Digital Transformation in the Age of AI: towards a new mindset

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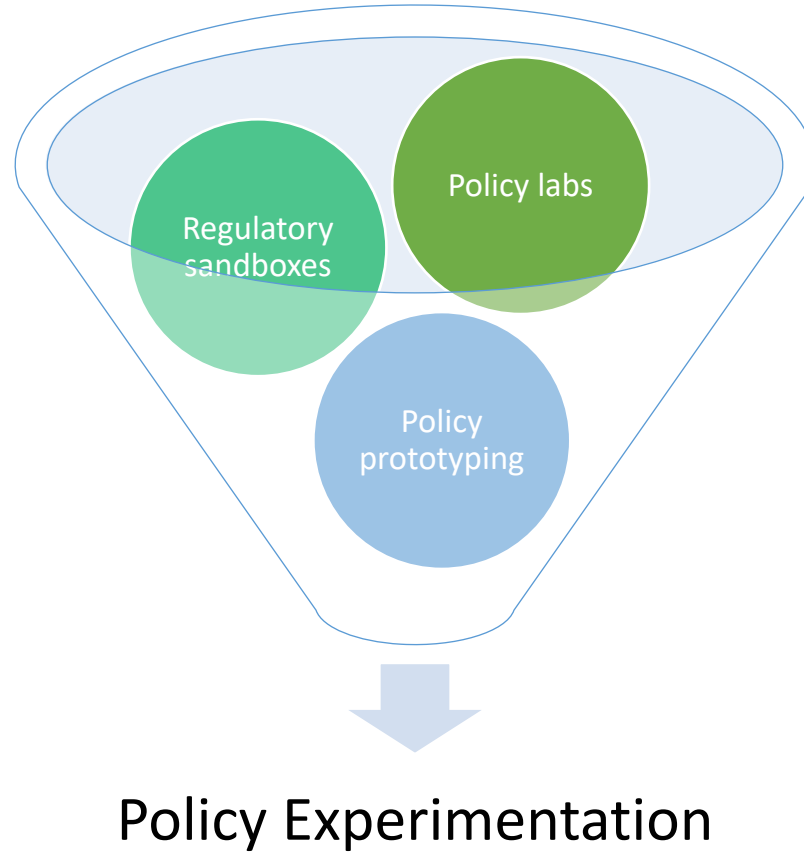UNDESA

2024

Rodrik and Stiglitz's Proposal (2024): Embracing a New Mindset for Economic Development

- "(…) We are at a turning point in (economic) development strategy. Strategies that worked well in the past are unlikely to do so in the decades ahead.

- "The focus [now] would be on experimentation and learning, with objectives, instruments, performance criteria and institutions developed and shaped over time. Government capacity would be accumulated in the process, rather than presumed as given."

How can collaboration, experimentation, and learning be effectively promoted within government agencies?

Some tools available

Policy labs

Regulatory sandboxes

Policy prototyping

Policy Experimentation

Necessary elements

- Leadership

- Clear Governance and monitoring

- Ability to make quick changes

- Knowledge of technology

- Using technology to identify and solve problems (context-oriented)

Alberta's first public AI lab hopes to solve nagging government problems with data and innovation

The province will invest $3.4 million annually in GovLab.ai

Kashmala Fida Mohatarem · CBC News · Posted: May 04, 2022 9:00 PM EDT | Last Updated: May 4, 2022

The Alberta government launched its first internal artificial intelligence lab on Tuesday. (Peshkova/Shutterstock)

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Alberta's first public artificial intelligence lab is being hailed as a ground-breaking way to create data-driven solutions for government problems — and an incentive to keep talented computer science graduates from leaving the province.

GovLab.ai is a new partnership that will bring together government staff, post-secondary students and machine learning experts from AltaML, an Edmonton software company specializing in applied artificial intelligence.

- "MOH started a regulatory sandbox for telemedicine (TM) and mobile medicine (MM) in 2018 to better understand the risks and co-create corresponding risk mitigation measures with the industry in the use of these service delivery models prior to licensing under the Healthcare Services Act (HCSA"

Brazil: ANPD Sandbox

A cultural change (mindset) that embraces an innovative approach to digital governance

- Some cases reveal that establishing regulatory sandboxes primarily requires a cultural shift. The idea of testing rules and ensuring enforceable compliance presents a considerable challenge. Key elements that facilitate this include:

  i.   Recruiting young and innovative professionals into the team.
  ii.   Highlighting the benefits of the technology in question to encourage the necessary legal changes.
  iii. Sharing the benefits of sandboxes, even within the same government agency.

- Countries such as Brazil have regulatory sandbox projects led by youthful public officials. In Brazil, for instance, the ANPD's regulatory sandbox is not only a means to address data protection laws but also an opportunity to shape the data protection authority as an AI authority.

Role of training institutions

- Reducing information asymmetries (technical expertise)
- Providing access to more AI use cases in the public sector
- Promoting policy experimentation methodologies
- Spotting lessons learned
- Identifying and hiring tech talent

U.S. Office of Personnel Management

- "In December 2023, OPM authorized agencies to use a Direct Hiring Authority to assist efforts to increase AI capabilities in the federal government by making it easier for agencies to recruit AI talent from several specialties, including IT specialists, computer scientists and engineers, and management and program analysts."

Thank you!

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