
Technology Ethics and Responsible Innovation Governance Training Course

21 – 25 December 2026
Barcelona





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Programme Summary

Technology ethics and responsible innovation governance is a five-day training course for directors and senior officials at advanced level, culminating in a technology ethics governance charter for their own organisation. Artificial intelligence, biometrics and connected devices now shape decisions about citizens and customers faster than oversight adapts. The approach moves from ethical principles to risk diagnosis, then to accountability design and board-level application. Mars Training Centre UK delivers this programme in technology ethics and responsible innovation governance.

The Business Case

When emerging technology is approved on cost and speed alone, harms surface late: biased outcomes, opaque decisions and lost public trust. A governed approach gives boards a repeatable basis for approving, refusing or conditioning a proposal.

- Regulatory and Legal Exposure: Falls as high-risk uses are identified, assessed and documented before deployment.
- Stakeholder Trust: Rises as transparency, explanation and redress are designed into services from the start.
- Approval Cycle Time: Shortens as ethics review follows clear criteria, roles and escalation routes.

Principles and Evidence Base

- UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence: Its values and Ethical Impact Assessment approach frame the principles and assessment work in Session 1 and Session 2.
- OECD AI Principles: Their tests of fairness, transparency, robustness and accountability structure the risk diagnosis in Session 2.
- NIST AI Risk Management Framework: The Govern, Map, Measure and Manage functions organise the controls and monitoring designed in Session 3.
- ISO/IEC 42001:2023: The AI management system model shapes the policy, roles and continual improvement cycle built in Session 4.

Intended Participants

- Leaders who approve or sponsor investment in artificial intelligence and other emerging technologies.
- Executives accountable for digital, data or information strategy across an organisation.
- Heads of risk, compliance, audit and legal who must give assurance over automated decisions.
- Senior officials who set policy for the use of new technology in public services.



The programme serves government, banking and insurance, healthcare and telecommunications.

Learning Outcomes

1. Participants will be able to evaluate a technology proposal against recognised ethical principles and identify the values in tension.
2. Participants will be able to diagnose bias, opacity, privacy and safety risks in AI, biometric, IoT and blockchain use cases.
3. Participants will be able to construct an ethical impact assessment and prioritise mitigations by severity and reversibility.
4. Participants will be able to design accountability structures, including an ethics review board, decision rights and escalation routes.
5. Participants will be able to justify conditions for approving, pausing or rejecting a technology programme to a board.
6. Participants will be able to formulate indicators and reporting that show whether responsible innovation commitments are met.

Programme Structure

Day 1: Foundations of Technology Ethics

Which principles should guide decisions about new technology, and where do they conflict?

- Consequence, Duty, Rights and Virtue Lenses Applied to Technology
- UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence
- OECD AI Principles and Human-Centred Values
- Dual-Use Risk and Unintended Consequences
- Value Trade-Offs Between Innovation Speed and Public Interest

Day 2: Diagnosing Ethical Risk in Emerging Technologies

How are the harms of a specific technology use identified and ranked?

- Algorithmic Bias and Fairness Testing Methods
- Explainability and Transparency of Automated Decisions
- Biometric Surveillance and Facial Recognition Risks
- IoT Data Aggregation and Blockchain Accountability Gaps
- Generative AI Misinformation and Intellectual Property Exposure

Day 3: Designing Responsible Innovation Controls

Which controls reduce ethical risk without stopping useful innovation?



- Ethical Impact Assessment Method and Templates
- Privacy by Design and Data Minimisation
- Human Oversight of Autonomous Systems
- NIST AI Risk Management Framework Functions
- EU AI Act Risk Tiers as a Classification Reference

Day 4: Accountability and Governance Structures

Who decides, who is answerable and how are concerns escalated?

- Ethics Review Boards: Mandate, Membership and Escalation
- ISO/IEC 42001 AI Management System Roles and Policy
- Vendor Due Diligence and Procurement Clauses for AI
- Stakeholder Engagement and Redress Mechanisms
- Board Reporting Metrics for Technology Ethics

Day 5: Applying Technology Ethics Governance

Can a live technology programme be assessed, conditioned and reported to a board?

- Case Review of a High-Risk Deployment Across Sectors
- Impact Assessment of a Participant Use Case
- Approval Conditions and Monitoring Plan Drafting
- Peer Challenge Panel on Governance Proposals
- Technology Ethics Governance Charter Completion

Methodology

The programme relies on case analysis of real deployments in public services, finance and healthcare. Each session pairs a short briefing on a principle or framework with group analysis of use cases that participants bring from their own organisations.

- Suggested activity: Fairness review of a credit or eligibility scoring model.
- Suggested activity: Mock ethics board hearing on a facial recognition proposal.
- Suggested activity: Drafting approval conditions for a generative AI pilot.

Capstone Output

Each participant completes a technology ethics governance charter for their organisation. It sets out guiding principles, risk classification criteria, an ethical impact assessment template, ethics board terms of reference and board reporting indicators.



Frequently Asked Questions

Is technology ethics and responsible innovation governance training suited to leaders without a technical background?

Yes. It is designed for senior decision makers at advanced level. It assumes experience of overseeing major programmes, but no coding knowledge.

Which frameworks support technology ethics governance in the programme?

It draws on the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence, the OECD AI Principles, the NIST AI Risk Management Framework and ISO/IEC 42001:2023 for AI management systems.

How is the technology ethics governance charter used at work?

You table it at an executive or risk committee as the basis for reviewing technology proposals and reporting on responsible innovation.

How does responsible innovation governance differ from data governance training?

Data governance covers data quality and ownership. This subject asks whether a technology use is fair, explainable and accountable, and who approves it.