Report Summary and Key Findings

This report examines young Europeans' attitudes toward and experiences with AI in a broad societal context. It explores how young people experience and perceive an increasingly datafied world and shed light on their attitudes toward AI in various domains. The findings show that young Europeans are aware of the imminent change brought about by the emergent technology but are still **divided on how to evaluate** these developments. Overall, the ongoing datafication of everyday life as a precondition for the application of AI systems, is viewed critically by young Europeans. The future of young people will be shaped by AI applications in many ways, and there are already examples in the present that show how people consciously or unconsciously interact with AI systems, such as the news feeds on social media platforms. Notably, we found that **Europe's youth share many similar viewpoints** and that country-specific deviations occurred less frequently than initially assumed. But while there are shared attitudes toward AI and datafication across European countries, the report also reveals fault lines related to education.

Datafication is met with concern for privacy and democracy. About 70% of respondents were worried to some extent about potential data misuses and the distribution of their data between companies. Forty-two percent described users as rather powerless when it comes to data ownership and power over what happens to their data. The majority of respondents (63%) perceived that social media's data-collection practices could prove harmful to democracy.

Data-collection practices are not common knowledge among young people. A majority of respondents believed that companies did not know about their political beliefs (57%), religion (68%), or sexual orientation (51%) based on the data provided through their digital communication.

Respondents voiced considerable distrust of state institutions' handling of data. The majority of respondents (57%) expressed a certain degree of worry that data about their online behavior may be made available to their governments. Only about a third of respondents (35%) believed that their government was committed to using AI in the best interest of citizens.

Young people have a positive outlook on the opportunities of AI in education. 58% of respondents believed that integrating AI technology into the learning process would enable greater personalization and improve learning. At the same time, about the same number of participants (61%) did not believe that teachers will be replaced by AI. Thus, AI applications in education are perceived as an addendum rather than a replacement for teachers.

Young Europeans believe that "news will find them." Seventy-four percent of respondents indicated that they felt rather comfortable or indifferent knowing that an algorithm is used to recommend news. A considerable number of respondents (58%) believed that they can be well informed even without actively seeking news.

Respondents anticipated a change in their field of work and had mixed feelings about it. Young people believe that people will lose (47%) rather than gain (26%) jobs thanks to AI. Around 40% of respondents across education levels expected job losses within their professions as a result of technological advancement. The use of tracking and monitoring on the job was met with skepticism, as the majority (60%) believed it will lead to an exploitation of employees.

Automated decision-making systems were met with less discomfort in the context of low-risk applications, such as getting a parking ticket or a fitness recommendation. However, even

if higher risk domains were met with more skepticism, a notable number of respondents did not mind obtaining a medical treatment (46%) or having a criminal lawsuit initiated (32%) on the basis of automated decision-making. Fifty-eight percent felt comfortable or indifferent about predictive policing. Knowing that a human operator oversees the system, obtaining an explanation, and having the option to appeal to a human specialist tended to make respondents more comfortable with the use of automated decision-making.