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Technology Impact Cycle Tool

Our research, based on the philosophy of technology, aims at letting students think critically about new technologies and their potential impact on society.

You might think that thinking about the influence of technology on our human world is something for tech-nerds only. But, as technology is influencing our lives in many ways (for instance: who does not have an internet connected, data collecting mobile phone nowadays?) more and more people are involved. Engineers because they are creators, non-technical people because they can be users or decision makers for others, politicians because they make the rules in which technological companies can operate and journalist because they can function as smart thorns in our digital world by asking critical questions.

With this research we argue not to judge but to guide technological development in a way so that future harm can be minimized and positive impact can be optimized. We do so by asking questions in all stages of the design process in categories like privacy, stakeholders, human values, data, transparency, inclusivity, sustainability and future impact.

The output of our research is a toolkit called the Technology Impact Cycle Tool (www.TICT.io) that is tested and can be used in all groups mentioned above. The toolkit is free to use and helps you design, invent or use technology that makes a positive impact on society. The overarching goal is to design in such a way that we do not regret what we do now if we look back at it in the future.