



# Activity report Fostering Responsible AI Adoption and Implementation

March 2024



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## Message from the Chair of the Board of Directors

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Dear CEIMIA Board members, partners and collaborators,

As we come to the end of this milestone year for CEIMIA, I'm particularly proud to reflect on our journey from our beginnings in 2021, and even before our "official" launch! Since its inauguration, our organization has experienced remarkable growth, with the development of a strong, committed team that works closely with GPAI members and expert working groups.

The year 2023–2024 will go down as a significant transition period for CEIMIA, given developments tied to the GPAI reorganization and the major changes around the world regarding artificial intelligence and public policy. These challenges and opportunities have enabled us to consolidate our vision.

I would like to express my deep gratitude to all of you, and in particular to Sophie Fallaha and the entire team, for their unwavering dedication throughout the year. The latest GPAI Summit was an important milestone, illustrating our significant progress and commitment to tangible results. What better testament to the positive trajectory we have charted together.

As we reflect on CEIMIA's achievements and success, I'm proud to say that we've accomplished many ambitious goals. The significant progress of our initiatives in middle- and low-income countries and the ongoing strengthening of our partnerships attest to our commitment and effectiveness.

All this has been made possible thanks to the exemplary commitment of everyone on our Board of Directors and our network of partners.

Together, we continue to pave the way towards a future where artificial intelligence drives progress and sustainable development, while respecting our core values of ethics, inclusion and innovation.

Sincerely,

**Marc-Etienne Ouimette**

Chair of the Board of Directors

## Message from the Executive Director

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Dear directors, members, collaborators and partners,

The entire CEIMIA team is delighted to present its activity report dated March 31, 2024. This past year's results demonstrate CEIMIA's strength in spurring international multi-stakeholder collaborations and multilateral partnerships. We are well on the way to achieving our objectives, as demonstrated by the fact that we have met or exceeded our performance and impact indicators—as you will see throughout this report.

Applied, high value-added projects in responsible AI were delivered, both in support of GPAI and as part of CEIMIA's own portfolio. These include the delivery of an introductory technical demonstration of a privacy-enhancing technology, a comparative framework for the AI regulatory policy, data sharing for collective benefit through data institutions, a validation mechanism for the deployment of high-impact public health solutions and tools for pandemic resilience, and a research commercialization strategy as part of a project on the discoverability of French-language cultural content online. Support for middle- and low-income countries was confirmed once again this year, with the materialization of key projects such as assessment and implementation tools to advance data justice.

The team also delivered major events this year. These include the first GPAI Innovation Workshop, co-organization of the ALL IN Conference, and the creation of technical content for the annual GPAI Summit in New Delhi. CEIMIA's advisory role was strengthened this year, as evidenced by its participation in national and international working groups and major conferences.

I would like to thank our Board of Directors and all our partners for their unfailing support. Lastly, a special word of thanks to the entire team. You are all pillars of CEIMIA's success—thank you!

Enjoy your reading!

**Sophie Fallaha**

Executive Director



# 1. CEIMIA at a glance

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## 1.1. Vision and mission

CEIMIA is positioned as a key player in the responsible development of artificial intelligence, based on principles of ethics, human rights, inclusion, diversity, innovation and economic growth.

*CEIMIA develops and implements high-impact applied projects in responsible artificial intelligence.*

As an international non-profit organization, CEIMIA mobilizes expertise and resources to promote the development and responsible use of artificial intelligence for the benefit of humanity. Our mission:

- To provide a team of professionals skilled in structuring, financing and managing applied AI projects in an agile entrepreneurial environment.
- To establish supportive connections between key players in the national and international AI ecosystems, by interacting directly with governments and national AI institutes in Quebec, Canada and abroad.
- To promote diversity and inclusion in all its projects.

CEIMIA champions the values of excellence, entrepreneurship, collaboration and inclusion in all its activities.

## 1.2. Supporting GPAI

Launched in 2020 with the leadership of Canada and France, the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI) is a multi-stakeholder initiative that aims to bridge the gap between theory and practice in the development of responsible AI. As of March 31, 2024, GPAI had 29 members, including the European Union. Its secretariat is hosted by the OECD, one of its observers, and UNESCO is also an observer.

Built around a shared commitment to the OECD Principles on Artificial Intelligence, GPAI fosters international cooperation by gathering engaged minds and expertise from science, industry, civil society, governments, international organizations and academia. This community brings together some 150 international experts.

GPAI Experts collaborate in four working groups (WGs): the WG on Responsible AI, the WG on Data Governance, the WG on the Future of Work, and the WG on Innovation and Commercialization.

Three Expert Support Centers assist the work: CEIMIA for the Responsible AI and Data Governance WGs, and a center at Inria in France supports the Future of Work and Innovation and Commercialization WGs. A third center was appointed by member countries in December 2023 and will be established at Tokyo's National Institute of Information and Communications Technology (NICT) to support work on generative AI.

### 1.3. CEIMIA members

Multi-stakeholder international collaboration is rooted in CEIMIA's mission, and is well represented by its network of members. CEIMIA's 19 member organizations come from the public, semi-public, and private and academic sectors, as well as from international and civil society organizations.

**Figure 1: CEIMIA members as at March 31, 2024**



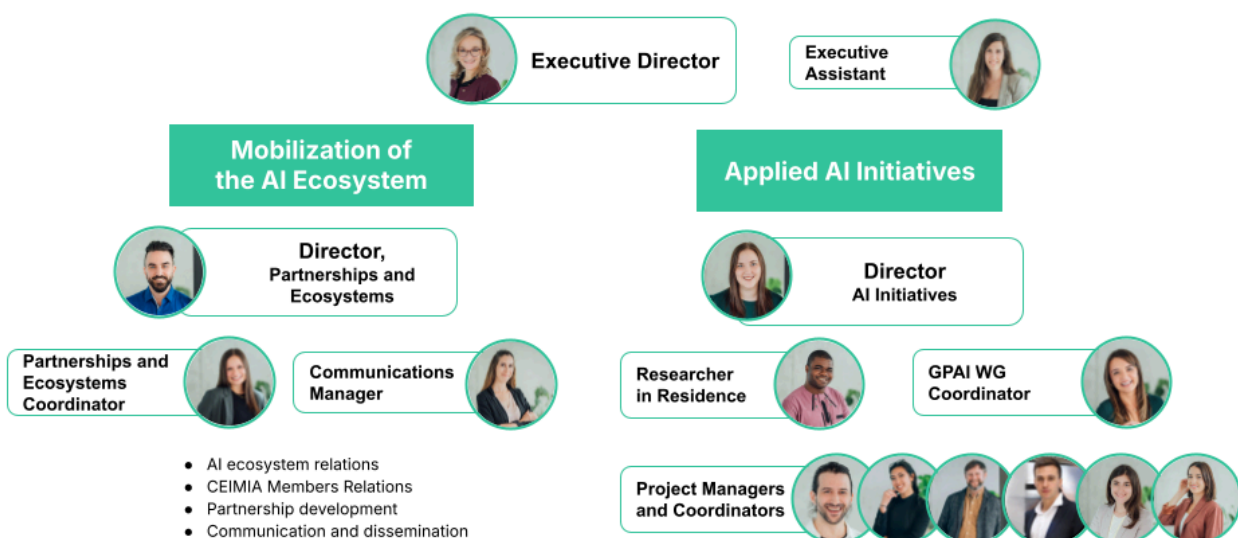
## 1.4. CEIMIA Board of Directors and team

The CEIMIA [Board of Directors](#) also represents this international, multi-stakeholder diversity. It includes the following members:

- Marc-Etienne Ouimette (President), Global Lead AI Policy – Amazon (AWS)
- John Hepburn (Secretary), CEO and Scientific Director – MITACS
- Lyse Langlois (Treasurer), Executive Director – OBVIA
- Philippe Beaudoin, Co-Founder and CEO – Waverly
- Ashley Casovan, Managing Director – IAPP AI Governance Center
- Jean-Philbert Nsengimana, Chief Digital Advisor – Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention
- Lee Tiedrich, Law and Ethical Technology Professor – Duke University Science & Society
- Sonia Sennik, Executive Director – Creative Destruction Lab

The CEIMIA team brings together talented individuals adept at structuring, financing and managing applied AI projects in an agile entrepreneurial environment, as well as skills in developing ecosystems and promising partnerships.

**Figure 2: CEIMIA 2023–2024 team**



## 1.5. Strategic objectives

In 2021, CEIMIA adopted its first strategic plan, setting out five major strategic objectives:

1. Implement innovative, high-impact and socially responsible applied AI projects;
2. Showcase Quebec and Canadian AI ecosystems in the field of responsible AI;
3. Develop innovative collaboration and funding models in the field of responsible AI;
4. Promote the inclusion of middle- and low-income countries in the responsible AI ecosystem;
5. Communicate and promote CEIMIA's activities and achievements to build its reputation nationally and internationally.

CEIMIA evaluates its performance and impact in relation to each of these objectives, as illustrated in the following table:

| 1. Implement innovative, high-impact and socially responsible AI projects                   |
|---|
| <b>Financial metrics</b>  |
| Annual budget   |
| Seed funding  |
| Scale up  |
| Total value of projects in which CEIMIA is involved   |
| <b>Impact metrics</b>   |
| Adoption of outputs   |
| Contribution to the knowledge space   |
| Education and upskilling  |
| Direct impact: Program related impact will be project specific and should be assessed as is |

## 2. Showcase Quebec and Canadian AI ecosystems in the field of responsible AI

### *Dissemination and promotion metrics*

Fund opportunities for promoting Canadian/Quebec AI Expertise

### *Impact metrics*

Percentage of projects that include a Canadian/Quebec partner

Number of organisations that benefitted from funding to attend events

## 3. Develop innovative models of collaboration and funding in the field of responsible AI

### *Community metrics*

Key strategic collaborators

Number of partnerships

Network of partners

Percentage of projects with a multistakeholder balance in the partnerships: Science; industry, civil society, NGOs; iNGOs

Composition of CEIMIA's Members Assembly

### *Impact metrics*

Number of initiatives: financial and types of initiatives

## 4. Promote the inclusion of Global South countries in the responsible AI ecosystem

### *Project metrics*

Seed funding of low and middle-income countries (LMIC)-focused projects

Scaling up of projects for LMIC-focused projects

### *Community metrics*

Number of researchers from LMIC

Number of geographic representations

### *Impact metrics*

Number of LMIC organisations partnering in our projects

Number of LMIC organisations receiving funds

| 5. Communicate and promote CEIMIA's activities and accomplishments to build its reputation |
|--|
| <b>Representation metrics</b>  |
| Meeting influential organisations to disseminate the work                                  |
| <b>Communication metrics</b>   |
| Newsletters  |
| Number of social media posts   |
| Number of webinars   |
| Number of papers & blogs articles published  |
| Number of conferences  |
| <b>Impact metrics</b>  |
| Number of followers & impressions on social media  |
| Contributions to AI related Committees   |

The full list of performance and impact indicators is available in Appendix 1.

The next two sections of this activity report highlight CEIMIA's achievements and performance results to date, in relation to each of the five strategic objectives listed. For ease of understanding, the objectives are divided to reflect the way CEIMIA conducts its operations (via the organization's two main pillars). The projects section mainly covers strategic objectives 1 to 4, while the communications and outreach section focuses mainly on strategic objective 5.

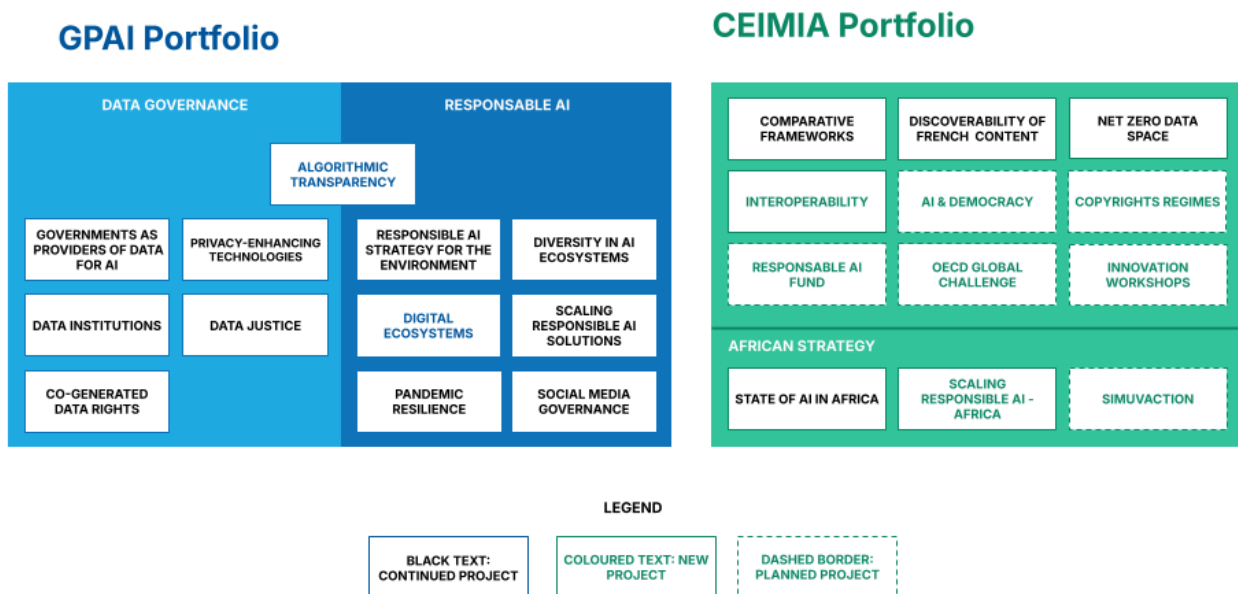
## 2. High-impact projects in responsible AI

### 2.1. Projects

Projects supported by CEIMIA, whether in the GPAI portfolio or the CEIMIA portfolio, enable the following:

- Organizing and implementing multi-stakeholder applied AI projects in an international context;
- Creating alliances with international leaders in responsible AI,
- Staying at the forefront of global trends and issues in responsible AI.

**Figure 3: GPAI and CEIMIA project portfolio**



For all these projects:

- More than **C\$3.5 million invested in seed capital**;
- More than **C\$7.7 million were matched** through additional funding or partnerships;
- **34 real-world, applied deliverables** (out of a total of 50) from **28 projects**.

Beyond performance, CEIMIA measures the impact of its projects along three axes: adoption of deliverables, contribution to the development of new knowledge, and education and skills enhancement on these cutting-edge subjects.

Here is an overview of this year's highest-impact projects, along with their key figures:



## Discoverability of french cultural content online

### Achievements

- ★ Structured research objectives into six subprojects, leveraging MITACS to **increase available funding by 180%** (\$250,000 CEIMIA up to \$450,000 CEIMIA + MITACS)
- ★ Kicked off the **veille technologique**: tracking AI developments that may impact artists and cultural industries.
  - Findings will be shared with the project's Steering Committee to help inform future project developments, contributing to capacity building at the cross-section of AI and discoverability in the Quebec ecosystem.
  - Steering Committee includes representation from the following organisations:



### Impact

#### Adoption of Outputs

#### Contribution to the Knowledge Space

- ✓ In progress: development of new knowledge
- ✓ In progress: tools in production
- ✓ In progress: production and dissemination of monthly technology intelligence bulletins

#### Education and Upskilling

- ✓ Anticipating 7 local researchers for 12 to 18-month assignments (5 confirmed, 2 to be identified)
- ✓ Participation in ecosystem workshops and events (LATICCE, ORBICOM)

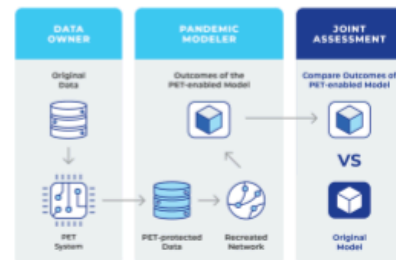




## Privacy-Enhancing Technologies

### Achievements

- ★ Conducted a **practical demonstration** of how homomorphic encryption and differential privacy PETs can help improve data availability for AI use cases beneficial to humanity
  - Identified **24 use cases** following interviews with Experts across GPAI priorities; ranked each against evaluation criteria considering **feasibility, relevance and dissemination potential, exploitability and re-usability** → selected use case on the **spread of pandemics** as detailed visibility of individuals' movement may further improve the effectiveness of the analysis
  - Developed **guidance** and appropriate **considerations for use** of these technologies (e.g., governance, computing needs, etc.)
- ★ Facilitated an in-depth **1.5M partnership with government of Singapore** to conduct demonstration (ex: research funds and personnel, data provision, dissemination)



### Impact

#### Adoption of Outputs

- ✓ Singapore adopting methodology and findings for future in-house PET research
- ✓ France, US, UK indicated interest in adoption in methodology and findings following presentation of the work

#### Contribution to the Knowledge Space

- ✓ Development of new knowledge: proved ability of homomorphic encryption and differential privacy to provide near-identical analysis results to non-PET modelling

#### Education and Upskilling

- ✓ 3 x information sessions with international PET network<sup>1</sup> to discuss findings of ongoing and completed PET initiatives
- ✓ Project findings disseminated at SGxAsiaTech



## Artificial intelligence for pandemic resilience: A mechanism for validating and deploying high-impact solutions and tools for public health

### Achievements

- ★ **Undertook novel research approach:** built ensemble model in collaboration with three research teams. Identified that ensemble modelling provides unique opportunities for **rapid, data-based policy development** and **responsible policy implementation** by strengthening the modeling evidence base and permitting scenario evaluation under conditions of uncertainty.

### Impact

#### Adoption of Outputs

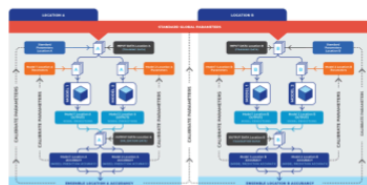
- ✓ Project outcomes cited by two GPAI Members as representing the ideal vision of GPAI projects

#### Contribution to the Knowledge Space

- ✓ New methodology of ensemble modelling, addressing some challenges of existing ensemble modelling methods

#### Education and Upskilling

- ✓ Opportunity to conduct novel research for three involved research teams, including one researcher from LMIC
- ✓ Project outcomes distilled into recommendations for policy makers; building capacity for model-enhanced decision making



## Comparative Framework - Phases 1 and 2

### Achievements

- ★ Developed an **accessible comparative framework** that captures key similarities and differences of **ten jurisdictions' approaches to regulatory policy** for governing AI, containing seven categories:
  - definition of AI, key aims, scope and focal areas, approach to risk, regulatory requirements, monitoring and enforcement, and flexibility and revisions
- ★ The framework and associated report symbolises an important first step for the ecosystem to **promote deeper cooperation and improved interoperability of regulatory frameworks** for AI

|                  | USA   | UK  | Canada   | EU   | China                                 |
|------------------|---|---|--|--|---------------------------------------|
| Definition of AI | Regulatory policies refer to either "automated systems" or "AI systems." The BOR defines the former as "any system, software, or process that uses computation as whole or part of a system to determine outcomes, make or aid decisions, inform policy implementation, collect data or observations, or otherwise interact with individuals or communities." ... | The UK sets out the core characteristics of AI (adaptiveness and autonomy) which inform the scope of the AI regulatory framework, while allowing regulators to set out and evolve more detailed definitions of AI according to their specific domains or sectors. | AIDA defines "AI systems" as "a technological system that, autonomously or partly autonomously, processes data related to human activities through the use of a genetic algorithm, a neural network, machine learning or another technique in order to generate content or make decisions, recommendations or predictions" ... | In the draft AI Act "AI system" means software that is developed with one or more of the techniques and approaches listed in Annex I (currently cites ML, logic- and knowledge-based, and statistical approaches) and can, for a given set of human-defined objectives, generate outputs such as content, predictions, recommendations, or decisions influencing the environments they interact with". | No authoritative definition provided. |

### Impact

#### Adoption of Outputs

- ✓ 9 gov partners provided input to jurisdictional analyses and framework structure with intent to adopt to inform in-house understanding

#### Contribution to the Knowledge Space

- ✓ Development of new knowledge: First known jurisdiction-agnostic comparative framework for AI regulation
- ✓ Format allows for quick comparison of jurisdictions of interest by the reader; easily expandable

#### Education and Upskilling

- ✓ Presented the work during a convening of the Forum for Cooperation on Artificial Intelligence (FCAI)
- ✓ Hosted 2 information sessions to disseminate the work; one closed door session in-person, one public-facing online

## 2.2. A springboard for promoting Quebec and Canadian expertise in responsible AI

In its day-to-day activities, CEIMIA promotes Quebec and Canadian expertise in responsible AI. To this end, CEIMIA is working to:

- Identify and seize opportunities for experts and organizations in the Quebec and Canadian ecosystems, to facilitate their involvement in applied AI projects abroad;
- Promote the Quebec and Canadian responsible AI ecosystems by participating in key events
  - in Quebec and Canada, while promoting the organization internationally;
  - internationally, notably through GPAI Summits.

In total, **14 Canadian experts, including 7 from Quebec** have been appointed or elected to GPAI since its inception—representing expertise from academia, the private sector, civil society and international organizations. As a result, these individuals have been able to contribute directly to the development of applied projects with an influential international reach.

The GPAI community of experts showcases the AI expertise of Quebec and Canada. The following experts have been appointed or elected:

- Prof. Yoshua Bengio (MILA)
- Prof. Catherine Régis (UdeM)
- Prof. Marc-Antoine Dilhac (UdeM)
- Prof. Kimberlyn McGrail (University of British Columbia)
- Prof. Thierry Warin (HEC Montréal)
- Dr. John Hepburn (MITACS)
- Dr. Foteini Agrafioti (Borealis AI)
- Dr. Marzyeh Ghassemi (University of Toronto)
- Alex Shee (Oxford Internet Institute)
- Sarah Villeneuve (Partnership on AI)
- Jeff Ward (Animikii)
- Carole Piovesan (INQ Law)
- Sean Hinton (SkyHive)
- Jean-François Gagné (ServiceNow, formerly Element AI)

**56%** of projects supported by CEIMIA involve the active participation of experts or organizations from the Quebec and Canadian ecosystems, enabling them to shine on the world stage.

Since 2021, CEIMIA has positioned nearly **50 experts as speakers and panelists in responsible AI events** and some **20 or so organizations have received financial support** to contribute to international events —raising the profile of homegrown know-how (see details of conferences in section 3.2 and appendices 2, 3 and 4).

Also of note:

- A delegation of **16 organizations** took part in the GPAI 2022 Summit in Tokyo, creating an opportunity to exchange with players in the Japanese ecosystem in specific sectors of activity, and to showcase their expertise.
- The ALL IN Conference (September 2023) provided the opportunity to organize **8 conferences and panels** on responsible AI, featuring **21 Canadian representatives** including **18 from Quebec**.
- A significant contribution to the Conseil de l'Innovation du Québec's *AI Ready* report (in French only) on AI issues and opportunities, and the mobilization of **12 AI** experts specializing in environmental issues, including **10 Quebec experts**, for a daylong consultation.

### 2.3. Innovative collaboration and funding models

CEIMIA is a key player in catalyzing multi-stakeholder international partnerships—building on the strength of its national and international ecosystem and its ability to leverage funding.

#### Innovative collaboration and partnership models

CEIMIA is a catalyst for innovative models of international, multi-stakeholder and inclusive collaboration.

A few key figures:

- Collaborations with **5 international organizations**<sup>1</sup> and **23 governments**.<sup>2</sup>
- **203 international partnerships** (of which **35** with organizations in middle- and low-income countries) were created, in addition to

#### Examples of models

- **Collaborations and partnerships** with governments, governmental, philanthropic and private organizations, as well as internationally recognized AI Centers of Excellence;
- **Strategy for promoting Quebec's AI research ecosystem** through MITACS co-funding;
- **Innovation workshop.**

<sup>1</sup> OECD, UNESCO, IPBES, UN AI initiative, IEEE SA.

<sup>2</sup> Canada (including Quebec), United Kingdom, Singapore, France, India, Argentina, Mexico, Slovenia, United States, Senegal, Germany, Serbia, Brazil, Poland, Italy, Sweden, New Zealand, Korea, Cameroon, Turkey, Uruguay, Nigeria, Sierra Leone.

**54 national partnerships** as part of projects. A partnership implies a contribution of funds or resources to a project.

- **1 innovation workshop** in Montreal on generative AI and the environment, attended by almost 110 people, **19 GPAI experts** (including 2 from the Quebec and Canadian ecosystems) and **59 government representatives** from **18 countries**. At the same time, an innovation workshop with a focus on Africa was held, bringing together **10 experts** from **7 different** institutions, including 5 Canadian ones.<sup>3</sup>

## Funding and co-funding

Since the beginning of its activities, CEIMIA has established **partnerships** with or provided **financial or volunteer resources** to numerous organizations, governments and international bodies—demonstrating its ability to **leverage its funds**.

**More than C\$7.7 million obtained through various key funding opportunities** since CEIMIA's inception:

- **\$3.3M** from the UK for data justice and data trust issues;
- **\$435K** from the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) for CEIMIA projects in support of middle- and low-income countries;
- **\$1.5M** from Singapore for a project on privacy-enhancing technologies, the first multilateral international collaboration to demonstrate this technology;
- **\$2.1M** over three years also from the UK for the development of a database to support carbon neutrality—in collaboration with the Quebec and Canadian ecosystems;
- **\$475K** in philanthropic donations for projects carried out or to be carried out with experts in the Quebec or Canadian ecosystems—or with middle- and low-income countries;
- **\$584K** in collaborative partnerships with Centers of Excellence in 4 different countries—including Quebec and the rest of Canada;
- **\$200K** for **180%** leverage through a value enhancement strategy of the AI research ecosystem on the discoverability of French-language content.

<sup>3</sup> IDRC, Université Virtuelle du Sénégal, Africa Trade Desk, Université du Québec à Montréal, Concordia University, University of Ottawa, McGill University.

This funding, obtained for a variety of projects, illustrates CEIMIA's efficiency, ensures the sustainability of current projects and encourages future innovative collaborations.

## 2.4. Promote the inclusion of middle- and low-income countries in the responsible AI ecosystem

At the heart of CEIMIA's activities is the conviction that low- and middle-income countries must be part of the development discussion and the implementation of truly responsible AI. Of all the projects in the CEIMIA and GPAI portfolios, the following stand out:

- **More than \$950K in seed capital** for projects;
- **Over \$2M in leveraging** obtained through funding or internal partnerships,
- 1 program for **researcher-in-residence**;
- Funding for **12 researchers** from **4 geographical regions** (Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa, Southeast Asia, Oceania);
- Partnerships with **15 organizations** in middle- and low-income countries.

Here are a few key projects to highlight:



## Data Institutions: Trustworthy Data Institutional Framework

### Achievements

- ★ Developed a **practical tool** (blueprint) for organisations to **assess**, and subsequently, **improve** the trustworthiness of their data ecosystem(s) across four key indicators: *shared resources*, *community*, *rules*, and *governance*
- ★ Completed training and field testing **in partnership with** organisations based in **low-middle income countries**.



### Impact

#### Adoption of Outputs

- ✓ 37 organisations testing/piloting outputs
- ✓ JAPSSO and its network of 128 partner organisations, alongside Ekitia adopting outputs for their own contexts

#### Contribution to the Knowledge Space

- ✓ Development of new knowledge: iterating on features of existing trustworthiness frameworks and layering in aspects of community-driven data stewardship
- ✓ New implementation-ready tool developed for adoption

#### Education and Upskilling

- ✓ 91 workshop attendees across 4 workshops
- ✓ \$38,500 CAD to fund researchers in LMIC

Table 7 : Evaluation grid

| INDICATOR             | VARIABLES                           | Unknown (0 or 1) | Emerging (2 or 3) | Learning (4 or 5) | Developing (6 or 7) | Mastering (8 or 9) |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Shared resources (43) | Equitable access to resources       |                  |                   |                   |                     |                    |
|                       | Data infrastructure                 |                  |                   |                   |                     |                    |
|                       | Security and security               |                  |                   |                   |                     |                    |
|                       | Data quality                        |                  |                   |                   |                     |                    |
|                       | Usability                           |                  |                   |                   |                     |                    |
| Community (76)        | Participation                       |                  |                   |                   |                     |                    |
|                       | Representation                      |                  |                   |                   |                     |                    |
|                       | Data literacy                       |                  |                   |                   |                     |                    |
|                       | Identity and inclusiveness          |                  |                   |                   |                     |                    |
| Rules (54)            | Data sharing                        |                  |                   |                   |                     |                    |
|                       | Transparency                        |                  |                   |                   |                     |                    |
|                       | Robust data ownership               |                  |                   |                   |                     |                    |
|                       | Privacy                             |                  |                   |                   |                     |                    |
|                       | Responsibilities and accountability |                  |                   |                   |                     |                    |
| Governance (54)       | Societal impact                     |                  |                   |                   |                     |                    |
|                       | Data commons                        |                  |                   |                   |                     |                    |
|                       | Data justice                        |                  |                   |                   |                     |                    |
|                       | Data rights                         |                  |                   |                   |                     |                    |
|                       | Distribution of resources           |                  |                   |                   |                     |                    |
|                       | Technical/Policy/Right              |                  |                   |                   |                     |                    |
|                       | Policies                            |                  |                   |                   |                     |                    |





## Advancing research and practice for data justice

### Achievements

- ★ Designed and produced a **comprehensive communications campaign** based on the findings of the Data Justice project which concluded in 2022, including social media materials, a short video series, and an educational poster

### Impact

#### Adoption of Outputs

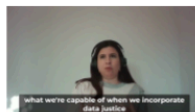
- ✓ Fold-out poster provided to all GPAI Members, noted to be the first tangible GPAI project output Members have received
- ✓ High demand for materials at GPAI Summit, additional materials specifically requested for upcoming UNESCO Global Forum on the Ethics of AI 2024 in Slovenia

#### Contribution to the Knowledge Space

- ✓ Project activities provided state-of-the-art review of data justice literature, synthesizing recommendations for various audiences

#### Education and Upskilling

- ✓ Campaign made the findings of project activities more easily accessible to online audiences



## Scaling Responsible AI Solutions

### Achievements

- ★ **Launched African-focused track** in collaboration with **IDRC** and the **African Center for Technology Studies (ACTS)**
- ★ Recruited **39** African mentors from **20** different countries, and are providing training/upskilling in four areas:
  - Module 1: Introduction to the Scaling RAI Solution Tools (mentorship guide, evaluation grid, documentation)
  - Module 2: Building a common understanding of Responsible AI
  - Module 3: Conducting Responsible AI assessments
  - Module 4: Scaling Responsible AI
- ★ Call for participation received **42 applications** (↑182% from 2023)



### Impact

#### Adoption of Outputs

- ✓ 2023 project methodology adopted as basis for 2024 African track

#### Contribution to the Knowledge Space

- ✓ First known initiative combining scaling challenges with responsible AI challenges
  - In progress: 2023 "how-to" tools currently in testing phase by African mentors

#### Education and Upskilling

- ✓ Participation call required 42 organisations to undertake readiness audit of their operations to complete their applications
- ✓ Scaling RAI-specific training for 39 African AI Experts to grow them into Team Mentors
  - Coming soon: mentorship activities for selected teams



## 3. Visibility and influence

CEIMIA's brand visibility and influence have strengthened over the past year—as illustrated by a strong presence on the international scene, through the organization of events, contributions to conferences and working groups, as well as communications actions.

### 3.1. Our events

Since its creation, CEIMIA has distinguished itself by organizing high-calibre international events. Here are just a few examples.

#### **GPAI Annual Summits**

Since the beginning of GPAI's activities, CEIMIA has been heavily involved in the organization of the annual summits. CEIMIA has taken charge of or been involved in four annual summits to date:

- Montreal Summit, 2020 (online)
- Paris Summit, 2021 (hybrid)
- Tokyo Summit, 2022 (in person);
- New Delhi Summit, 2023 (in person - below)



For each edition, CEIMIA provides expertise and support to the host country to organize and stage the Summit, thereby ensuring consistency in terms of content and organization quality. During the last two editions, which were held in person, CEIMIA was responsible for the organization of **9 content sessions** in Tokyo, and **7 content sessions** in New Delhi, enabling GPAI experts and ecosystem partners to promote various projects and innovative initiatives in responsible AI.

For the Tokyo 2022 Summit, CEIMIA also set up a delegation consisting of **14 representatives** from **14 Canadian** and **Quebec institutions**<sup>4</sup> with the aim of creating synergies between the Canadian and Japanese ecosystems.

### GPAl Innovation Workshop

The innovation workshop is a co-creation exercise between governments and experts, with the aim of defining a strategic roadmap of projects to meet the



challenges facing GPAI member countries. At the end of two days' work, a list of hands-on projects is defined, including high-level work plans. In collaboration with the Paris Expert Support Center, hosted by Inria, CEIMIA organized the first

GPAl Innovation Workshop in September 2023.

The themes of this first innovation workshop covered the challenges, impacts and opportunities of generative AI, as well as the AI-environment nexus. The event brought together nearly **110 people** including **19 GPAI experts** (2 from the Quebec and Canadian ecosystems), and **59 government delegates** from **18 countries**.

In line with CEIMIA's objective of supporting the voice of middle- and low-income countries, an innovation workshop specifically targeting Africa was held at the same

<sup>4</sup> Moov AI, IVADO, Mila, Synthesis Health, Careteam Technologies, Troj AI, Vector Institute, iNAGO Corp, Beam Me Up - Augmented Intelligence, Brainbox AI, Private AI, Cyclica, Willows and Altis Lab.

time. It brought together **10 experts** from **7** different **institutions** including 5 Canadian ones.<sup>5</sup>

## ALL IN

CEIMIA is co-founder and co-organizer of the ALL IN Conference, which was held at the Palais des congrès de Montréal on September 27 and 28, 2023, and will return in fall 2024. Presented in collaboration with Scale.AI and Mila, ALL IN is Canada's largest AI-related conference, and brought together over **2,300 participants** from

**20 countries**. CEIMIA played a major role in the organization of the event, notably through its contribution to the promotion of responsible AI. CEIMIA organized all the sessions on the challenges of responsible AI, i.e. **8 content sessions**. Through these sessions, CEIMIA demonstrated the strength of the Quebec and Canadian ecosystem in responsible AI, with



contributions from experts such as Catherine Régis, Sasha Luccioni, David Rolnick, Phil Dawson, Duncan Cass-Beggs, Philippe Beaudoin and others. The various themes addressed during these sessions (e.g. AI governance, environmental issues, the future of work) spoke to several international delegations, who acknowledged the valuable contribution made by Quebec and Canada to responsible AI issues.

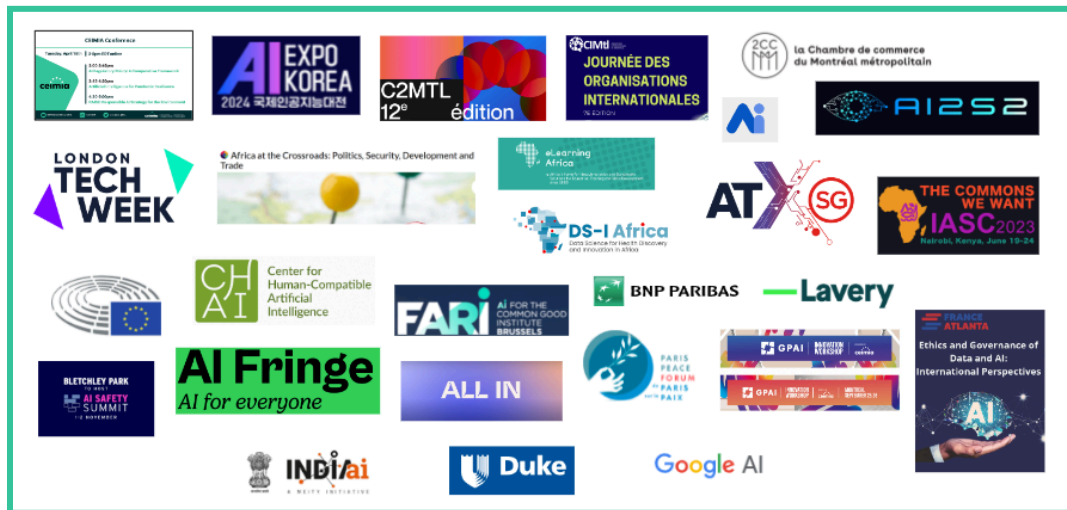
## 3.2. Our conferences

Increasing invitations to contribute to the international dialogue around AI governance attest to CEIMIA's positive impact and enhanced visibility. They underscore not only the growing interest in the organization's contributions, but also the recognition of its important role in the ecosystem.

<sup>5</sup> IDRC, Université Virtuelle du Sénégal, Africa Trade Desk, Université du Québec à Montréal, Concordia University, University of Ottawa and McGill University.



Figure 4: Conferences organized or attended by CEIMIA





The full list of conferences is available in Appendix 2 and is summarized here:

- **19 conferences** at international events—including **4** in collaboration with middle- and low-income countries,
- **8 conferences** at national events.

A few key conferences had a major impact on CEIMIA's visibility:

- [Korean AI Expo](#) – Seoul – 32,000-strong event bringing together South Korean talent from industry and academia
- [42nd EU-Canada Inter-parliamentary Meeting](#) – Brussels – audience of around 50 people, representatives of MPs and parliamentarians from Canada and the 27 member states of the European Union.
- [All In](#) – Montreal: 2 conferences, round table with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, round table with Minister Pierre Fitzgibbon, 4 meetings with ministerial delegations from international governments (France, Austria, India, Sweden).
- Panel at the [Royal Society](#) in conjunction with the [UK AI Safety Summit](#)

### 3.3. Our contribution to national and international working groups

CEIMIA's advisory role has been strengthened since its creation, and it is in this context that it sits on an increasing number of national and international committees and working groups committed to developing the frameworks of the AI governance toolbox.

#### Local and national committees

- Conseil de l'Innovation du Québec advisory committee for the *AI Ready* report (in French only)
- Strategic advisory committee on emerging technologies of the Chamber of Commerce of Metropolitan Montreal
- Global Index on Responsible AI
- Government of Canada's AI Advisory Council
- Living Lab for Innovation in Aerospace steering committee

## International committees

- High-Level Advisory Body on Artificial Intelligence – Network of Experts of the UN Office of the Secretary-General’s Envoy on Technology
- Global Index on Responsible AI
- Action Coalition on Meaningful Transparency
- Coalition for Digital Environmental Sustainability (CODES) of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE)
- International Organization for Standardization (ISO)
- Forum for Cooperation on AI – in collaboration with the Brookings Institution and the Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS)

## 3.4. Communication actions

This was a pivotal year for CEIMIA in terms of communication initiatives: reworking of the organization’s visual identity, design and launch of a new [website](#), defining the editorial line for our newsletters and sending out the first editions, and deploying CEIMIA’s presence on social media. This last action was carried out with a large-scale digital communication campaign for the project “Advancing research and practice for data justice.” This campaign is one of several key activities carried out this year.

### Key figures from CEIMIA’s social media presence



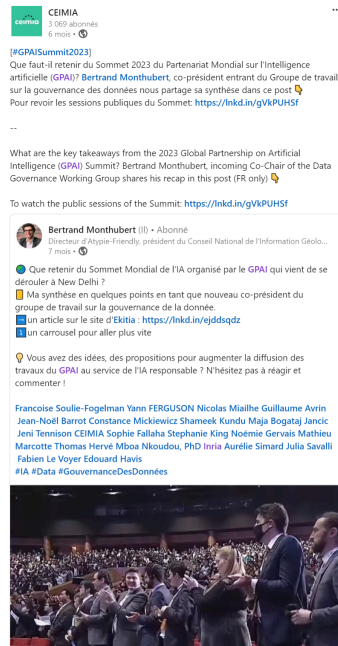
Growth of **106% in the number of subscribers** on LinkedIn in one year, reaching a total of **2,342** people following CEIMIA news on this platform:



- **192** posts in English and French on **LinkedIn** during the year, generating a total of **62,300** impressions, **4,897** reactions and **333** shares. These posts generated an average engagement rate of **7.11%** and an average click-through rate per impression of **4.66%**.

## LinkedIn posts with the best results:

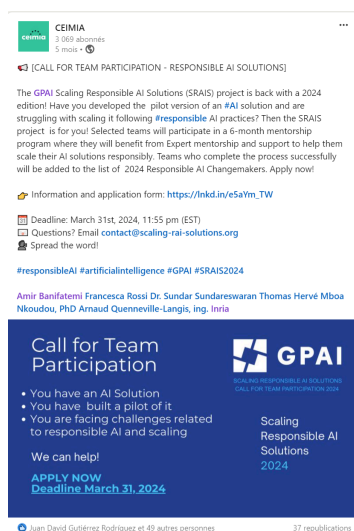
### #1 – Overall best performance



#### Summary of metrics of the post

| Impressions | Click rate | Engagement rate |
|-------------|------------|-----------------|
| 1193        | 31,94%     | 33,53%          |

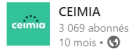
### #2 – Highest number of impressions and reposts



#### Summary of metrics of the post

| Impressions | Reshares |
|-------------|----------|
| 2548        | 35       |

### #3 - Highest click-through and engagement rates



What an eventful week last week! Thank you to all government representatives and Working Group Co-chairs and Co-leads for flying to Montreal for our first [GPAI #InnovationWorkshop](#) and for your active participation and collaborative mindset during these two days. Thank you also to our fantastic facilitators Dr. [Myrna Flores](#), Dr. [Ahmed Al-Ashaab](#), Dr. [Nicolás Rebolledo Bustamante](#), Dr. [Cristobal Garcia-Herrera](#) for leading these workshops, to [Mathes RAUSCH](#) for sharing with us his work for the international Youth Think tank on data and democracy, and to our colleague [Kaitlyn Bové](#) from the Paris Expert Support Centre ([Inria Paris](#)) for co-hosting this event with us. We are eager to analyse your ideas and visions in order to redefine the [GPAI](#) priorities and integrate them to our projects for the upcoming years!

Quelle semaine pour le [GPAI](#), le CEIMIA et l'[Inria Paris](#) la semaine dernière! Merci à tous les représentants des gouvernements membres et aux coprésidents et coresponsables des groupes de travail d'être venus à Montréal pour notre premier [#InnovationWorkshop](#), votre participation active et votre esprit de collaboration durant ces deux jours. Merci également à nos fantastiques animateurs Dr. [Myrna Flores](#), Dr. [Ahmed Al-Ashaab](#), Dr. [Nicolás Rebolledo Bustamante](#), Dr. [Cristobal Garcia-Herrera](#) d'avoir animé ces ateliers, à [Mathes RAUSCH](#) pour avoir partagé avec nous son travail sur les données et la démocratie pour le International Youth Think tank, et à notre collègue [Kaitlyn Bové](#) du Centre de support aux Experts de Paris ([Inria Paris](#)) pour sa présence et son soutien lors de cet événement. Nous sommes impatients d'analyser vos idées et vos visions afin de redéfinir les priorités du [GPAI](#) et de les intégrer à nos projets dans les années à venir!



#### Summary of metrics of the post

| Impressions | Click rate | Engagement rate |
|-------------|------------|-----------------|
| 646         | 37,46%     | 41,80%          |



**445** posts on **X** during the year, in French and English, for a total of **99,522** impressions, **3,125** reactions and **454** shares, with an average engagement rate of **5.27%** and an average click-through rate per impression of **0.36%**.

March 2023:  
152 followers

+ 193 Followers in  
a year

March 2024:  
345 followers



Among the posts on **X** this year, here are a few that stand out for their results:



## #1 – Post with the best overall performance

**CEIMIA** @CEIMIA\_mtl

📢 [CALL FOR TEAM PARTICIPATION - RAI SOLUTIONS]  
The Scaling RAI Solutions Project is back this year! Do you have a pilot version of an [AI](#) solution that you are trying to [scale](#) responsibly? Apply now! 📄  
[scaling-rai-solutions.org](https://scaling-rai-solutions.org)  
📅 Deadline: March 31, 2023, 11:55 pm EST



GPAl and 4 others

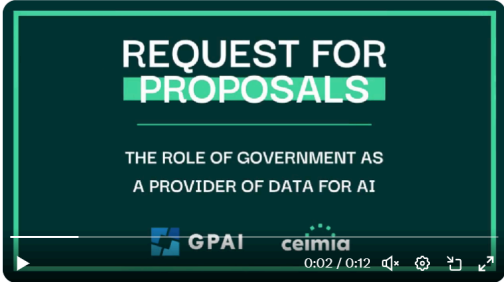
### Summary of metrics of the post

| Impressions | Engagement rate | Retweets |
|-------------|-----------------|----------|
| 3243        | 5,64%           | 16       |

## #2 – Best post in terms of impressions and reposts

**CEIMIA** @CEIMIA\_mtl

📢 [REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS]  
Governments are uniquely placed to provide [data](#) for social good. This project aims to support them to make decisions about whether (and how) to share the data they steward with [AI](#) developers.  
📅 Deadline: March 31  
📄 More info: [bit.ly/govdatarfp](https://bit.ly/govdatarfp)



8:11 PM · Mar 22, 2023 · 4,929 Views

### Summary of metrics of the post

| Impressions | Partages |
|-------------|----------|
| 4784        | 10       |

## #3 – Highest engagement and click-through rates

**CEIMIA** @CEIMIA\_mtl · Jun 8, 2023

📢 Would you like to get involved in one of the [GPAl PMIA](#) projects? We are looking for 4 research assistants for the Diversity and Gender Equality in [AI](#) project, conducted in collaboration with [Mila Quebec](#). For more information on the different opportunities 📄

💬 1 🔄 1 ❤️ 1 📊 252 📄 4

**CEIMIA** @CEIMIA\_mtl

1 research assistant to conduct a Literature review and provide overall technical and research support on topics related to diversity and gender equality. For additional information: [ceimia.org/wp-content/upl...](https://ceimia.org/wp-content/upl...)

10:36 PM · Jun 8, 2023 · 75 Views

### Summary of metrics of the post

| Engagement rate | Taux de clics |
|-----------------|---------------|
| 16%             | 10,67%        |

## The digital campaign on the subject of data justice also performed well:

- The **30** posts on **LinkedIn** generated a total of **8,848** impressions, **198** reactions and **62** shares,
- The **46** posts on **X** generated a total of **15,335** impressions, **857** reactions and **34** shares.

One post in particular seems to have **made an impression**:

Pour **Jenny Sulfath**, directrice de la **Digital Empowerment Foundation**, une organisation à but non lucratif qui lutte contre la fracture numérique dans les régions et auprès des communautés mal desservies, il devrait y avoir davantage de discussions au niveau national entre les ministères et les organismes de justice sociale, pour bien comprendre comment les systèmes de données et technologies alimentées par les données affectent leurs secteurs respectifs et les communautés.

Jenny a participé à la consultation de suivi **GPAI** l'année passée sur la justice des données, qui visait à recueillir les points de vue de différentes communautés impactées et à concevoir cette campagne de sensibilisation.

#PeopleNeedDataJustice

#IA #IAResponsable #AI #ResponsibleAI #CollecteDeDonnées #GestionDesDonnées #StockageDesDonnées #Data #DataCollection #DataManagement #DataStorage #AIforPublicGood #AIforGood #AI4Good #IAPourLeBienCommun #IAEquitable #EquitableAI #FairAI

Public Policy Programme || The Alan Turing Institute, The Alan Turing Institute, **Alison Gillwald**, Jeni Tennison, Maja Bogataj Jancic, Mike O'Sullivan, AfroLeadership, Maria Paz Hermosilla GobLab UAI, Digital Empowerment Foundation, Collaboration on International ICT Policy for East and Southern Africa (CIPESA), Instituto de Tecnologia e Sociedade (ITS Rio), Digital Natives Academy, CIPIT, Cristian Leon Coronado Fundación InternetBolivia.org, Digital Rights Foundation, NYAPENDI ESTHER Women of Uganda Network



### Summary of metrics of the post

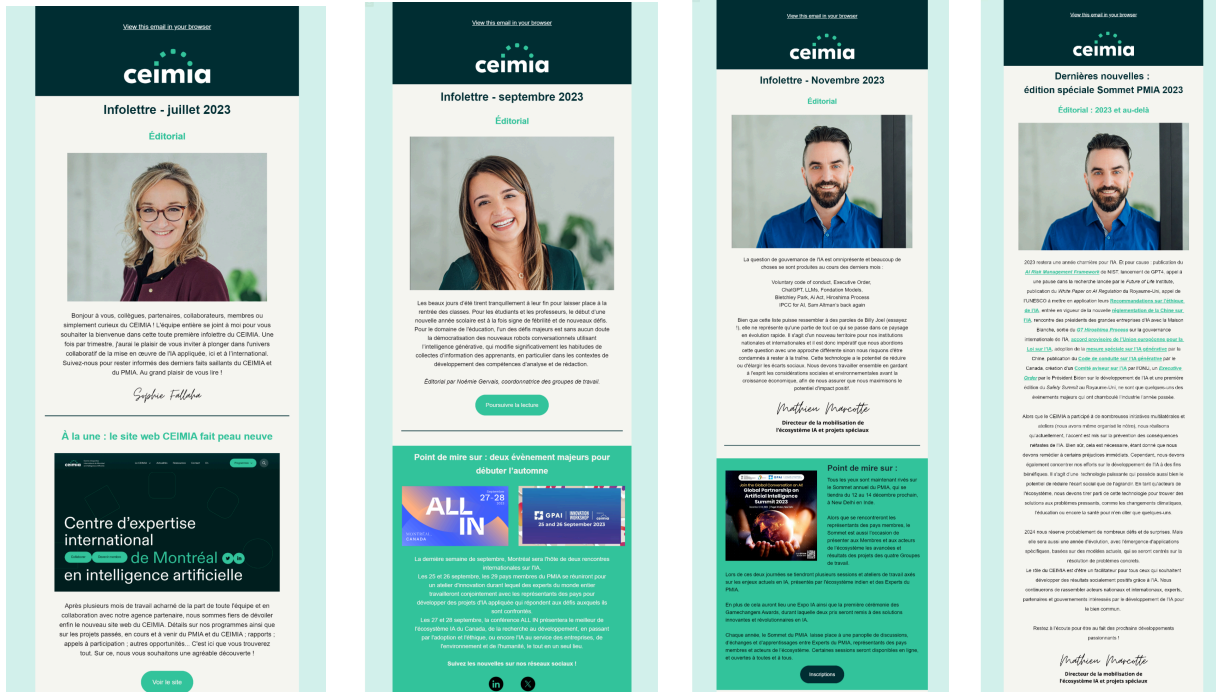
| Impressions | Click rate |
|-------------|------------|
| 692         | 12,57 %    |

## CEIMIA newsletters

In terms of newsletters, this year **4 editions** were sent to all CEIMIA contacts, in French and English. The CEIMIA newsletter has been a great success right from the start:

- Average opening rate: **53.24%**
- Average click-through rate: **7.98%**

Here are a few examples of the sections presented in these 4 editions:



## 4. Financial reports

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The financial statements were audited by Raymond Chabot Grant Thornton (RCGT) for the period ending March 31, 2024.

The audited financial statements include the statement of financial position as at March 31, 2024, and the statements of earnings, changes in net assets and cash flows for the year then ended. The report also includes the notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, as well as the appendix, providing essential context for understanding the financial statements.

Based on the opinion given, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the organization as at March 31, 2024, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

## 5. 2024–2025 outlook

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On the eve of the fifth year of implementation of its 2021–2025 strategic plan, CEIMIA is proud of the progress it has made. It has demonstrated its strength as a catalyst for multi-stakeholder international collaboration and multilateral partnerships. We are well on the way to achieving our objectives, as demonstrated by the fact that we have met or exceeded our performance and impact indicators.

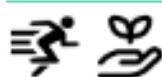
While 2023–2024 was marked by negotiations between GPAI member countries and the OECD as to the follow-up to be given to hosting the GPAI Secretariat, the year 2024–2025 will secure this repositioning. This context of enhanced coordination and complementarity with the OECD as part of GPAI support activities will be an opportunity for CEIMIA to continue to stand out from the crowd in terms of its strengths in multi-stakeholder applied project management, as well as in leading the responsible AI ecosystem and developing international partnerships.

The emergence of a third GPAI Expert Support Center also presents an opportunity to structure activities in a concerted manner. This new network of centers will 1) boost our ability to deliver hands-on projects rooted in rigorous science in a coordinated way, 2) increase the reach of our actions to players in the national AI ecosystems of GPAI members, and 3) improve dissemination and education for the tools and hands-on projects delivered.

Consolidating our strengths in project delivery and ecosystem mobilization, developing CEIMIA's own project portfolio and diversifying our funding sources will be our top priorities over the coming year. The CEIMIA team looks forward to 2024–2025 as a pivotal year in its positioning as a key player in international collaborations and multilateral partnerships.



# | Appendices

# Appendix 1: Key performance indicators 2021 - 2024





## Performance and Impact Indicators towards Strategic Objectives



1

| Implement innovative, high-impact and socially responsible AI projects            |   |                                       | Objective    | Delivered    | % achieved |
|---|---|---------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|------------|
|  | Financial metrics   |                                       | 2021-2025    | 2021-2024    | 88%        |
|   | Annual budget   |                                       | \$5,000,000  | \$4,200,000  | 84%        |
|   | Seed funding  |                                       | \$2,500,000  | \$3,597,043  | 144%       |
|   | Scale up  |                                       | \$10,000,000 | \$7,711,361  | 77%        |
|   | Total value of projects in which CEIMIA is involved   |                                       | \$25,000,000 | \$11,729,207 | 47%        |
|  | Impact metrics  |                                       | 2021-2025    | 2021-2024    | 236%       |
|   | Adoption of outputs   | # org. testing outputs                | 5            | 37           | 740%       |
|   |   | # org. adopting or adapting an output | 3            | 2            | 67%        |
|   | Contribution to the knowledge space   | Development of new knowledge          | 5            | 7            | 140%       |
|   |   | Development of implementation tools   | 2            | 5            | 250%       |
|   | Education and upskilling  | Number of trainings                   | 5            | 4            | 80%        |
|   |   | # researchers funded                  | 10           | 14           | 140%       |
|   | Direct impact: Program related impact will be project specific and should be assessed as is |                                       |              |              |            |

2

| Showcase Quebec and Canadian AI ecosystems in the field of responsible AI           |  |                              | Objective | Delivered | % achieved |
|---|--|------------------------------|-----------|-----------|------------|
|  | Dissemination and promotion metrics                                  |                              | 2021-2025 | 2021-2024 | 89%        |
|   | Fund opportunities for promoting Canadian/Quebec AI Expertise:       | Number of events/conferences | 20        | 16        | 80%        |
|   |  | Number of speakers           | 50        | 49        | 98%        |
|  | Impact metrics   |                              | 2021-2025 | 2021-2024 | 176%       |
|   | 20% of project include a Canadian/Quebec partner                     |                              | 20%       | 56%       | 280%       |
|   | Number of organisations who benefitted from funding to attend events |                              | 25        | 18        | 72%        |

3

| Develop innovative models of collaboration and funding in the field of responsible AI |   |                                | Objective | Delivered | % achieved |
|---|---|--------------------------------|-----------|-----------|------------|
|    | Community metrics   |                                | 2021-2025 | 2021-2024 | 251%       |
|   | Key strategic collaborators   | International organisation     | 2         | 5         | 250%       |
|   |   | Governments                    | 15        | 23        | 153%       |
|   | Number of partnerships:   | International (including LMIC) | 33        | 203       | 625%       |
|   |   | LMIC                           | 15        | 35        | 233%       |
|   |   | National                       | 20        | 54        | 270%       |
|   | Network of partners:  | International (including LMIC) | 25        | 182       | 728%       |
|   |   | LMIC                           | 15        | 34        | 227%       |
|   |   | National                       | 15        | 45        | 300%       |
|   | Percentage of projects where we reach a multistakeholder balance in our partnerships: Science; industry, civil society, NGOs; INGOs |                                | 50%       | 60%       | 120%       |
| Composition of CEIMIA's Members Assembly  | International   | 25                             | 7         | 28%       |            |
|   | National  | 25                             | 10        | 40%       |            |
|   | NGOs, INGOs   | 5                              | 2         | 40%       |            |
|    | Impact metrics  |                                | 2021-2025 | 2021-2024 | 80%        |
|   | Number of initiatives: financial and types of initiatives   |                                | 10        | 8         | 80%        |

4

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## Appendix 2: 2023-2024 Events

- CEIMIA Annual General Assembly
- AI Expo Korea
- C2MTL
- Comité mixte Canada-France en science, technologie et innovation (CMCF)
- Journée des organisations internationales – Connexion internationale de Montréal
- London Tech Week
- ATxAI 2023 – Singapour
- 5e édition du Forum sur l'internationalisation des entreprises – la Chambre de commerce du Montréal métropolitain
- UK AI Safety Summit and panel at the Royal Society
- AI Fringe – AI for everyone
- BNP Paribas Conference
- AI & Quantum Workshop
- Frontier AI: Towards a Global Safety Agenda
- FARI – For the Common Good Institute Brussels
- eLearning Africa
- Africa at the Crossroads : Politics, Security, Development and Trade
- IASC 2023 – XIX Biennial IASC Conference – The Commons We Want (iasc-commons.org)
- Generative AI panel at Lavery law firm
- CHAI – Center for Human-Compatible Artificial Intelligence
- Forum de Paris vers la Paix
- Duke University Workshop – Exploring pathways to the standardization of licenses for data and machine learning models
- AI, Science and Industry Conference in Geneva Event – AI2S2
- Google AI Connect
- ALL IN
- GPAI Innovation Workshop 2023
- Ethics and Governance of Data and AI; International Perspectives
- AI & Philanthropy Forum
- GPAI New Delhi Summit 2023 – India AI
- Éthique de l'IA sous le prisme des études décoloniales : Prolégomènes à la technocolonialité comme cadre d'analyse.

## Appendix 3 : 2022-2023 Events

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### Conferences

- ATxAI 2022 – Singapore
- Journée des organisations internationales – Connexion internationale de Montréal
- Journée de l'IA de la Chambre de commerce du Montréal métropolitain
- C2MTL
- EAI2022 Conference
- Next AI – Montreal
- World Summit AI Americas 2022
- Science Summit – World Climate Tech Summit – UN General Assembly
- GPAI Tokyo Summit 2022 – Japan
- Chatham House | The state of artificial intelligence in 2023
- CIFAR AI and Environment Symposium
- Lunch & Learn chez Groupe AGÉCO
- Colloque international – société, IA et normativités : contributions scientifiques à l'agenda international sur la régulation de l'IA
- Symposium on AI in education – Skema
- FCAI – Forum on Cooperation in AI

### Showcase events

- AWS DeepRacer Canadian Wildcard Race
- Soirée Montréal International au Grand Quai
- MTL Connect
- Ouverture Google Mtl
- Groupe de concertation stratégique sur l'IA – Conseil de l'Innovation du Québec

## Appendix 4 : 2021-2022 Events

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- CityAge Digital Event: The Data Effect
- ATxAI 2021 – Singapour (virtual)
- GPAI Paris Summit 2021
- Being human in the age of AI: The anthropological question
- FCAI – Forum on Cooperation in AI
- Journée de l'IA de la Chambre de commerce du Montréal métropolitain
- Member of Culture Montreal's Digital Commission
- Member of the E-AI Advisory Committee
- World Summit AI Americas 2021
- ACFAS Congress
- Journée des organisations internationales – Connexion internationale de Montréal