

**ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE FOR COMPANIES:  
AN EMPIRICAL ANALYSIS OF TECH COMMITTEES**

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Far from being something remote and unfathomable, artificial intelligence (AI) should no longer be just a confined attribution only to those who possess IT skills, nor should it be discussed when we fear that it could replace the functions carried out, up to now and in various contexts, by human beings.

Artificial intelligence, today, is everywhere, and has also entered one of the most inaccessible corporate settings: the boardroom.

Our study aims first to clarify the positive implications that artificial intelligence can bring in the transformations of companies, favoring the shareholder value, and, second, to explore the board structure, with particular attention to tech committees as the place where the risks generated by AI should be addressed.

The paper focuses on US and EU listed companies from 2000 to 2019 that have adopted a tech committee. We carry out a quantitative analysis aiming at understanding the feature of the companies adopting a tech committee and the characteristics of the directors involved in it. Subsequently a qualitative analysis, resulting of a purpose-built database explores the activities that are carried out by tech committees. Besides the differences between the two geographical scenarios, the (definitely surprising) outcome is that the tech committees – at least in the first twenty years of their lives – have not (yet) dealt with AI, as hoped (and perhaps even expected), but they rather still play a predominantly strategic role, often flanked by monitoring and advising functions.