

AI Governance for Public Sector

AI is rapidly transforming public sector operations, service delivery and policymaking. Robust governance is essential to ensure ethical, transparent and effective use of these technologies.

Why AI governance matters now

AI's integration into government workflows significantly improves results and the ability to serve the public better, faster and easier.

Compliance

Employing digital twins to protect privacy.

Foresight

Stay ahead of the curve as policies evolve.

Proficiency

Implementing AI models for more efficient benefits payouts.

Progress


Deploying AI agents to improve public services.


Despite these, **only 5%** of surveyed organizations currently express confidence in their AI governance frameworks.


*Generative AI Global Research Report: Strategies for a Competitive Advantage


- This exposes many to compliance and reputational risks, especially with the rise of generative AI capable of producing new data and insights with unanticipated consequences.
- As AI technologies evolve, strong governance ensures responsible, trustworthy and beneficial adoption across government operations.


Drivers for implementing AI governance

 **Compliance:** Anticipate and meet evolving regulations (e.g., EU AI Act) to avoid penalties and additional oversight.

 **Purpose:** Attract and retain talent by demonstrating responsible and effective AI use.

 **Trust:** Build stakeholder confidence through transparency and accountability.

 **Productivity:** Empower staff with clear guidelines, enabling faster, distributed decision making.

 **Reputation:** Safeguard against societal and environmental harm and recover quickly from unintended consequences.

Global regulatory landscape

Today, governments everywhere are considering whether and how to regulate AI. The EU has taken a decisive step, adopting the world's first comprehensive legal framework on AI. The EU AI Act applies to any organization serving or impacting EU citizens, regardless of location and establishes a risk-based regulatory framework for AI systems.

Meanwhile, laws regulating various aspects of AI use and development continue to be adopted or proposed worldwide. Many countries' governments are currently considering how regulations might need to evolve in specific areas, such as liability, copyrights and intellectual property protection, due to the impacts of the potential for bias in AI and GenAI, as well as the need for baseline data to use for AI models to develop and then continue generating.

Despite being a region with lagging AI adoption and investment, six countries in Latin America have legislation inspired by the EU AI Act on the use of AI and its effects at various stages



of development. In the Asia-Pacific region, Singapore's AI Governance Framework and Australia's AI Ethics Framework are other examples of regulatory action focused on mitigating the adverse potential of AI.

Ongoing international dialogue, including efforts by the G7 and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), plays a pivotal role in advancing shared principles and standards that guide the evolution of regulatory frameworks worldwide.

Measuring readiness and building governance

Adopt a risk-based approach, understanding your organization's appetite and thresholds.

Advance maturity in three areas: oversight and compliance, operations, and culture.



Follow three stages:



Operationalize
Train and create frameworks.



Document
Establish principles and policies.



Engage
Involve stakeholders and foster industry collaboration.



Principles and methodology for responsible innovation

SAS advocates for a responsible, human-centered approach to AI, grounded in six core principles: human centricity, inclusivity, accountability, transparency, robustness, and privacy and security.

To translate these principles into practice, SAS employs a collaborative methodology built on four pillars to address the range of stakeholders involved in or affected by the AI applications – oversight, operations, compliance and culture – to anticipate and mitigate harm, especially for vulnerable populations.

By embedding ethical guardrails across governance, workflows and organizations, SAS helps leaders create AI systems that are effective, equitable and trustworthy.

Embedding trustworthy AI across the life cycle

Effective governance requires vigilance throughout the data and AI life cycle: managing data to prevent bias, developing models with robust oversight and deploying insights ethically. SAS' maturity model supports transparency, explainability and continuous risk management.

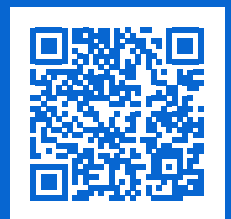
Conclusion

A rigorous AI governance strategy gives public institutions the guardrails for responsible innovation, regulatory compliance and mission alignment. By embedding governance across the AI life cycle, organizations can confidently apply AI to improve service delivery, enhance public trust and innovate for the public good.

Take the quick assessment that you can access from the link below.

Based on your responses to the 10 questions, you'll receive a set of high-level pointers for ways you can advance your AI governance journey.

[→ AI Governance Assessment | SAS](#)



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