Section 1.7

Working with policy makers

Working with policy makers

The Turing's public policy programme works alongside governments, regulators and international organisations to explore not only how data science and AI can improve policy-making, but also how these technologies should be governed and regulated.
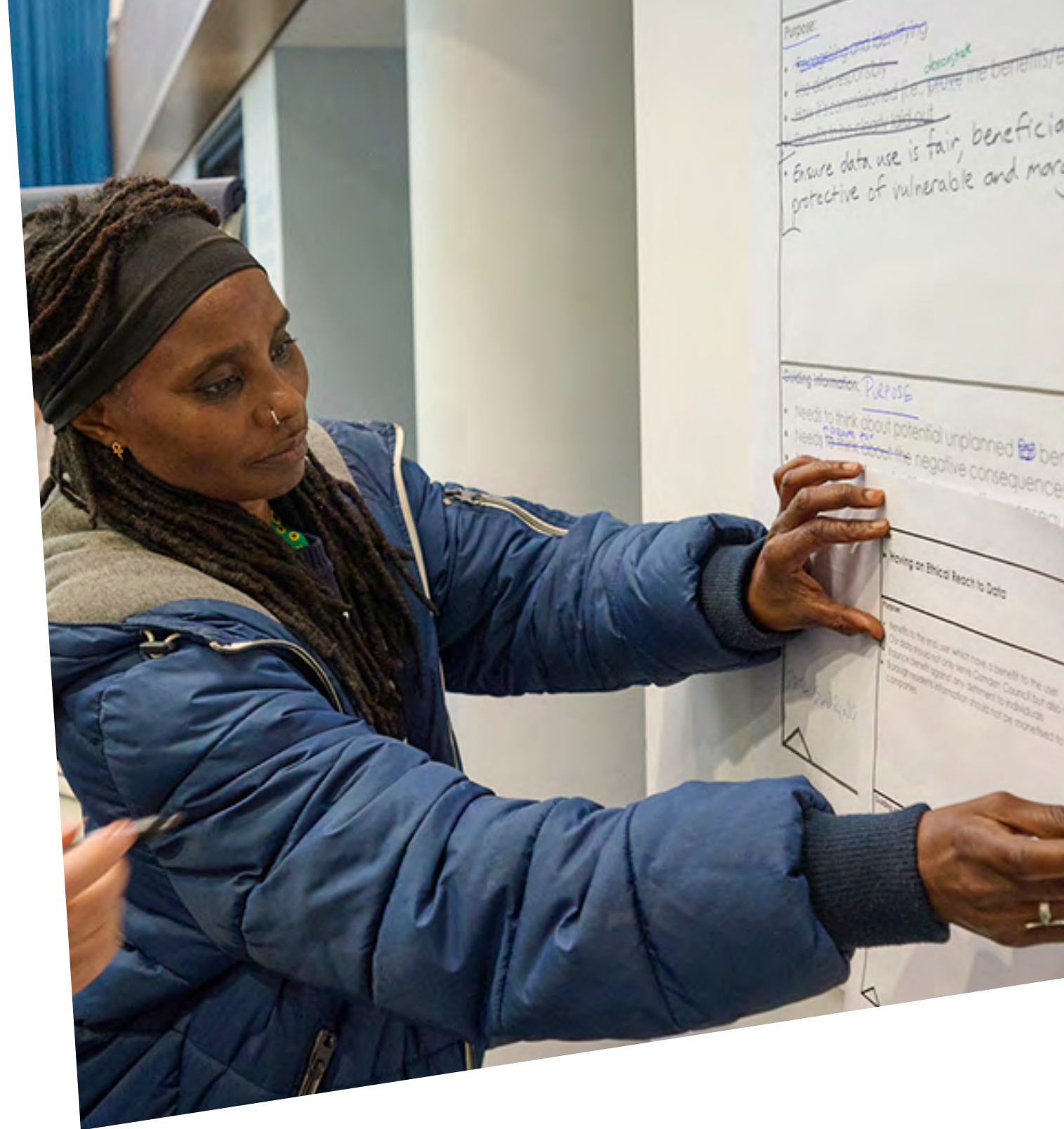
With over 45 Turing-based researchers, 50-plus research projects and collaborators from more than 20 universities, the programme has gained national and international recognition. Over 100 public sector organisations have reached out to the programme since it was launched in May 2018, including government departments, regulators, non-ministerial departments, agencies and public bodies, local authorities, police forces and international organisations.

Camden's Data Charter

In January 2022, Camden Council made history by publishing the UK's first resident-informed **Data Charter**, which sets out how the council will ethically collect, process and share data in the borough.

A key part of the development of the Data Charter was a participatory panel with 20 representative Camden residents, which took place across three weekends in autumn 2021. This gave residents the opportunity to find out how the council currently uses their data, and to discuss the ethical, social and legal challenges associated with data sharing. The Turing's public policy programme worked closely with Camden Council and the public participation charity Involve throughout the year leading up to the panel to plan supportive educational material and activities, and also facilitated talks and sessions during the panel itself. A **guidebook** was also designed and produced by Christopher Burr (Ethics Fellow at the Turing) to help the participants understand the complex issues surrounding data use by local government.

The panel discussions fed directly into the development of the Charter, which sets out a vision for how the borough can use data for the public good while building trust and protecting individuals' rights and privacy. At the Turing, we hope to use this example to support more councils in using data in an ethical and responsible manner.

Camden residents took part in a participatory panel to help shape the Data Charter

35

David Leslie's presentation at the UNESCO General Conference marked the launch of the first-ever global agreement on the ethics of AI

The AI Standards Hub

The Turing has been selected by the UK government to lead the **pilot of a new AI Standards Hub**, supported by the British Standards Institution and the National Physical Laboratory. The Hub, which is a commitment set out in the **National AI Strategy**, aims to foster engagement with the rapidly evolving field of AI standardisation and increase the UK's contribution to the development of international standards for AI. These standards will play a key role in ensuring that organisations around the world have a common basis for governing AI technologies, which will in turn help to advance the development and adoption of safe and trustworthy AI systems.

The AI Standards Hub will: bring together information about AI standards in an accessible and inclusive way; coordinate engagement among the UK's AI community through workshops, events and a new online platform; and create tools and guidance to help stakeholders across industry, government, civil society and academia contribute to the shaping and use of AI standards. The Turing is thrilled to be the home of this important new initiative, which will see us working closely with government. We will be formally launching the Hub later in 2022.

UNESCO's General Conference

At the UNESCO General Conference in Paris in November 2021, David Leslie, the Turing's Director of Ethics and Responsible Innovation Research, **gave a presentation** to mark the launch of the first-ever global agreement on the ethics of AI. The '**Recommendation on the ethics of artificial intelligence**', adopted by UNESCO's 193 member states, was the culmination of two years of consultations.

David said that the guidance "puts forward values and principles – such as human dignity, social and economic justice, environmental flourishing, and the interconnectedness of all living creatures with each other and the biosphere – that provide a compass for a global AI innovation ecosystem in dire need of directions for principled navigation".

The guidance sets out a series of policy recommendations that provide a framework for stakeholders across public, private and third sectors to put these values and principles into practice.

Advancing the debate on AI in finance

A new report from the public policy programme **explores the use of AI in the financial services sector**. Commissioned by the Financial Conduct Authority, the report maps out the potential benefits and harms associated with the use of AI in financial services, in areas including consumer protection, financial crime, the stability of firms and markets, and cybersecurity.

Crucially, the report, which was launched at the CogX Festival in June 2021, also examines the fundamental role of AI transparency – the availability of information about an AI system's decision-making – in pursuing responsible innovation. The report's authors, Florian Ostmann and Cosmina Dorobantu, hope that this work will help stakeholders in the sector to navigate the evolving AI landscape in pursuit of socially beneficial technologies.

Supporting the Council of Europe

In response to the growing ethical risks posed by AI technologies, the Council of Europe (CoE) created the **Ad hoc Committee on Artificial Intelligence** (CAHAI) in 2019. CAHAI was tasked with examining "the feasibility and potential elements of a legal framework for the development, design and application of AI, based on CoE standards in the field of human rights, democracy and the rule of law".

Following the appointment of the Turing's David Leslie to CAHAI's nine-member Bureau in 2020, the Turing's Ethics Theme in June 2021 published a non-technical primer on '**AI, human rights, democracy, and the rule of law**'. The primer is aimed at non-specialists, and introduces the main concepts and principles in CAHAI's **Feasibility Study** (which explores how the fundamental rights and freedoms that are already codified in international human rights law can be the basis for a legal framework for AI). In autumn 2021, the Ethics Theme further published '**Human rights, democracy, and the rule of law assurance framework for AI systems**', which is now supporting the CoE as it enters the next phase of its work on this topic.

A report commissioned by the Financial Conduct Authority maps out the potential benefits and harms associated with the use of AI in financial services

The Turing worked with several international organisations to produce a four-part documentary about data justice

Leading the way on data justice

The public policy programme has established a close relationship this year with the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI), leading the GPAI project '**Advancing research and practice on data justice**'. Data justice is an emerging field that looks at data issues from a social justice perspective, seeking to understand how, for example, historically rooted discrimination, exclusion and exploitation can lead to inequalities in the way data is collected and used. The project's main outputs have been an **integrated literature review**, an **annotated bibliography and table of organisations**, a **repository of data justice case studies**, and three preliminary guides that introduce the concepts and practicalities of data justice to **policy makers**, **tech developers** and **impacted communities**.

This was a truly international endeavour: the team partnered with **12 organisations** from Africa, the Americas, Asia, and Australasia, selected for their advocacy and activist work around technology and data rights. These organisations conducted their own research with local communities, providing essential insights throughout the project, and also worked with the Turing team to produce a four-part documentary for non-specialists about data justice (**the first episode is available to watch**).

"It was important to draw on the expertise and lived experiences of project partners from around the world, putting underrepresented voices at the heart of discussions about data rights, justice and governance."

Morgan Briggs
Research Associate for Data Science and Ethics
The Alan Turing Institute