D4A Solution – ethical roadmap

Name of your institution and contact	
Place of the implemented solution	
Implementation level (e.g. internal, municipal, intercommunal, regional)	
Dimension	**Ethical**
Subdimension	• Interoperability • Data management • Data governance • Data risks • Data values • Data openness • Data ownership
Problem	Data-driven public projects often face ethical challenges such as lack of representativeness, risks of discrimination, loss of trust, and unclear accountability. These issues are not fully addressed by legal compliance alone. There is a need for a structured ethical approach to ensure data practices align with human values such as justice, autonomy, transparency, and inclusion.
Solution	A six-step framework that supports public organizations in embedding ethics throughout the entire data project lifecycle: 1. **Before starting**: Assess justification, values, vulnerable groups, and communication. 2. **Data collection**: Ensure necessity, privacy, meaningful consent, and bias mitigation. 3. **Storage & security**: Apply encryption, access control, retention limits, and governance. 4. **Analysis & use**: Promote fairness, transparency, and representativeness in insights. 5. **Sharing data**: Prevent re-identification, misuse, and ensure proportionality. 6. **Evaluation & accountability**: Reflect on outcomes, involve citizens, and share lessons.
Feedback	Provides a practical, values-driven approach to help governments navigate ethical dilemmas in data projects, promoting inclusive and trustworthy practices.

Format (e.g. Open Source)	Downloadable pdf
Costs	There is no implementation or operation cost.
Links	The document will be publicaly available on the project website
Screenshots, visuals, images	

Step 6: Evaluation and Accountability
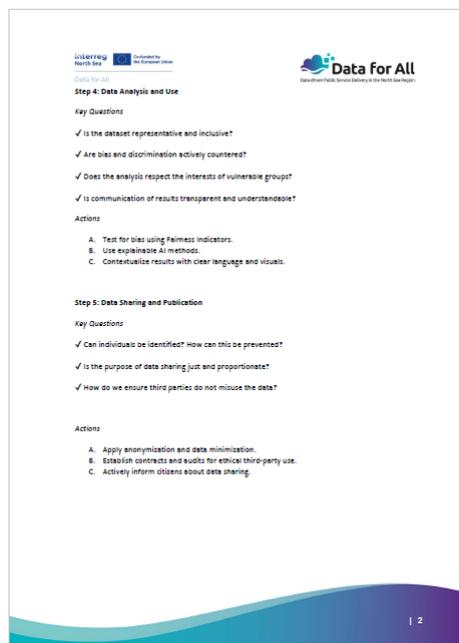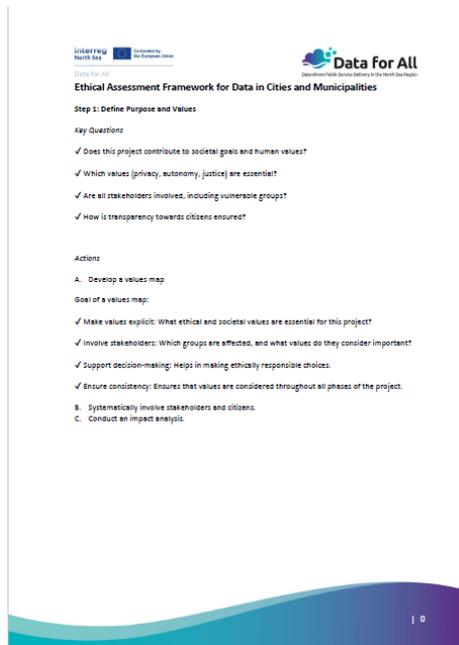
Key Questions

✓ Have the project goals been achieved? What can be improved?

✓ How is citizen feedback incorporated?

✓ How do we account for our decisions to society?

Actions

A. Conduct systematic impact evaluations.
B. Establish feedback mechanisms with citizens.
C. Report transparently on ethical decisions.

Core Principles

☑ Human autonomy: Data must not harm individual freedom and rights

☑ Transparency: Clear communication and explainability

☑ Justice: Guarantee inclusion and non-discrimination

☑ Privacy-by-design: Handle data with respect for personal information

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