

THE
FUTURE
SOCIETY

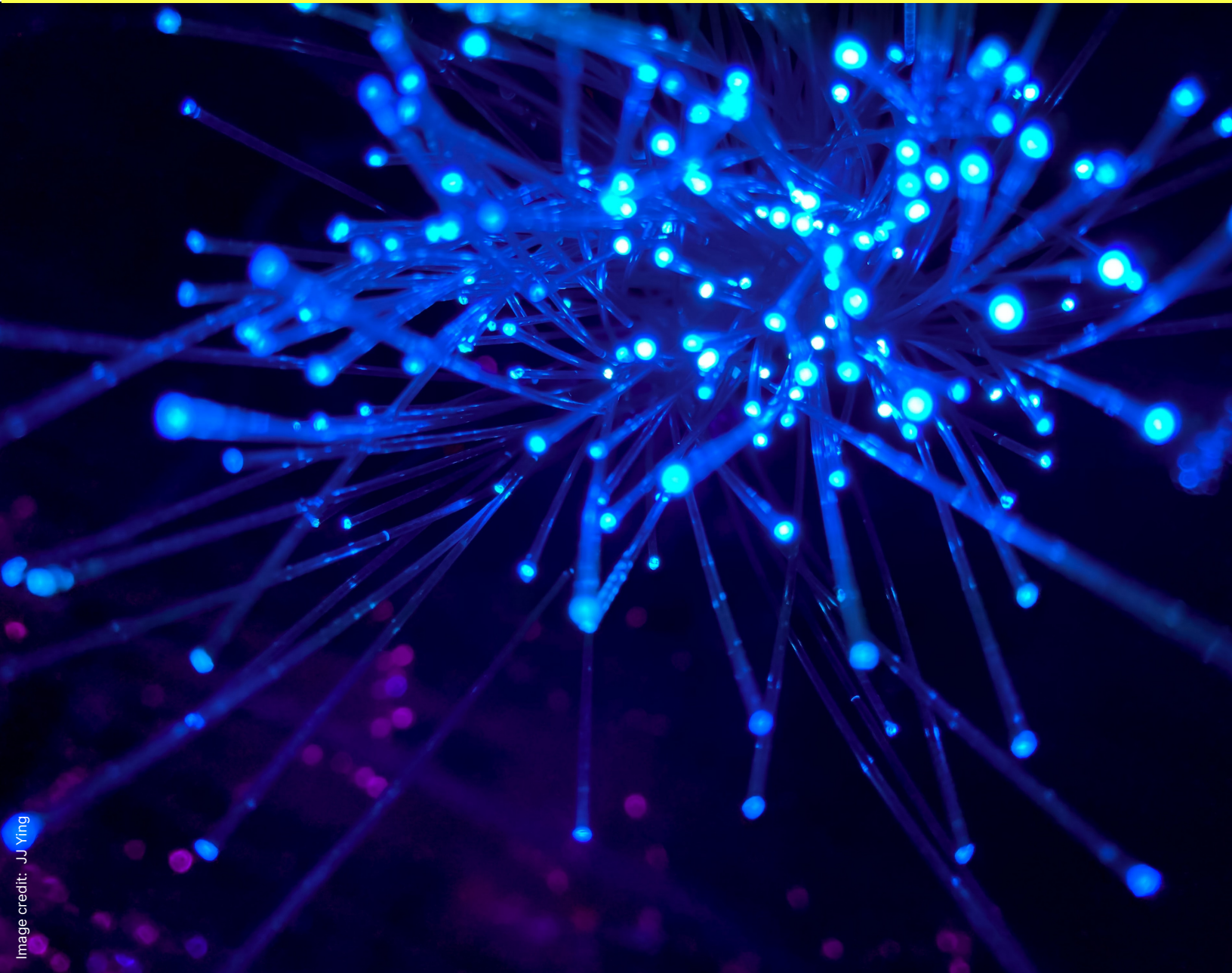


Image credit: JJ Ying

2019 ANNUAL REPORT

ABOUT US

Artificial Intelligence is not science-fiction. It is already changing the world now.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) can help us fight diseases, save lives and protect the environment, but AI can also create more inequalities, injustice and unemployment for many people in the world. AI has its opportunities, but it also has its risks.

Different people mean different things when they talk about AI. Some see a software tool, others see a big transformation in the economy. Some see a scientific field, others see a danger for humanity. These different views and the ways we talk about AI are all making it hard to decide what to do to benefit from AI.

OUR IMPACT

AI will change many aspects of our lives. These changes are not up to chance: everyone and every community should decide how AI is used. Citizens, politicians, programmers, scientists, businesspeople, artists, ... everyone should understand these changes and decide what to do about them. We at The Future Society believe intelligent collective discussions and actions are the most important to enjoy together the benefits of AI and avoid its harms. Our mission is therefore to advance its responsible adoption for the benefit of humanity.

To do this, we build understanding, we build bridges and we build innovative solutions.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

NICOLAS MIALHE
Founder & President



We build understanding, we build bridges and we build innovative solutions.

2019 was a year of accomplishments and growth for The Future Society on many levels: in terms of size, activities and impact. In terms of impact, we have enabled and fueled progress on the global governance of AI. Across our public events, we engaged over 3,000 senior decision-makers globally including legislators, industry representatives, academics, civil society advocates and regulators. With our various platforms, we have also engaged over 5,000 citizens. Through our education programs, we trained another batch of 100 promising graduate students studying willing to get involved in public service around AI governance. This would not have been possible without our donors, grantmakers, and over 60 institutional partners, such as OECD, the UAE Prime Minister's Office, the World Bank, Sciences Po, IE Business School, UNESCO, IEEE, H5, Microsoft and The Future of Life Institute. Thank you!

The AI revolution is a global phenomenon which calls for more global coordination if we are to capture and spread widely its upsides and minimize the downsides. That's a challenge, given the current crisis of multilateralism. But we are seeing progress as governments, international organizations, corporations, and civil society organizations like us get mobilized to co-develop governance principles, frameworks, and instruments that are effective, fit to local contexts and seek to build the best 'cocktails' between self, soft and hard regulation.

As the governance of AI is becoming a topic of increased interest across our societies, we recognize that global diversity is crucial. This is reflected not only in our globally distributed team -which has now grown to a full-time of staff of 10 very talented people- and our global community of advisors and affiliates, but also in the fact that the thousands of people we have engaged with so far come from over 100 countries across 5 continents.

With this broad engagement across all levels of decision-making, we have played a significant role in the establishment of two complementary global regimes of principles for AI. The first one has emerged from the OECD and revolves around its AI Principles released in April 2019. It informs ministerial-level decision-making among its 34 member states and beyond, as it has been endorsed by the G20. It has been complemented by an AI Policy Observatory -to be launched early 2020- tasked with supporting and measuring the deployment of the AI Principles into practice. The second one comes from the IEEE which gathers over 400,000 engineers in 160 countries. The IEEE Global Initiative on Ethically Aligned design of Autonomous & Intelligent Systems set of principles aims to guide system designers, scientists, architects, engineers and practitioners worldwide in the ethical and responsible adoption of AI. We have also contributed to and informed the creation of six promising global governance processes and initiatives: the "Global Partnership on AI" (GPAI), the "AI Commons" (and its basis, the "AI for Good" UN Global Summit in Geneva), the "Global Data Commons", the "AI for Sustainable Development Goals Center" (AI4SDG), the "Council for Extended Intelligence" (CXI), and the Global Governance of AI Forum (World Government Summit, Dubai). We will continue to strive to do even better and to ensure that more underrepresented voices are brought around this global table.

Thanks again to our supporters, advocates, advisors & affiliates, and partners around the globe for joining us. We are looking forward to a great future with AI, indeed, The Future Society.

Best regards,

Nico Mialhe, President

OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

1. POLICY RESEARCH & ADVISORY SERVICES

The Future Society produced actionable policy research and advisory services to advance the global governance of artificial intelligence and other emerging technologies, including understanding of their contexts, dynamics and consequences.

Perceptions of AI Ethics Principles

The project aims to compare perceptions and priorities in ethical principles for AI between policy and industry leaders. The first phase of the project reviewed all published ethical principles and guidelines and selected use cases across key sectors such as Healthcare, Retail, Financial Services, Aviation, Technology, Hospitality and Government. The second phase consisted of a survey with 300 policy and industry leaders to better understand their perception of ethical priorities in specific AI use cases. Key findings will be synthesized in a report, which will explore implications to bring ethical guidelines “from theory to practice”. The report will be presented at high-level conferences and advise both policy and industry leaders for the ethical adoption of AI across sectors in 2020. The 2019 phase of the project was in partnership with EYQ, EY’s thinktank.



A CERN for AI in Healthcare: A feasibility study

Supported by a grant from the Future of Life Institute (FLI), The Future Society led a feasibility study on whether an organisation similar to the European Center For Nuclear Research (CERN) could effectively support international cooperation on developing safe and responsible AI technologies for healthcare. The project develops a framework for designing and analyzing institutions, with the goal to make practical steps towards international cooperation for the governance of safe AI development.



Photo by Paulo Simões Mendes on Unsplash

Policy Pathways for Harnessing AI in Developing Countries

The Future Society conducted research on policy and regulatory approaches for harnessing responsible artificial intelligence for a broad range of countries beyond those leading in AI today. In partnership with the World Bank's Digital Development Program (DDP), the project analyzed numerous countries' AI strategies and applications to identify emerging policies and practices. The project presents policy recommendations for countries to harness safe and ethical AI based on their AI ecosystem and digital maturity. It builds a framework of policy approaches that can be applied in a flexible and agile way, building on existing work within and outside The Future Society and The World Bank.

AI and Data Diplomacy Dinner Series

Based on an initial partnership with Microsoft, The Future Society convened a series of high-level discussions with a wide array of stakeholders from public and private sectors, academia and civic society on AI applications and their impact on society to collectively explore pathways for responsible use of AI technologies. High-level discussions focused on facial recognition technologies as a case study. Discussion series aimed to question common trade offs surrounding the policy discussions on facial recognition technologies such as security and privacy; and discussed frameworks for ethical use in diverse contexts. The findings will be available in the form of a visual issue mapping report.



OECD AI Expert Group

The Future Society continued its contribution to the OECD's AI Expert Group. The group was made up of AI experts from OECD member countries and think tanks, business, civil society and labour associations and other international organisations. The expert group scoped principles to foster trust in and adoption of AI in society. The Future Society contributed to the five value-based principles that AI should promote, four recommendations for national AI policies, and a principle on international cooperation for trustworthy AI. The principles aim to globally apply to all stakeholders and they were adopted by the G20 countries in 2019.



2. Seminars & Summits

Athens AI in the Rule of Law Roundtable

The Future Society organized a roundtable in Athens, Greece with top U.S. and European stakeholders in September. Co-hosted by the IEEE Global Initiative and The Future Society, the event was multi-stakeholder, Chatham House rule roundtable held over a day and a half under the auspices of the Greek President. With the theme of “moving from Principles to Practice”, the agenda focused on the development of instruments (including standards and certifications) for the trustworthy adoption of AI in legal systems and the practice of law. The dialogue was based on the law-focused principles of the IEEE Global Initiative and those of the Council of Europe, as well as the OECD/G20 AI principles.



Global Forum on AI for Humanity (GFAIH)

Organized under the auspices of the French President Emmanuel Macron, Global Forum on AI for Humanity (GFAIH) represents a milestone in the governance of AI. Envisioned as a yearly event, this edition served as a precursor for the launch of a Global Partnership on AI (GPAI), recently announced at the G7 Summit in Biarritz, and led by the OECD and the governments of Canada and France. On October 28th, GFAIH gathered a multidisciplinary group of AI scholars, experts and practitioners as well as innovators, economic actors, policy makers and civil society representatives. The Future Society and its partners organized the 'AI Commons for Humanity' workshop which brought together a community of experts and practitioners to take stock of progress made since the last gathering at AI for Good Global Summit in May and dove into concrete discussions to plan the way forward to formally launch the AI Commons in 2020.



The AI Civic Forum at The Paris Peace Forum

The Future Society, in partnership with Algora Lab (Mila) and the Observatory on the Societal Impacts of AI, presented the AI Civic Forum as one of the 116 projects selected over 800 applications for the second edition of the Paris Peace Forum in November 2019.

Anchored in robust collective intelligence methodologies, the AI Civic Forum is an international multi-stakeholder platform. Its mission is to empower people to co-shape the future of AI and co-design AI ethical principles and practices. The AI Civic Forum will be deployed through a combination of online deliberations, face-to-face workshops, and AI literacy programs unfolding around the world.



Ethics at AI for Good Global Summit

The Future Society was a partner of The AI for Good Global Summit 2019, held in Geneva, Switzerland on May 28-31 and hosted by ITU, XPRIZE and UN Agencies.

The Future Society took on the role of Ethics Rapporteurs across the five Breakthrough Tracks of the Summit: Education & Learning; Good Health & Well-Being; AI, Human Dignity & Inclusive Societies; Scaling AI for Good; and AI for Space. Team members participated in these tracks and analyzed the ethics discussions in a presentation delivered by Yolanda Lannquist, Head of Research & Advisory, on the last day of the Summit.

"Autonomous intelligent systems are poised to upend earlier notions about society, economy and global politics. We need authoritative and wise guidance to help us navigate this transformation. Over the past five years, The Future Society has emerged as a pioneer in this space, building bridges across diverse communities of AI experts and practitioners around the world" - Amandeep Gill, International Digital Health & AI Research Collaborative, UN Secretary-General's High-level Panel on Digital Cooperation.

Beijing Academy of Artificial Intelligence Ethics & Governance Forum

Yolanda Lannquist, Head of Research & Advisory, represented The Future Society in China at the Beijing Academy of Artificial Intelligence (BAAI) 2019 Conference. She shared The Future Society's projects in AI governance, policy and ethics in a presentation and expert panel with leaders from China, Japan, Israel, the EU, and the USA. The international panelists explored AI ethics across contexts, including common values and the harmful effects of the 'race' narrative between the US and China. Instead, there is a need to invent a new "cooperative rivalry" which balances out legitimate rivalry with the imperative of cooperation on many issues related to the global upsides and downsides of AI.



Fundamental Rights in the Digital Age - Club de Madrid World Leadership Alliance Policy Dialogue

WLA-CdM is a global assembly of over 110 former Heads of State and Government from over 60 democratic countries. This year, they brought together 100 renowned experts, policy makers and industry leaders to have a fruitful conversation on the implications of digital transformation and artificial intelligence for fundamental rights, the future of the social contract in the data economy, and trust and public debate in the face of disinformation. Senior AI Policy Researcher Niki Iliadis and Co-Founder and President Nicolas Miaillhe led discussions among international leaders about 'Fundamental Rights in the Digital Age,' including how we can make digital and AI technologies help uphold human rights, rather than undermine them.





AI for Sustainable Development Goals at Tallinn Digital Summit

The Future Society led discussions on societal impacts of AI at the Tallinn Digital Summit in Tallinn, Estonia. The Summit is hosted annually by the government of Estonia to discuss approaches and societal impacts of AI and digital technologies. Chair of the AI Initiative The Future Society led the plenary session 'AI for UN Sustainable Development Goals' focused on the opportunities and challenges in applying AI to address global challenges, including climate change, poverty, hunger, human rights violations, inequality, gaps in education and healthcare and more. Cyrus Hodes led the Ministerial lunch discussion on 'AI Governance.' This discussion brought together government ministers to discuss how to ensure ethical and safe use of AI for innovation in their countries.

The Future Society's work on national AI policies and AI for development exemplifies its emerging role as a leader in this area, with the latest topical expertise, pertinent and analytical methodology, and reliability as a collaborative partner to deliver high-quality, highly relevant and novel insights." - Karine Perset, OECD.

3. EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS & LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT



Sciences Po Paris School of International Affairs (PSIA) | Spring 2019

Course title: Governing the Rise of AI
In its third year, this graduate-level course equipped students with the skills to understand and analyze key political, social, and economic issues surrounding the rise of AI. Topics included the geopolitics of AI, global governance of AI, AI for UN Sustainable Development Goals, and more. The course also analysed key incentives and disincentives driving nation states to cooperate in governing AI. It introduced students to the range of policy, regulatory, and other governance tools that leading international, national and local organizations and governments are currently using for AI development and its impacts.



IE University in Madrid | Spring 2019
Course title: Frontiers of Artificial Intelligence

The Future Society taught Frontiers of Artificial Intelligence at IE University in Madrid. This course surveyed the range of opportunities and risks that the rise of AI poses to society. The course presented major AI applications across sectors and global trends in the AI development and policy landscapes. Topics also included the impact on labor markets, international trade, and economic and human development. The course analyzed risks including algorithmic bias, cybersecurity, threats to privacy, safety, transparency and explainability, accountability, human agency and autonomy, and more. It presented students with the latest policy and governance approaches to encourage innovation while mitigating these risks.



4. SPECIAL PROJECTS

AI Civic Forum

Engaging Citizens' Voices in the Governance of AI



THE AI INITIATIVE



INTERNATIONAL OBSERVATORY
ON THE SOCIETAL IMPACT OF AI



Déclaration de Montréal
IA responsable_

AI Civic Forum

Anchored in robust collective intelligence methodologies, the AI Civic Forum is an international multi-stakeholder platform. Its mission is to empower people to co-shape the future of AI and co-design AI ethical principles and practices. The AI Civic Forum will be deployed through a combination of online deliberations, face-to-face workshops, and AI literacy programs unfolding around the world. The AI Civic Forum's goal is to include citizens' voices in discussions on AI ethics and governance. The AI Civic Forum will: build literacy, knowledge and skills on AI, crowdsource local perspectives on the rise of AI and its ethical dimensions and co-design AI

AI Commons



The AI Commons (AIC) is a global multi-stakeholder non-profit platform focusing on accelerating and democratizing responsible development and deployment of AI solutions for social good applications, focusing on the seventeen UN Sustainable Development Goals. The project brings together a wide range of stakeholders around innovative and holistic "problem identification-to-solution" frameworks and protocols with the ultimate objective of pooling critical AI capabilities (data, domain specific knowledge, talent, tools & models, computing power and storage) into an open and collaborative sandbox that can be used to scale up use of AI for social good. This implies structuring and integrating AI resources into actionable directories and ultimately repositories. With several other initiatives feeding into it ranging from a Data Commons, ImpactNet, Living Labs, or to 'AI for SDGs Centers', the AIC aims to empower and bring together communities of scientists, entrepreneurs, citizens and governments around the world to harness the power of AI for SDGs.



Global Data Commons (GDC)

The Global Data Commons (GDC) aims at leveraging the revolution in advanced analytics and Artificial Intelligence to support the achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It aims to address a major barrier in the application of AI for SDGs: Access to quality data. The GDC has been envisioned as a precursor for the AI for SDGs Center (AI4SDG) and is a part of the AI Commons. The Future Society co-leads the Global Data Commons along with UN Global Pulse, McKinsey & Company's Noble Purpose AI, and the AI Commons. The GDC also has numerous multi-stakeholder partners. The 1st GDC workshop occurred at the World Government Summit in Dubai in Feb. 2019 as part of the 'Global Governance of AI Forum' (GGAF). The 2nd GDC workshop was held at the AI for Good Global Summit in Geneva in May 2019. The 3rd workshop took place close to the United Nations General Assembly on September 25th, 2019. The 4th workshop will occur at the World Bank/IMF spring 2020 meetings.



Global Governance of AI Roundtable

After a successful first edition, The Future Society organized the second Global Governance of AI Roundtable (GGAR) at the 2019 World Government Summit in Dubai. The Roundtable offers a neutral forum where the international community – governments, multilateral organizations and civil society alike – can discuss and contribute in shaping global, but culturally adaptable, norms for the governance of artificial intelligence. The GGAR comprises more than 200 experts and practitioners including delegates from the OECD's AI Expert Group (AIGO), UNESCO's World Commission on the Ethics of Scientific Knowledge and Technology, the IEEE Standards Association's Global Initiative on Ethically Aligned Design of Artificial Intelligence and Autonomous Systems, the Council on Extended Intelligence, and the Global Data Commons International Task Force. This joint enterprise reflects a shared interest to realize the potential that AI offers to our collective future while mitigating its risks.

OUR TEAM MEMBERS AND STAFF



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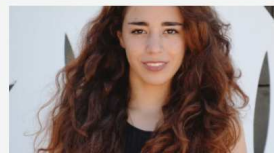
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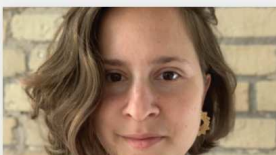
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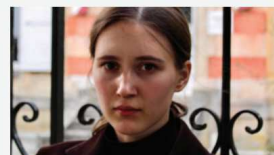
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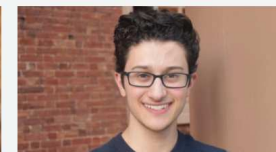
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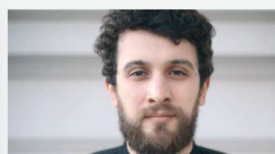
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FINANCIAL REPORT

Total revenues: \$469,326

- Contributions and grants: \$156,127
- Program service revenue: \$313,199



Total expenses: \$511,683

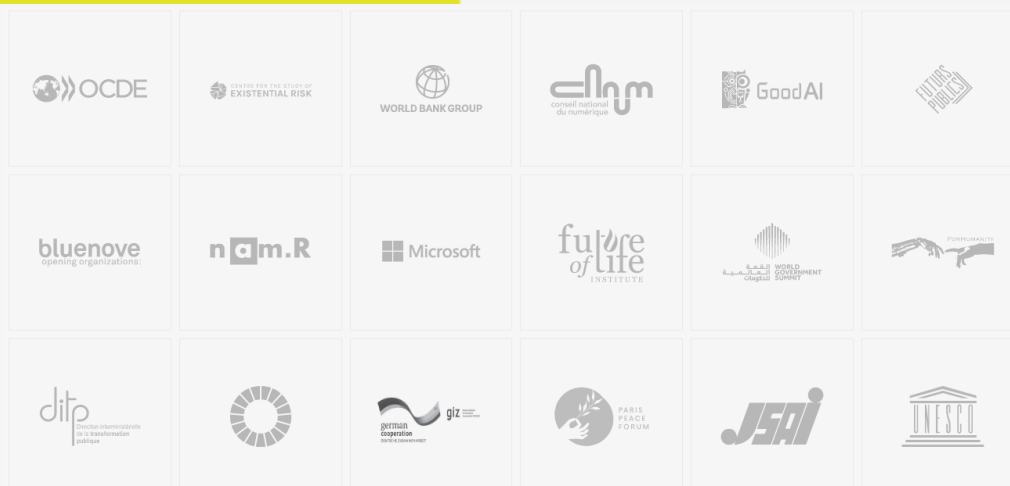
- Salaries & compensation: \$185,952
- Other expenses: \$325,731



Total Assets: \$27,330

Total Liabilities: \$39,259

PARTNERSHIPS



CONTACT US

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A group of five people (three women and two men) are standing behind a booth for 'The Future Society'. They are all wearing lanyards with identification badges. The booth has a white backdrop with the 'THE FUTURE SOCIETY' logo and several partner logos including 'Mila' and 'AI CIVIC FORUM'. The text 'NT 2' is also visible on the backdrop. The overall scene is a professional conference or networking event.

THE FUTURE SOCIETY

**For press enquiries, please contact
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