



BRAID Stakeholder Forum

Terms of Reference

2026-2028

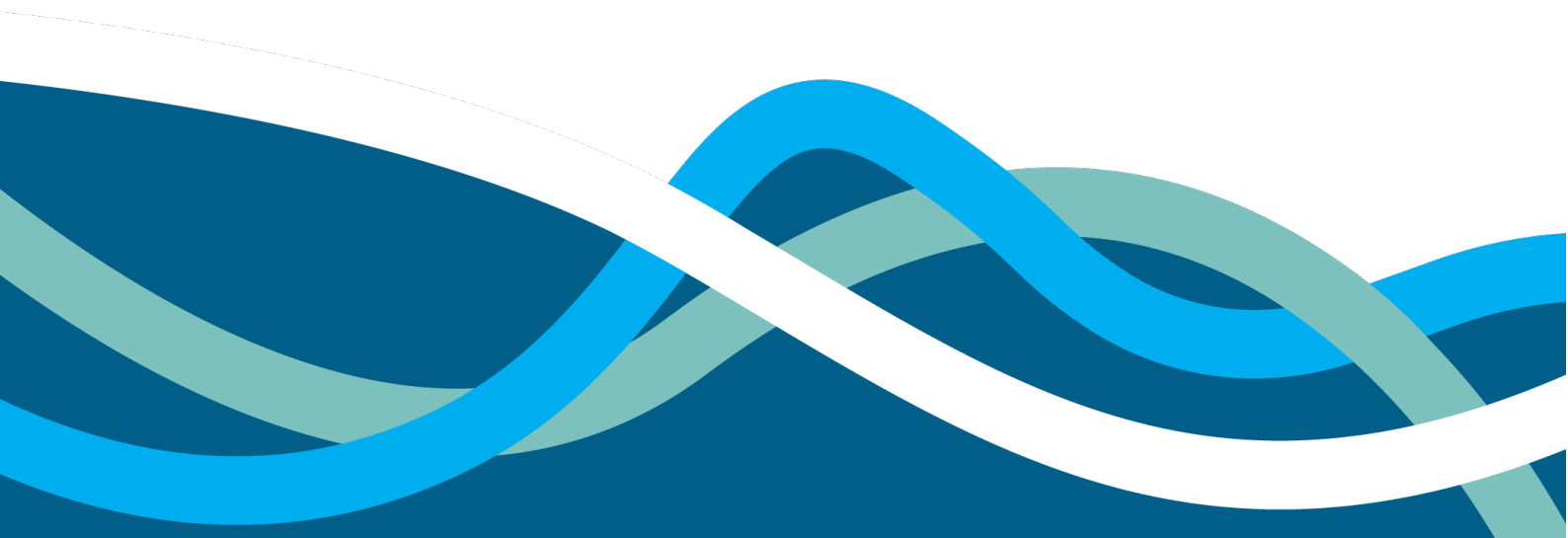


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The following document sets out background information about the BRAID project and the Terms of Reference for the BRAID Stakeholder Forum, Forum members and the Forum Chair. This document should be read in conjunction with the Stakeholder Forum Member Agreement and Declaration of Interests documents that Forum Members are asked to sign.

● ● ● About BRAID (Bridging Responsible AI Divides)

BRAID is a six-year (2022-2028) national research programme funded by the UKRI Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC), led by the University of Edinburgh in partnership with the Ada Lovelace Institute and the BBC. The current programme of work (2025-2028) builds upon the first three years of the programme, which focused on distributing funding and establishing community.

BRAID is dedicated to integrating Arts, Humanities and Social Science research more fully into the Responsible AI ecosystem, as well as bridging the divides between academic, industry, policy and regulatory work on responsible AI.

The BRAID Programme is based on meeting the following objectives:

1. **New communities:** Building a larger, more diverse and better-connected AI ecosystem, linking research, industry, third sector and policy stakeholders, with greater awareness of and engagement with responsible AI
2. **New communication channels/partnerships:** Establishing new communication channels/partnerships between actors in the AI ecosystem and existing partnerships substantially strengthened
3. **Regulation and Self-regulation:** are supported and incentivised across the AI lifecycle
4. **Public confidence/engagement:** providing evidence of increased public confidence in engaging with AI conversations and the inclusion of individuals and groups currently underrepresented in AI conversations
5. **Value of Arts and Humanities research in responsible AI:** Delivering increased recognition of the value that Arts and Humanities research can contribute to advancing the UK's world-leading position in responsible AI

The Programme comprises of 3 delivery strands:

Community & Capability: This strand will strengthen ties between and within R-AI communities in the UK, boosting the essential skills, literacy and capacity within communities to deliver Responsible AI outcomes.

Recourse & Repair: This strand will focus on identifying barriers to citizen and public recourse for AI-driven harms, potential pathways for repair of institutional, environmental and community damage, and resources needed to restore balance of accountability in a healthy R-AI ecosystem.

Public Media & Democracy: This strand will address AI's impact on the public media ecosystem and potential epistemic harms that result from use of AI in the newsroom and beyond.

More information about BRAID can be accessed via the project website:

<https://braiduk.org/>



● ● ● The BRAID Stakeholder Forum

Objectives and Scope

The Forum is committed towards facilitating a space for meaningful engagement and two-way flow of information between the BRAID Programme and Forum Members. The nature of the funding of projects like BRAID demands that most of its activities have been pre-determined, as such, the Forum will primarily be a space to consider the ways in which the work of BRAID can be of value to stakeholders. There is nonetheless, scope through the Forum for Members to feed in to and shape BRAID activities, including new initiatives.

Forum Composition

The Forum consists of: 17 permanent external Forum Members (Forum Members), the Forum Independent Chair (Forum Chair), the Stakeholder Forum Secretariat comprising of members of BRAID (including those involved through the Ada Lovelace Institute and the BBC) (Forum Secretariat), and two open seats to bring in additional expertise/representation where appropriate depending on the forum topic (Ad hoc Forum Members).

● ● ● Forum Members and Responsibilities

Members are a group of expert advisors who will share their research, practice and policy expertise with the BRAID team. We have assembled a group which comprises a diverse range of professional and personal backgrounds. This includes representation from: civil society groups, community groups who can reflect needs of marginalised communities, academics, industry groups, artists and creatives/freelancers/early career entrepreneurs, regulators and policy-makers. We may also seek to expand the group's membership to fill missing areas of expertise that emerge as the work proceeds.

We hope that this will be an opportunity for expert advisors to influence and shape an important programme that envisages tangible benefits. Noting that the broad focus areas have been agreed along with the high-level outputs, Members will:

- Read all materials provided by BRAID in advance of meetings
- Provide situated knowledge and experience to the programme of work
- Offer feedback on relevant outputs
- Share advice on potential audiences/networks whom we could engage with
- Help to amplify the programme's impact
- Approach the discussions with appropriate transparency of interests
- Engage with all Forum members with respect and openness
- Treat topics of discussion with appropriate sensitivity

Forum members perform an advisory role and are not accountable or responsible for the BRAID programme of work or its quality. We are appreciative of the commitment and contributions you will be making and want to support everyone to take an active role in the Forum. Some members will be supported by their workplace, or even join as organisational members, but if participation in the Forum falls outside the scope of your responsibilities within your current employment, we will offer you a contribution for your participation (£75 per Forum meeting to cover participation and pre/post-meeting preparation). We will also cover travel and accommodation costs for attendance at two in-person meetings (taking place at a central location in the UK).

Additional support to facilitate your participation, such as caring or other childcare costs can be requested via [BRAID's Accessibility Fund](#) and will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

● ● ● Forum Chair

The Forum Chair is independent from BRAID/Ada Lovelace/BBC and has expertise in Responsible AI and the arts and creative sector. They will work with the Forum Secretariat, to support and lead the achievement of the Forum objectives. The Chair will play a key role in guiding Forum discussions and facilitating the voicing of diverse perspectives from Forum members. They will Chair all Forum meetings and attend additional interim meetings with the Forum Secretariat.

Along with the Forum Secretariat, the Chair will play an active role in:

- i. shaping the agenda for Forum meetings;
- ii. chairing meetings;
- iii. encouraging participation by Forum members;
- iv. summarizing and communicating the views of Forum members to the BRAID leadership and the BRAID Advisory Board;
- v. assisting with the dissemination of outputs; and
- vi. helping to raise the profile and reach of BRAID and Forum members.

● ● ● Meetings and Materials

There will be three Forum meetings within one 12 month period. All meetings will be held online, apart from two in -person meetings to be hosted by either BRAID at University of Edinburgh and/or Ada Lovelace Institute and/or the BBC.

Meetings will last no longer than 2.5 hours, taking place on a weekday. Members will be given as much advance notice as possible of Forum dates (aiming for a minimum of 4 weeks notice).

Before Meetings: The Chair will comment on documentation and agenda-setting and work with the Forum Secretariat on content, materials and pre-meeting information. Materials will be prepared by the Forum Secretariat and made available to members well in advance of meetings. Members will read all materials in advance of meetings.

During Meetings: Discussions will be documented during meetings by BRAID members. Forum members are expected to participate meaningfully in the discussions and engage respectfully with each other.

After Meetings: Discussions will be summarised by the Forum Secretariat and shared with Members who will be asked to comment on the discussions and suggest any amendments.

Some of the papers and discussions in relation to BRAID may be more highly charged or sensitive in nature than others, meaning that they might require careful handling by Forum Members. The Forum Secretariat will flag any such topics/materials/discussions including those which are confidential and that should not be shared further.

● ● ● Reporting and Representation

All Forum Members are asked to sign a declaration of interests in advance of joining the Forum and to declare any relevant interests at the beginning of each Forum meeting.

After Forum meetings, the Chair and Forum Secretariat will create sharable summaries of Forum discussions, Members are asked to share these outputs as appropriate with their organisations and networks. These will be made available via the BRAID website and across Responsible-AI networks.

We will not attribute any specific comments made during meetings to individual members or the organisations they represent unless they explicitly consent to us doing so.



BRAID is a UK-wide programme dedicated to integrating Arts and Humanities research more fully into the Responsible AI ecosystem, as well as bridging the divides between academic, industry, policy and regulatory work on responsible AI. Funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC), BRAID represents AHRC's major investment in enabling responsible AI in the UK.

The Programme runs from 2022 to 2028. Working in partnership with the Ada Lovelace Institute and BBC, BRAID supports a network of interdisciplinary researchers and partnering organisations through the delivery of funding calls, community building events, and a series of programmed activities. Funding reference: Arts and Humanities Research Council grant number AH/X007146/1.

Learn more at www.braiduk.org

To request an alternative format of this document, please email braid@ed.ac.uk