure of the course.

Structure of course

The course was offered through the Open University of Cyprus, using the OUC interactive teaching platform. A total of 395 individuals registered. The course was delivered in Greek every Wednesday evening for eight weeks. The course consisted of 7 units (Figure 1).
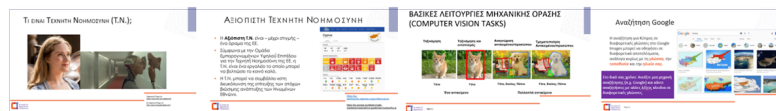

Figure 2: Examples from the slides.

Outcomes

1. After attending the course, participants expressed the view that their children require some kind of education on the development of digital skills and on Artificial Intelligence.
2. They consider it important to supervise their children's interactions with applications on the internet, including the choice of activities and the time spent.
3. They understand the positives and negatives that their interaction with AI applications can bring to their daily lives.
4. Generally, they believe they are able to understand the basic functions of AI applications, but also to explain the ethical and social issues that may arise from their use.
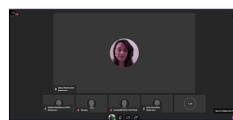

Figure 3: Screenshot from class.

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