Ecological impact of Artificial Intelligence and deep technologies: 
a legal perspective

Thesis Supervisor: Marina Teller, marina.teller@gmail.com, ED DESPEG

Host laboratory: CNRS GREDEG (UMR 7321)

Subject description:

The purpose of this topic is to improve the understanding of disruptive technologies from an ecological and legal point of view.

This is a very current concern: the French legislator recently enacted a law to reduce the impact of digital in France. The European Commission has also put in place an ambitious "digital compass" proposal with new digital legal principles dedicated to sustainable development. Obviously, the ecological impact of digital technology will be a major issue for companies and public entities.

However, in practice, there is a lack of analysis tools and indicators allowing the application of these new texts. There is therefore a real need to build a legal framework for the digital liability of companies. Also, it seems relevant to study the ecological impact of new disruptive technologies, for at least two reasons:

- First, these technologies raise many fears for ecology and sustainable development. Indeed, technologies such as data centers and blockchain are very energy intensive. In addition, the supply of natural resources is also an important issue for the future of certain technologies, such as quantum physics.
- Second, these technologies can provide radical solutions to today's major ecological problems. Data collection and processing can be used for smart cities. The legal system will have to ensure that the processing of data respects fundamental rights in particular, but also sustainable development. The challenge now is to build an ecological and sustainable development based on technological devices, in compliance with the law.

This subject is part of the Digital Systems for Humans Graduate school 2022 PhD grants campaign. Application deadline: May 9th, 2022 Apply by sending an e-mail to the thesis supervisor.