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Article

Artificial Intelligence in Romania: Romanians' perception of Artificial Intelligence

Abstract: *This study examines the perception and usage of Artificial Intelligence (AI) among Romanian citizens in the context of its global expansion and increasing integration into everyday life and industrial use. With the emergence of tools such as ChatGPT, AI has become a technological development, prompting both enthusiasm and apprehension. The research aims to assess the extent to which AI influences daily decision-making processes. A quantitative research design was employed, using an online questionnaire to collect data on public attitudes of Romanians toward AI. Although the sample does not meet the requirements for population-level representativeness, the exploratory character of the study provides valuable insights, given the limited research on this topic in Romania. Findings indicate that while AI is primarily used in personal contexts, its adoption in professional and educational settings is steadily increasing. Most respondents view AI as useful while simultaneously emphasizing the need for regulation and ethical oversight. Key concerns identified include potential job displacement, the spread of misinformation, diminished critical thinking, and social isolation. Conversely, AI is recognized for its potential to enhance productivity, creativity, and administrative efficiency. The results underscore the importance of digital literacy, equitable access, and transparent governance to ensure responsible integration of AI into Romanian society. Further research into larger, more representative samples is recommended to better understand developments in AI adoption.*

Keywords: *Artificial Intelligence (AI); AI in Romania; Public Perception; Social Impact; AI Regulation*

Roxana-Mihaela NEDELCU (ZAFIU)

Department of Sociology, SNSPA,
PhD Student, Bucharest, Romania;
ORCID 0009-0006-3355-5434;
roxana.zafiu.14@politice.ro

1. Introduction

All around the world, people are talking about the phenomenon of Artificial Intelligence, which has gained momentum. Applications in the field are evolving alongside their advancement and are becoming useful across all industries. More companies are leveraging Artificial In-

telligence to improve their products and enhance the user experience. From computed tomography to the creation of video games powered by AI, the expansion is remarkable.

In the past five years, with the launch of ChatGPT, AI has become a trend. AI tools have been developed that create presentations, clone voices and appearances, generate posts or advertisements, and automate processes, all without any direct human involvement.

As Demis Hassabis, Head of the Artificial Intelligence division at Google DeepMind, states, the goal is for AI to become the most important technological revolution of our time. He mentions that ChatGPT has shown how people find incredible uses for it even its creators hadn't imagined (Rose, 2025). DeepMind has become the engine room of Google, with Artificial Intelligence integrated into every aspect of the business: search summaries; the intelligent assistant Gemini (Google's answer to ChatGPT); an AI-based image generator (capable of producing sound effects); AI-powered smart glasses; translation tools; and shopping assistants (Rose, 2025).

1.1. Quick history of Artificial Intelligence

For the first time, this concept was discussed at the Dartmouth Conference in 1956. At that time, data limitations emerged, and the development of AI was halted. Starting in the 2000s, the phenomenon of Deep Learning appeared, in which AI systems could analyze complex algorithms and learn on their own, AI being used in Medicine through risk assessment models, improving diagnostic accuracy. (Jatin, 2016)

Molecular biology and the theory of evolution explain that all characteristics of biological agents, such as intelligence, have their roots in Darwinian evolution with some major refinements. On the other hand, the Artificial Intelligence community believes that evolutionary processes cannot create Artificial Intelligence, but rather the performance of algorithms. These have the ability to deliver competitive results in the fields of science and engineering, compared to human intelligence (Amisha et al., 2019).

1.2. Objectives of the study and research questions

In light of this global expansion, a decision was made to conduct a study in Romania to explore the extent to which AI is being adopted locally. The primary objective of this research is to analyze Romanian citizens' perceptions of AI and to assess how these technologies influence their decision-making processes.

Despite the global momentum surrounding AI, there is a noticeable scarcity of research on this topic within Romania. Existing studies tend to focus primarily on the perception of AI in the workplace and its social impact within the educational sector (Santos-Jaén et al., 2025), (Chuang et al., 2025). The novelty of the present study lies in its broader scope: not only have respondents heard of AI, but many have actively used it in various contexts: at work, in academic settings, and in personal tasks.

The research question from which I started aims to determine to what extent people's everyday decisions are influenced by Artificial Intelligence. The central research question guiding this study is focused on understanding the influence of Artificial Intelligence on individuals' daily decision-making processes. Specifically, the investigation seeks to determine the extent to which people's everyday choices are shaped by their interactions with AI technologies. This question is fundamental in assessing the broader social impact of AI adoption in Ro-

mania, as it addresses both the direct and indirect ways in which AI may affect personal, professional, and educational decisions.

The hypothesis used in this research is that Romanians have a positive perception of AI usage.

Before highlighting the results of the study, I present what Artificial Intelligence is, the regulations at the level of the European Union and Romania, which are the most used applications, and the impact of these.

At present, in Romania, we cannot speak of an expansion among the population; companies are the ones that have started to use it in a proportion of 15.3% (Microsoft, 2025). Nevertheless, based on the research conducted, attention is drawn to the trend among children under the age of 18 who use it constantly, especially for completing various school assignments (Tiernan et al., 2023).

2. Literature review

2.1. The concept of AI

Artificial Intelligence is the science that creates intelligent systems in the field of computer science with the aim of creating replicas that imitate human intelligence, but it does not offer biologically observable methods. Therefore, it is a science that deals with the analytical and algorithmic aspects of problems, using computational models (Mahato, 2022).

Due to the industrial revolution, machines are emerging that replace human labor in all fields, and the replacement of human resources with Artificial Intelligence is the next challenge that many scientists are working on. Research areas in the field of AI include search algorithms, knowledge graphs, natural language processing, expert systems, evolutionary algorithms, machine learning (ML), deep learning (DL), and so on (Xu et al., 2021).

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has been widely conceptualized as a computational paradigm aimed at replicating human cognitive functions through algorithmic models rather than biological processes (Xu et al., 2021), (Mahato, 2022). The resurgence of deep learning in the early 2000s enabled autonomous learning and advanced applications in medicine, automation, and data analytics (Jatin, 2016), (Amisha et al., 2019). These developments position AI as a transformative technology with implications extending beyond technical domains into socio-economic and cultural spheres. Despite its technical sophistication, AI remains a socially constructed phenomenon, shaped by cultural narratives and ethical debates. Scholars such as Makridakis argue that AI's transformative potential extends beyond automation, challenging traditional notions of work, creativity, and human agency. This duality – technological promise versus societal apprehension – frames the discourse on public perception and regulatory governance (Makridakis, 2017).

The literature converges on three thematic pillars:

- Conceptual definitions and technological evolution, situating AI within historical and epistemological trajectories.
- Regulatory frameworks and governance, emphasizing risk management and ethical compliance.
- Socio-psychological implications, interrogating public trust, cultural imaginaries, and behavioral adaptations.

2.2. AI in different professional activities

The global diffusion of AI technologies has accelerated across diverse domains, including healthcare, transportation, and public administration. Empirical evidence suggests that AI enhances productivity and decision-making efficiency, yet simultaneously disrupts labor markets (Tomlinson et al., 2025).

Given the potential of AI and its impact on a wide range of tasks, understanding its effects on the economy has raised various questions. Microsoft analyzes the professional activities that people carry out with AI by studying 200,000 anonymized and privacy-verified conversations between users and Microsoft Copilot (an Artificial Intelligence tool). It is found that the most frequent activities carried out by AI itself are providing information, assistance, writing, teaching, and advice. The top 40 jobs with the highest AI applicability are: Interpreters and translators, Historians, Passenger attendants, Sales representatives for services, Writers and authors, Customer service representatives, CNC programmers (computer numerical control machine tools), Telephone operators, Ticket and travel agents, Show hosts and radio DJs, Brokerage clerks, Employees in agricultural and hospitality management, Telemarketing workers, Building caretakers and administrators, Political scientists, News analysts, Reporters and journalists, Mathematicians, Proofreaders and text markers, Editors, Business teachers and university professors, Public relations specialists, Product demonstrators and promoters, Sales agents, Accounting clerks, Statisticians, Counter clerks, Financial consultants, Archivists, Web developers, Management analysts, Geographers, Market research analysts, People working in the modeling industry, People working in telecommunications, Switchboard operators. At the opposite end, where physical labor is required, Artificial Intelligence has not yet reached, for example, nurses, orderlies, factory operators, people working in the construction industry (such as bricklayers), plumbers, and cleaning staff (Tomlinson et al., 2025).

Frey and Osborne concluded that 47% of occupations in the United States are at risk of being automated (Frey and Osborne, 2017). Bowles repeated these calculations for the labor market in the European Union and found that 54% of jobs in the EU are at risk of automation (Bowles, 2014).

2.3. The Universe of Artificial Intelligence: The tools used

Software engineering increasingly incorporates Artificial Intelligence (AI) across various domains, including team management, decision-making, risk mitigation, and customer satisfaction. Nevertheless, user satisfaction, particularly the way AI is perceived, and the emotional response it elicits, remains largely overlooked. Existing research predominantly emphasizes the practical utility of AI, while in-depth investigations into its socio-psychological impact are notably absent (Callier and Sandel, 2021).

The reviewed articles predominantly focus on computer science theory, on the operational mechanisms of Artificial Intelligence and technological systems, without examining whether AI practices have the potential to fundamentally alter the behavior of social beings. Building on this perspective, a study analyzing 287 articles revealed that AI contributes significantly to economic progress across industries such as construction, transportation, healthcare, manufacturing, agriculture. Through descriptive analysis, it was found that only 3.4% of the articles and synthesis papers employed AI in the development of sustainable practices (Kar et al., 2022).

In 2025, an article was published showcasing the most effective Artificial Intelligence tools available for public use, as illustrated in Table 1 (Lukan, 2025):

Table 1. Artificial Intelligence tools for different tasks

AI assistants	ChatGPT, Grok, Claude, Gemini
Video generation	Synthesia, Google Veo, OpusClip
Image generation	GPT-4o, Midjourney
Meeting assistants	Fathom, Nyota
Automation	n8n, Manus
Research	Deep Research, NotebookLM
Writing	Rytr, Sudowrite
Search engines	Google AI Mode, Perplexity, ChatGPT search
Graphic design	Canva Magic Studio, Looka
App builders & coding tools	Lovable, Cursor
Knowledge management	Notion Q&A, Guru
Email	Hubspot Email Writer, Fyxer, Shortwave
Scheduling	Reclaim, Clockwise
Presentations	Gamma, Copilot for PowerPoint
Resume builders	Teal, Kickresume
Voice generation	ElevenLabs, Murf
Music generation	Suno, Udio
Marketing	AdCreative, AirOps

2.4. Global and European Perspectives on AI Adoption

Given the rapid advancement of Artificial Intelligence, the European Union has decided to invest twenty billion euros in the establishment of AI giga factories in Western and Southern Europe (Andrei, 2025).

In addition to financial investments, the European Commission proposed a legislative package as early as April 2021, targeting both commercial and institutional providers and users of artificial intelligence systems. The proposal emphasizes that AI systems must not endanger fundamental rights, safety, or transparency. AI systems intended for various applications are subject to analysis and classification according to their level of risk to users (European Parliament, 2023).

Accordingly, Regulation (EU) 2024/1689 of the European Parliament and of the Council, adopted on June 13, 2024, and entering into force on August 1, 2024, establishes harmonized rules on artificial intelligence. What is particularly interesting to analyze is the risk classification of AI systems, as follows (European Union law, 2024):

- AI systems with unacceptable risk are those that assign social scores and engage in discriminatory practices.
- High-risk AI systems include those that interact with humans in contexts such as education, employment, public services, etc. For these, the regulation proposes the implementation of risk management systems, record-keeping, data governance, transparency measures, human oversight, and strict cybersecurity standards.

- Limited-risk AI systems, such as customer service chatbots, the providers must ensure that users are clearly informed, they are interacting with an artificial system.
- Minimal-risk AI systems, for example, email spam filters, are not subject to complex regulatory requirements.

This regulation applies to both public and private entities, within and outside the European Union, whether the system is placed on the EU market or if its use affects individuals residing in the EU, which gives the law broad applicability. Consequently, all AI applications must comply with EU standards. Artificial content is increasingly prevalent, especially on online platforms, which are required to label such content as artificially generated.

Romania, through the Ministry of Research, Innovation and Digitalization, has developed the National Strategy for Artificial Intelligence 2024–2027, a document outlining key development directions. These include a strong emphasis on education and the formation of AI-specific competencies; the development of resilient infrastructure and reusable data sets; the strengthening of the national RDI (Research, Development, and Innovation) system in the field of AI; the encouragement of technology transfer from research and innovation to production; the support of measures aimed at promoting the adoption of AI across society; and the establishment of a governance system and a regulatory environment suitable for AI (National Research Authority, 2024).

In addition to the positive impact brought by the implementation of these objectives, Romania must ensure compliance with European regulations and take into account the ethical challenges associated with Artificial Intelligence. These regulatory frameworks represent a first step toward ensuring a clear direction both within the EU and in Romania. However, the impact on education, employment, and broader social life must be measured concurrently.

2.5. Public Perceptions

AI's integration into everyday life has elicited ambivalent societal responses. On one hand, AI is lauded for its capacity to streamline administrative processes, personalize services, and augment creative outputs (Kar et al., 2022). On the other hand, it provokes anxieties related to job displacement, erosion of critical thinking, and social isolation (Makridakis, 2017), (Xiuli and Joohan, 2024). These tensions manifest in diverse cultural narratives, oscillating between techno-optimism and dystopian skepticism.

Empirical research corroborates this duality. For exemple, Santos-Jaén et al. (2025) reports predominantly positive attitudes among European university students, who perceive AI as a catalyst for professional development. Nevertheless, apprehensions persist regarding ethical risks and labor market volatility. Similarly, Eurobarometer (2025) surveys indicate that while 62% of EU citizens endorse AI in workplace contexts, concerns about privacy and accountability remain salient. Stahl et al. (2023) identify systemic vulnerabilities – data protection, fairness, and transparency – yet critique the absence of empirical metrics to quantify discriminatory outcomes. This evidentiary gap underscores the need for robust impact assessments and participatory governance models.

Romanian scholarship on AI perception remains nascent. Existing studies primarily address sector-specific applications, such as education (Adăscăliței, 2025) and healthcare (Radu, 2025), without capturing broader societal attitudes. This lacuna validates the present research's contribution to mapping public sentiment within a national context.

2.6. Social Impact

Without realizing it, AI has become part of our daily lives. For instance, when we search online to purchase a product, we often receive personal recommendations based on our previous searches or purchases. This is where the concept of web search comes into play, as search engines learn from user-provided data to understand our online behavior. In this context, smart mobile phones feature digital personal assistants that present various services, answer questions, and suggest different offers. Furthermore, automatic translation functions are a result of Artificial Intelligence, with numerous linguistic translation software tools now available, used when reading articles, watching films, or traveling (European Parliament, 2020).

So, we see AI interference every day, such as autonomous vehicles, drones, medical diagnosis, artistic creation, games (like chess or Go), search engines (like Google), online assistants (like Siri), image recognition in photos, spam filtering, flight delay prediction, and so on, becoming indispensable (Tai, 2020).

An interesting article, which addresses not only the achievements of AI, such as automation, access to information, and increased productivity, but also its omissions, including the impact of smartphones and the Internet on social life, proposes four scenarios in which people are categorized (Makridakis, 2017):

- Optimists: envision a utopian world where robots work for humans and life is extended through genetics and nanotechnology.
- Pessimists: warn about the loss of control, the disappearance of jobs, and the rise of inequality.
- Pragmatists: believe that AI can be regulated and used to augment human intelligence.
- Skeptics: argue that AI will never be able to replicate human creativity and consciousness.

As revealed by the study conducted in Romania, the opinion of Romanian respondents is predominantly pragmatic.

One of the most significant changes brought by the advancement of AI is social transformation, which is expected to alter human lifestyles through the emergence of a gap in human interaction.

Therefore, the social impact of artificial intelligence lies in the transformation of social norms. For example, platforms like Facebook shape social behavior through moderation algorithms. AI is becoming an agent of cultural change, must be adapted to global cultural diversity. As it fosters interconnectivity and international collaboration, cultural and equity-related challenges emerge. AI also raises concerns regarding privacy, which is why regulatory frameworks are necessary. The advancement of AI must be accompanied by values, human dignity. (Xiuli and Joohan, 2024)

Human closeness is expected to diminish, a concern that was already mentioned as early as the 1980s, when Artificial Intelligence began to develop modestly (Weizenbaum, 1976). The same concern is also highlighted in the research conducted.

Moreover, in the present study, the greatest concern identified is the potential loss of jobs. For example, in the automotive industry, human workers have been replaced by machines and robots. Even in supermarkets, cashiers may no longer be necessary, as digital devices can take over their tasks.

Social inequality is also expected to emerge in financial terms, specifically as the wealthy will benefit most from the development and use of AI (Shoss and Ciarlante, 2022).

Another major concern expressed by respondents in the present study is the lack of control. Since AI is trained and programmed to perform specific tasks, there is a fear that it may eventually disregard commands given by human operators (Thorn, 2015).

Another concern, which does not appear among Romanian respondents but is highlighted in the study The Impact of Artificial Intelligence on Human Society and Bioethics, refers to the possibility of creating tools that discriminate or reinforce racial or egocentric biases. For example, the United Nations voted to limit the spread of nuclear energy, for fear of its indiscriminate use to destroy humanity or to target certain races or regions for the purpose of achieving domination. AI can target certain races or certain objects programmed to carry out the programmers' command to destroy, thus causing a global disaster (Tai, 2020).

3. Methodology

To have a clear vision of this topic, the studies and opinions of specialists are taken into account, but, in addition, to better shape the research question, an online opinion questionnaire was used to analyze Romanians' perception of AI and reveal the use case of AI.

The research was conducted over a period of 3 months in the online environment, namely June, July, and August 2025.

3.1. The structure of the Questionnaire

Given the purpose of this study, the quantitative approach enabled a detailed analysis of how participants use and perceive Artificial Intelligence. The online questionnaire method was employed to provide a quantitative perspective on participants' attitudes toward AI.

The questionnaire consists of closed-ended questions (with predefined options), such as: What is your opinion on the use of Artificial Intelligence in everyday life; Have you ever used a virtual assistant based on Artificial Intelligence; To what extent has AI influenced your decision-making. The questionnaire explores perceptions of AI in daily life and across various fields, including Medicine and Research, Education, Economy, Automation, Justice, Military, Public Administration, Manufacturing, Sales, Mass Media, Agriculture.

Open-ended questions (free-text responses) are also used, such as: What advantages do you think the development of AI could bring; What disadvantages do you foresee; Do you have any concerns regarding the advancement of AI; How do you envision the future of AI over the next 10 years. These questions offer a detailed perspective and allow for the extraction of opinions regarding advantages, disadvantages, concerns and future visions.

As in any research, it was also necessary to include questions regarding socio-demographic data (age, gender, education, locality).

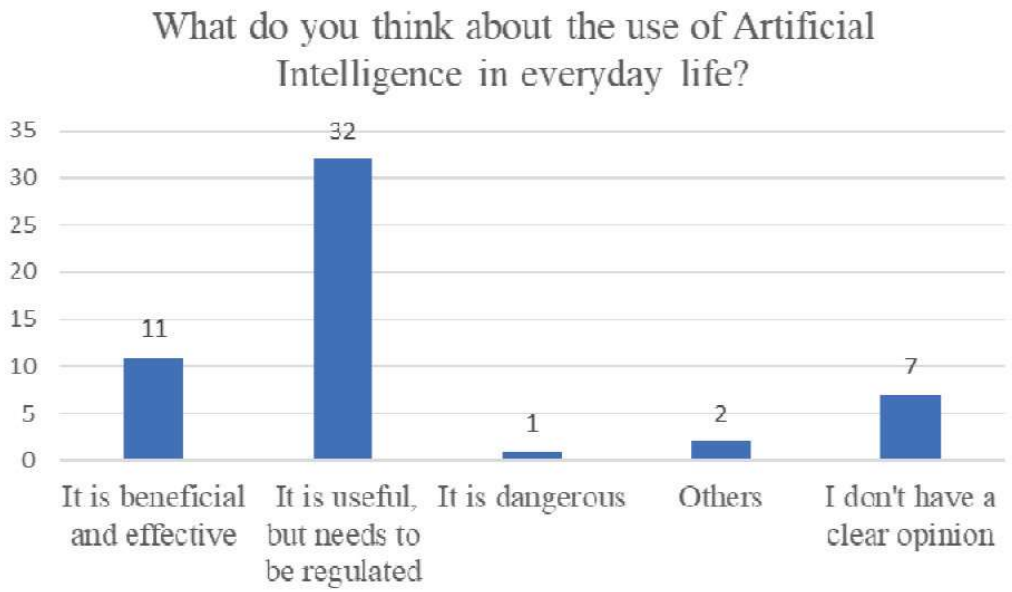
This online questionnaire was distributed across various social media platforms, for example, on Facebook, particularly in groups focused on discussions about Artificial Intelligence, where specialists are active. The novelty of the study lies in the participation of underage individuals who have used AI tools. This indicates that they have access to social media from a young age. Although the number of participants is relatively small (53 respondents), the impact is significant, as the respondents actively use Artificial Intelligence tools and are familiar with the processes behind the applications.

3.2. Data collection and interpretation method

To assess the impact of AI use on the lives of Romanians, the quantitative method was used. The results are interpreted by using Excel application.

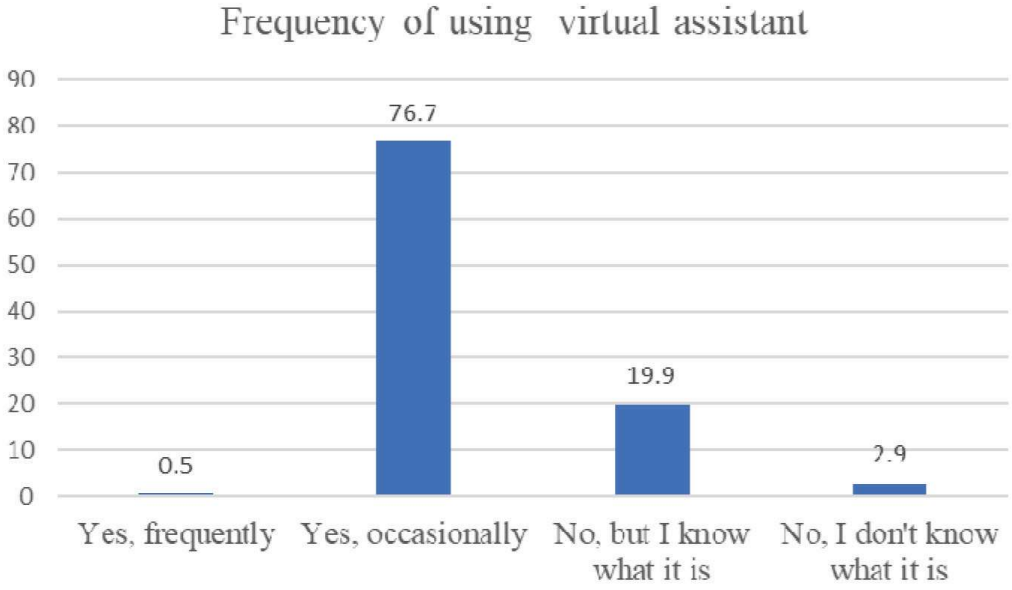
60.4% of respondents believe that AI is useful but should be regulated, according to graph 1. Only 1.9% of participants consider it dangerous. There is also a percentage of 13.2% who do not have a clear opinion.

Chart 1. Romanians' perception of AI



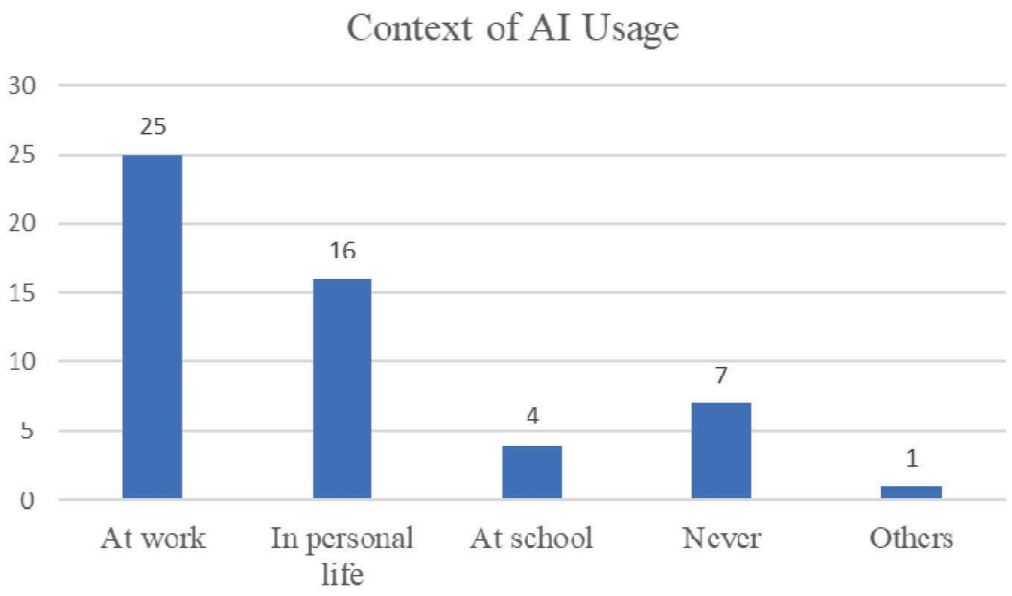
From the research, it can be noted that AI-based tools are used occasionally 76.7% or frequently 0,5 %, according to Chart 2.

Chart 2. Frequency of AI use



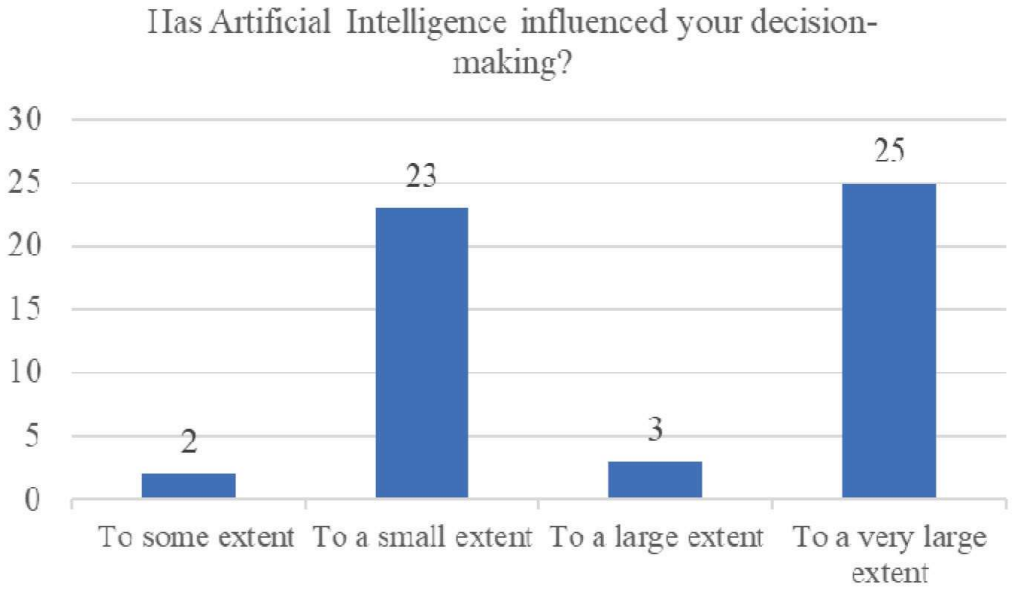
The context in which AI was used was either at work or in personal life, the respondents could have picked multiple use cases. A significantly higher percentage was observed in relation to personal life. Additionally, 18.9% of the participants involved in the research also use AI at school.

Chart 3. Context of AI use



Continuing this idea, one of the respondents stated that incorrect use and understanding of AI could lead to irreversible effects in the medium and long term: *In fields such as education and mass media, incorrect use of AI could generate effects that are difficult to manage. Children and adolescents should be somewhat supervised to avoid falling into the trap of perfection induced by improper use.* Currently, the respondents don't think their decision-making process was influenced by AI.

Chart 4. Personal decision-making



As part of the research, I analyzed the opinions of Romanians regarding the use of AI in various fields. A noticeable difference in perception between domains can be observed: Artificial

Intelligence is viewed positively in Medicine, Education, Automation, and Public Administration, where the majority of responses are *Very Good* and *Good*. In contrast, in fields such as Justice, Military, Mass Media, opinions are more reserved, with more responses indicating *Less Good* or *Not Good*. In Agriculture and Sales, the perception is mixed, but generally positive.

The highest percentage of Artificial Intelligence usage is found in process automation, with 47.2% of respondents having a very positive opinion and 39.6% a good opinion. One of the respondents stated that *process automation, as well as the easy verification and validation of data, are two aspects that can be greatly improved through AI*.

As can be seen, Romanians are very positive about the use of AI in Public Administration. For example, the Romanian Digitalization Authority has obtained European funds for five public institutions where AI will be used (Radu, 2025).

Although AI can be considered progress, many questions arise regarding the right to privacy. This can involve interference in personal life, manipulation, because the online world offers a lot of information about who we are in real life, what our concerns are, what we like or dislike.

The advantages of using AI refer to increased efficiency, productivity, better resource management, and process automation. It would be quite helpful for administrative and economic development, especially in Public Administration, where it can contribute to streamlining processes (such as obtaining documents much faster). Additionally, in industries, it can enhance production precision and reduce waste. Moreover, in companies, it can help reduce the workload for employees and increase productivity.

On the other hand, one respondent says that AI is also *very helpful on the creative and emotional side: It can generate great ideas and help clear your mind, make better decisions, and enjoy the beautiful things around you – an excellent therapist. It's the brother or sister you never had. A useful and emotional support.*

An Artificial Intelligence system called *Centaur* can predict human behavior and anticipate what decision a person would make in a given context, whether it's a simple choice, a moral dilemma, or a logical task (Copeland, 2025).

Regarding the open-ended question, What disadvantages do you think the development of Artificial Intelligence could bring to Romanian society, various issues are highlighted.

Most respondents are concerned that AI could replace human labor and lead to job losses.

Another disadvantage is related to the emergence of fake news or misleading content, which can cause panic or reputational issues. Thus, with the rise of AI, false information spreads even more widely, especially online. People begin to trust AI-generated responses too much instead of making rational decisions. Online information is no longer filtered through personal thinking. There is a growing fear that people will be increasingly manipulated as AI develops, due to the automated content it creates. Many respondents believe this phenomenon will lead to the abandonment of critical thinking. This may be affected because people stop asking questions, fail to use their own values and beliefs and are easily influenced by AI.

Another concern is the disconnect between people, as they no longer interact and spend too much time online. One respondent mentioned that AI contributes to *cooling down human relationships, which is why they disagree with its use in sales, justice, and mass media, fields that are complex and require human attention. In mass media, there is a noticeable trend toward standardizing speech and the way news is delivered.*

Another respondent mentioned that, *considering not everyone is aware of what AI does and how much it influences our daily lives, it is dangerous that some people take everything AI says or does*

at face value, without filtering the information through their own thinking. This is how a lot of fake news emerges. The most affected are the elderly and those who lack access to education.

Continuing this idea, another disadvantage concerns children's education, as they have started using AI, especially ChatGPT, to complete their homework. One respondent stated that AI contributes to the *growing disengagement of students in their educational and personal development, and to the increasing lack of confidence faced by younger generations today*.

An interesting article that supports the ideas mentioned above, *A Systematic Review of Artificial Intelligence Impact Assessments (AI-IAs),* offers the first analysis identifying ethical, social, and legal risks. The most significant issues concern data protection: privacy, General Data Protection Regulation compliance; human rights: dignity, non-discrimination, equitable access; safety: prevention of physical or psychological risks; and ethics: fairness, transparency, and responsible use. One critique that can be made of this study is that it did not measure the actual impact, how many people were discriminated against or exposed to any kind of risk, but instead conducted only a document-based analysis (Stahl et al., 2023).

4. Discussions and Results

Given the sample size, my hypothesis cannot be confirmed. Besides the limitation that I am inferring from a sample of 53 respondents, my sample reflects mainly higher education, the urban population and my conclusions will generally reflect this population because it is a larger part of my sample.

Romanians' perception is favorable but cautious. As shown, 60.4% of respondents believe that AI is useful, but it needs to be regulated. Only 1.9% consider it dangerous, which indicates moderate trust, accompanied by a need for control.

The level of education influence's opinion, individuals with higher education (bachelor's, master's, or doctoral degrees) demonstrate a deeper understanding of both the benefits and risks of AI.

It would be very difficult to compare perceptions between those with formal higher education and those with less formal education, given that highly educated individuals make up almost 90% of the sample.

Most respondents have higher education degrees – 34% hold a bachelor's degree and 54.7% have a master's degree. Individuals with bachelor's, master's, or doctoral studies tend to have a positive yet cautious opinion: AI is useful, but it needs regulation. Therefore, the hypothesis is validated for people with higher education who use AI tools and are aware of the potential adverse effects. Thus, the most educated individuals are conscious of the risks and the need for regulation. While the findings are not valid due to the very low number of people with only secondary education (12 grades or less), the ones that did participate in the study showed more varied opinions but are generally favorable toward the use of AI.

Regarding the socio-demographic data, most respondents live in urban areas (77.4%), which may reflect greater exposure to technology.

Age correlates with caution – respondents over 40 tend to call for regulation and express more concerns. Those under 35 are more open, but sometimes less informed.

What is interesting to highlight is that the age of respondents ranges from 10 years old (the youngest) to 58 years old (the oldest), which shows that technology is capturing both very

young generations and seniors. The platform I use to gather responses was Facebook and their groups, for example, *AI Marketing Romania*.

Romanians' opinions follow the same positive trend as those of Europeans regarding the use of Artificial Intelligence in the workplace, the economy, and improving the quality of life. For example, 62% of European Union citizens have a positive opinion about the use of AI at work. (European Commission, 2025)

The issues identified in this study refer to the lack of clear regulation, which is a major concern for all respondents.

5. Limitations of the research

AI presents social risks such as alienation, job loss, negative influence on children and young people, risks that must be taken into account.

The issues identified in this research refer to the highly varied open-ended responses, which made it difficult to standardize and categorize them.

For future studies or for expanding this one, it would be useful to include more young people aged 15–25, as they are among the most exposed to AI. This absence can be interpreted as a demographic gap in the sample, especially considering that the 17–20 age group is key in shaping opinions about technology and AI.

6. Final Conclusions and Recommendations

It depends on who uses Artificial Intelligence and how it is used. Now, it is useful, but there are aspects that need improvement and regulation. People must be careful not to become dependent on AI or grow up with an illusion, especially on social media, where personal identity can be put at risk. It is a very complex topic and requires extensive debate.

First, to fully harness the potential of AI, educational institutions should ensure education and awareness campaigns on the use of Artificial Intelligence. In this regard, it is necessary to implement information campaigns about AI adapted to age categories and educational levels. In addition, it is necessary to introduce AI into university school curricula, with an emphasis on ethics, responsibility, critical thinking.

Secondly, another recommendation is regulation and transparency by developing a clear legislative framework regarding the use of AI in Romania. In this regard, the rights of citizens in the online environment must be respected. Therefore, laws must be drawn up through which citizens receive explanations in the case of automated decisions when their identity is at risk.

Thirdly, digital inclusion is necessary by ensuring digital literacy programs for vulnerable groups, such as young people and the elderly, to reduce gaps in understanding and usage.

Last but not least, an important aspect is the proper use of these technologies through monitoring their social impact, consisting of ongoing research and evaluations of AI's effects on the labor market, institutions, and socio-human relationships, as well as any potential social issues that may arise.

Conflicts of interest

The author declares no conflict of interest.

Annexes

1. What do you think about the use of Artificial Intelligence in everyday life?
   It is beneficial and effective
   It is useful, but needs to be regulated
   It is dangerous
   I don't have a clear opinion
   Others

2. Have you ever used a virtual assistant based on Artificial Intelligence (e.g., Siri, Gemini, ChatGPT, Alexa)?
   Yes, frequently
   Yes, occasionally
   No, but I know what it is
   No, I don't know what it is
   Others

3. In what context have you used Artificial Intelligence?
   At work
   In your personal life
   At school
   Never
   Others

4. Has Artificial Intelligence influenced your decision-making?
   To some extent
   To a small extent
   To a large extent
   To a very large extent

5. What is your opinion on the use of Artificial Intelligence in Medicine and Research?
   Very good
   Good
   Not so good
   Not good at all

6. What do you think about the use of Artificial Intelligence in Education?
   Very good
   Good
   Not so good
   Not good at all

7. What do you think about the use of Artificial Intelligence in Economics?
   Very good
   Good
   Not so good
   Not good at all

8. What do you think about the use of Artificial Intelligence in Process Automation?
Very good
Good
Not so good
Not good at all

9. What is your opinion on the use of Artificial Intelligence in Justice System?
Very good
Good
Not so good
Not good at all

10. What is your opinion on the use of Artificial Intelligence in Military field?
Very good
Good
Not so good
Not good at all

11. What is your opinion on the use of Artificial Intelligence in Administration and Public Services?
Very good
Good
Not so good
Not good at all

12. What is your opinion on the use of Artificial Intelligence in Manufacturing?
Very good
Good
Not so good
Not good at all

13. What do you think about the use of Artificial Intelligence in Sales?
Very good
Good
Not so good
Not good at all

14. What do you think about the use of Artificial Intelligence in Mass-Media?
Very good
Good
Not so good
Not good at all

15. What do you think about the use of Artificial Intelligence in Agriculture?
Very good
Good
Not so good
Not good at all

16. What advantages do you think Artificial Intelligence brings to Romanian society?

17. What concerns/challenges do you think the development of Artificial Intelligence would bring?

18. Do you think Artificial Intelligence could violate any of your rights? Which ones?

19. How do you see the future of AI in the next 10 years?

20. What is your educational background?
    High school
    10th grade
    Vocational school
    Bachelor's degree
    Master's degree
    Doctorate
    Others

21. What is your marital status?
    Married
    Unmarried
    In a relationship
    NS/NR

22. What is your gender?
    Male
    Female
    NS/NR

23. How old are you?

24. Where do you live?
    Rural
    Urban

25. In what locality do you live?

About the author

Roxana-Mihaela NEDELCU (ZAFIU) is a Digital Marketing Specialist on digital platforms in the automotive sector and a PhD Student in Sociology at SNSPA, Bucharest, Romania.

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