



## Featuring: AutoFair PROJECT

Interview with Jakub Mareček (AIC CTU)

Project [AutoFair](#) (Human-Compatible AI with Guarantees) <sup>1</sup> was a Horizon Europe project running from October 2022 to September 2025, with a budget of €3.8 million. The project was coordinated by the AI Center at the Faculty of Electrical Engineering, CTU in Prague. The consortium brought together research teams from Imperial College London, Technion, and the University of Athens, alongside industry partners IBM Research, Workable, HSBC bank and Date.io.

### What exactly did AutoFair receive funding for from the European Commission?

AutoFair was funded to develop AI algorithms that are transparent, explainable, and fair – in other words, human-compatible. The focus was on methods that incorporate fairness throughout all stages of working with AI: from model design and thorough training to responsible deployment. The project also included tools for visualizing the balance between accuracy, performance, and fairness. All of this was put into practice in three domains: HR automation (with Workable) to ensure fair job-candidate selection; online advertising (with IBM) to analyse and prevent unfair behaviour of AI in online advertising; and in fintech (with Dateio and HSBC bank) ensuring fairness in AI-driven credit scoring and personalized banking offers.



Jakub Mareček  
Source: AIC CTU

### What made AutoFair excel compared to competing proposals?

AutoFair caught the attention of the European Commission for two main reasons. First, instead of focusing only on a narrow problem of a single industry partner, we ambitiously proposed broader AI research that also supports the implementation of the European AI Act. Second, we succeeded in bringing major industry partners into the consortium who were interested in this wider approach. This made our project proposal different from many others, which primarily addressed narrower, easier-to-define tasks for specific industrial partners. Timing also played a role: this was one of the last Horizon Europe calls before the launch of ChatGPT, at a time when the number of submitted proposals was still relatively low compared to today.

### Which partnerships have been especially valuable for you, what concrete results came from the collaboration and what do early users appreciate the most?

Collaboration with Imperial College London was particularly valuable – as AutoFair’s coordinator, I have published seven papers with them and supervise two PhD students. Among our industry partners, the banks including HSBC are notable, where our `humancompatible.train`<sup>2</sup> library is already being tested in practice and providing valuable feedback. Our most impactful outputs are open-source libraries, such as AI Fairness 360 and AI Explainability 360<sup>3</sup>, which attract thousands of users every month, as well as new libraries<sup>4</sup> developed directly within the project. These outputs not only support the academic community but also pave the way for implementing the AI Act. This is why the European Commission, through the AI Office, regularly involves us in expert discussions on shaping the legislation.

### What advice would you give to teams new to Horizon Europe when preparing a project?

My main advice for coordinators-newcomers is to carefully build their consortium. Successful projects depend on trust between partners. If you do not know your partners well, long-term collaboration is unlikely to work. It is also important not to be discouraged if the first partners you approach are only interested in solving their own specific problems. If you are truly interested in broader research, it is worth keeping at it – this can become your competitive advantage.

**Useful links:** 1. <https://www.aic.fel.cvut.cz/projects/autofair>  
2. <https://github.com/humancompatible/train>  
3. <https://github.com/Trusted-AI/AIF360/>  
4. <https://github.com/humancompatible>