

Building a Responsible Future:

Enhancing the EU Regulatory Landscape for Robots in ASD Intervention for Children

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BACKGROUND

- Recent statistics indicate a global increase in the number of children affected by autism spectrum disorder (ASD)
- Children with ASD often face challenges in building social relationships and interacting with others
- The use of social robots has emerged as an effective therapy method for children with ASD

THE BENEFITS OF ROBOTIC INTERVENTION

- Exhibit more predictable and consistent behaviours compared with those of humans
- Enhance children's social skills and boost their emotional awareness
- Can accommodate children's diverse needs and provide personalised interventions

PRIVACY RISKS OF ROBOTIC INTERVENTION

- Lack of transparency – how data is collected, used, retained, and disclosed etc
- Processing of sensitive data (e.g. biometric data)
- Potential surveillance system and unauthorised access

POTENTIAL STRATEGIES

- Ensure compliance with relevant treaties and legislation (e.g., UN CRC, UN CRPD, the GDPR, EU AI Act).
- Enhance transparency, for example, by using clear and plain language when addressing children in data processing activities; strengthen data security and uphold data subject rights
- Include input and participation from children, parents, guardians, teachers, therapists, etc