

Q1&2, 2021

# **Impact Report**

bright data



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## Introductory letter

Dear Friends,

I am proud to present our second Impact Report, which highlights the work we have done on behalf of our partners and communities in the first half of 2021.

So far this year, our Bright Initiative has advanced and partnered with over 100 organizations, including over 85 academic institutions and more than 35 NPOs, NGOs and public bodies. New interesting cases have joined, leveraging public online data to make a real impact on our world, wellbeing, and basically on society as a whole. I'm very happy to have them with us and to be able to contribute to such important missions that are truly inspiring.

The Bright Initiative will now advance and become a separate organization utilizing the highperforming technology Bright Data has to offer, know how and expertise to make a real difference in the world.

Our company has gone through several important changes. We are now called Bright Data. In addition, The Bright Initiative was launched earlier this year to ensure that all who seek online data to make a greater positive impact will have easy, reliable access to it as well as all the support they require. The Bright Initiative is built on three key pillars: fighting social injustice, promoting web transparency, and fighting illegitimate online actions. These pillars are aimed at ensuring that reliable public web-based information is accessible to all and encouraging data-driven expertise and professional direction through education and research. In this report, you will get to see some of the work we do through The Bright Initiative to tackle critical issues our society faces.

Data drives our future; we have known this for some time now. Problem-solving and smart decision-making depend on fast, automated research, which is only possible with easy access to public data. Our technology was created with the idea of facilitating a future led by data.

That is why, earlier this year, we partnered with the <u>World Ethical Data Forum</u> to establish a first-of-its-kind Data Collection Ethical Committee.

Given the speed at which the data industry domain is evolving, we are learning on the job every single day and constantly growing and improving.

I am looking forward to expanding our partnerships in the future – using online data to power the greatest positive impact on society.

Thank you to all our partners – we are inspired by you each and every day.

**Or Lenchner, CEO**Bright Data

## **Our Purpose**

Bright Data's purpose is to drive truly open and free access to the World Wide Web as it was initially designed. We do this by increasing web-transparency while championing legitimate cases only.

We believe that the data domain should be run by following wellestablished guidelines to ensure legal and ethical use – always.

For this reason, we have launched The Bright Initiative and partnered with several renowned professional organizations to not only lead this direction but to learn and instill best industrywide practices that will guide our domain and similar operators around the globe.

Only by leading with clarity and transparency can the data domain fully power all worthy missions.

We invite all of you to join us for this purpose. If you would like to contribute, please don't hesitate and contact us today.

# **Bright Data's Culture**

We are a growing company of close to 250 global team members with a newly established office in New York City. Our team is driven by hard work and dedicated to focusing on delivering the maximum value to our partners while maintaining a transparent code of conduct.

Our culture is built on our unique DNA. It doesn't suit everyone, but it's built for the exact type of people we employ: talented, ethically sound, and those carrying skills to push our company forward. We know that hiring the most innovative minds is essential to our success.

We have an open-door policy, where ideas, no matter how big or small, are always encouraged and explored. We are aware that the company performs at its best when every employee feels heard and respected and comes to work every day giving their all.

This past year has been an extraordinary one, and we appreciate the way our team members have swiftly adapted and thrived in the face of the multiple challenges facing our entire society. We were and are proud to support multiple crisis-response causes with the precise data they need to make their project or initiative a success – you will find examples in this impact report. We look forward to continuing to demonstrate this ongoing commitment to many more organizations in need of support as we move forward and expand the overall impact of The Bright Initiative.

# The Bright Initiative How we make an IMPACT

# **Welcome to The Bright Initiative**

To say that data, and more particularly web-based data, can do a lot of good is a huge understatement. I personally learned this year that public web-based data can drive nationwide critical research, fight social injustice on a global scale, help and support millions in the guest of social wellbeing, and even save lives.

For lack of better words, the past year has taught me that web-based data can lead to inspiring, hugely significant missions – truly inspirational to all.

The Bright Initiative's dozens of partners have already made a massive impact with very valuable and noteworthy causes, and I hope to continue, together, to drive our world and planet to a better place as a whole.

I would like to thank each and every one of our partners for showing us new ways to use public web-based data for good to make an impact! Additionally, thank you for letting us join the ride. I know that your projects are much bigger than web-based data itself. We are truly happy to support you in any way we can – always.

I would also like to invite many other programs, research projects, new initiatives, organizations, and universities to contact us any time. The Bright Initiative is always ready and delighted to help by offering the best web-based data-driven tools and customized and attentive support.

Once again, thank you, our partners, for making such a significant impact and letting us help you thrive.

**Keren Pakes, General Manager** The Bright Initiative



# **Social Responsibility:**

Fighting social injustice, responding to crises, promoting worthy social causes

So far this year, The Bright Initiative has supported 35 remarkable NGOs and NPOs to tackle some of the most pressing social issues facing the world. Most notably, we have been working on issues such as COVID-19 vaccine distribution, combating human trafficking, saving children from abusive situations, and promoting workplace diversity.

#### **Examples:**

#### FindAShot.org



FindAShot.org was a community service project established to help U.S. residents find available COVID-19 vaccination appointments at local pharmacies during the peak of the country's vaccination campaign. Millions of people were able to find available appointment using the initiative's website.

With the help of Bright Data's technology, FindAShot.org was able to build an automated COVID-19 appointment checker for Americans countrywide. Instead of having to frequently search every single individual pharmacy location to find an available appointment, FindAShot.org was like "KAYAK" for COVID-19 vaccine appointments – one streamlined search showed all pharmacy locations that had appointments available. The tool covered up to 25,000 locations in the United States.

Bright Data's technology helped the team behind the project accelerate their operations while significantly reducing the costs of their infrastructure. This methodology could be replicated in other countries where vaccines are being administered on an appointment basis.



"The Bright Initiative helped us scale our ability to perform automated online data collection. In most cases, pharmacies put in place preventive measures to stop 'bad actors' from accessing their sites. However, these measures also blocked our good traffic; we were simply trying to help people find appointments. The Bright Initiative helped us resolve and reach the appointment checkers."

**David Newell**Founder, FindAShot.org

#### Fighting human trafficking

#### **HTI Labs**

The Human Trafficking Initiative Labs' (HTI) project aims to fight human trafficking in the commercial sex industry. The project evolved out of the need to deal with the lack of data on trafficking. It ultimately led to a novel approach of using online commercial sex advertisements, data science, and network analysis to identify potential trafficking networks within the commercial sex industry. HTI Labs started as a university project in 2015 at Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska, and spun off as an independent organization in 2018.

By performing ongoing data collection of online ads, reviews, profiles, and more, HTI Labs is able to detect potential victims and perpetrators of human trafficking and then offer the high-risk leads to its law enforcement partners.

# hti labs

Humans Against Trafficking

#### **Humans Against Trafficking**

Humans Against Trafficking found that traffickers regularly use tech to harm children. They also identified that traffickers prey on large numbers of vulnerable kids on social media by taking advantage of their desire for connection, success and "likes." The reach and ease of connection on social media allows traffickers to continuously search for and recruit multiple victims at once.

The organization has created a mobile app that uses advanced Al analytics to track potential human trafficking threats on Instagram and other social media sites. Using Bright Data's technology, they are able to access and collect the publicly available social media data they need in order to identify at-risk children before attackers do, and then swiftly take action.

#### Facilitating workplace diversity

#### **Mathison**



Mathison's first-of-its-kind, all-in-one system manages diversity recruiting, strategy measurement, and reporting. The platform centralizes hundreds of inclusive talent networks and uses Al to help employers find candidates for their most important roles. To retain a pool of diverse candidates, Mathison gives employers a single place to manage their diversity hiring activities. This includes sourcing diverse candidates; reducing bias in job descriptions; candidate selection and interviews; and mobilizing team members in diversity hiring efforts with tools to build awareness and change behavior.

Mathison relies on Bright Data's technology to collect publicly available online profile data. Our solution enables the organization to access and collect the massive amounts of data it needs, which is critical in building its talent network.



"The Bright Initiative has been an extremely valuable partner in helping us meet our growing demands for online data, as we're able to outsource our data collection and management efforts. Without their technology, we'd be forced to build and maintain data sets manually every time we partner with a new organization, which would take time and resources away from our team's ultimate goal of matching underrepresented talent with their dream jobs."

Dave Walsh,
Co-Founder and CEO, Mathison

#### **Protecting teenagers from dangerous threats**

#### **Elem**



Sexual abuse at the hands of family members is a growing concern in Israel, with one in seven teenagers experiencing its harrowing effects. As with other forms of abuse, it's often left unreported, and teenagers are forced to deal with the consequences alone. The Bright Initiative partnered with Elem, an organization dedicated to protecting youth in distress, to address this growing problem. Elem discovered that abused youth often leave digital footprints in order to be traced, yet the organization was challenged in implementing a system to track them efficiently.

Elem is now developing a machine learning system, trained with social media profiles of previously abused youth. Using Bright Data's technology, they're able to collect massive amounts of public, openly available social media data to feed the system, which then detects profiles with similar characteristics. From there, the organization will reach out to the suspected abused individuals and offer help and support in finding them alternative housing solutions and rehabilitation programs.



"With cases of sexual abuse by family members increasing, we desperately wanted to help the growing number of victims in any way we could and aid them back into rehabilitation. In order to do this, we need access to massive amounts of public online data to feed our machine learning system, currently in development. Without Bright Data's technology, it would never have been possible."

Smadar Ben Ami,

#### Tracking the exploitation of minors

#### **Schusterman Foundation**



The Schusterman Foundation aims to track the exploitation of minors. With Bright Data's technology, they are able to collect a wide variety of online data, including from social media, dating apps, and various websites to tackle this ongoing issue and take appropriate action.

# **Supporting National Initiatives**

We believe that the public sector can greatly benefit from online data collection. Contributions from the private sector can be of great help for governments around the world that are seeking to implement and modernize their data strategies, making the most of the economic as well as the social value of data.

#### Supporting the UK's National Data Strategy

The Bright Initiative is supporting the implementation of the UK's National Data Strategy (NDS), working with the Department for Culture Media and Sport (DCMS) and a range of other partners on projects to help realize the strategy's social and economic ambitions. In our view, the NDS creates an opportunity for enhanced transparency across the British economy and society, underpinned by a commitment to ethical data usage and skills.

Our support for the NDS has included facilitating a discussion between business leaders and and the UK's Minister of State for Media and Data, Rt Hon John Whittingdale, MP. Working with the prestigious Institute for Government think tank, we have convened a meeting of senior public sector data professionals and government officials who are leading delivery of the NDS.

We are also working directly with the DCMS team that is implementing the NDS, providing industry insight on issues, including data markets and skills needs, and pro bono data collection services in support of research work. Our CEO, Or Lenchner, has also accepted an invitation to be part of the NDS Forum that the minister is chairing.

The Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, Rt Hon Oliver Dowden, MP, has publicly thanked Bright Data for the support we are giving to the NDS.



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"The NDS will put the UK at the forefront of unlocking the full social and economic potential of data. As a leading online data collection platform, we consider it our duty to do all we can to ensure its success. The ambitious goals of the NDS will only

be achieved through a truly collaborative effort from the private, public and third sector. The work our Initiative is doing with this initial group of partners puts this principle into practice, and we look forward to building on it with others over the coming months."







#### Addressing the growing unemployment rates in Israel



With the outbreak of COVID-19, unemployment rates skyrocketed worldwide as businesses were forced to close their doors or downsize significantly. Israel was no exception, with over a million citizens left jobless. In response, AVODATA was formed, consisting of JDC Tevet and the Israeli Labor Ministry, to fight the growing unemployment crisis in Israel. To help AVODATA analyze the project scope, The Bright Initiative has been working extensively with the team, using our automated data collection solution to collect massive amounts of public online job postings quickly and efficiently. AVODATA plans to move forward with the project and will soon provide targeted and timely support to aid jobseekers in their search for and transition back into work.



"With the initiation of the project, we needed access to large amounts of public online data quickly in order to determine the feasibility of our project. We have now seen that we can indeed provide actionable job-market insights to the public. Without Bright Data's Data technology, it would have taken us weeks to gather the amounts of data necessary to verify this project."

**Evyatar Korlanski,** JDC Tevet

## **Education and research**

Data is the future. As such, our mission includes sharing our data collection knowledge, best practices and ethical guidelines with the next generation of industry leaders. We've therefore partnered with leading academic institutions and high schools to offer our technology, free of charge, for critical, timely research. So far, such research has included exploring digital inequity, web-transparency, the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on society, and combatting social injustice. We have also conducted dozens of masterclasses, programs, and seminars throughout the year.

The Bright Initiative works with over 85 academic and research institutions around the world. These include: King's College London, Oxford University, Royal Holloway University, Princeton University, Boston College, Virginia Tech, Sciences Po University, The Technion - Israel's Technology Institute, ETH Zurich Research University, Hong Kong University, Northeastern University, among others.























































# Educating the next generation of leaders

#### King's College Business Opportunity Accelerator Project



King's College London

As part of its commitment to promoting and driving forward data skills, The Bright Initiative runs dozens of workshops, masterclasses, internships programs as well as business accelerators with universities around the world. For example, during the summer of 2021, jointly with King's College of London, The Bright Initiative is holding an internship program for a period of 8 weeks.



"The Business Opportunity Accelerator Project connected me with five excellent King's College students who worked as Business Consultants for Bright Data. We performed market research analyses and delivered a comprehensive report showcasing strategies for growth for the company."

Conor McLoughlin,
Ph.D. Candidate at King's College Londor

#### Providing an insight into careers in data



upReach

It's widely recognized that success in higher education is crucial to increasing social mobility. As such, The Bright Initiative is working with upReach, a UK charity that supports undergraduate students from less advantaged backgrounds and helps them gain access to top graduate jobs. The organization, which works in partnership with leading employers and universities, delivers programs of career support and provides students with opportunities to acquire insight into prospective career paths. The Bright Initiative has partnered with upReach and will be facilitating a series of workshops for students at multiple UK universities throughout the year.





"The speakers were excellent. They explained the topic initially and then discussed back and forth asking each other questions, this format was great and really engaging, they also integrated the audience questions into their talk which I really liked."

**Zobiya Shah,** upReach Associate

#### **Data-driven seminars**

The Bright Initiative holds many pro-bono seminars, hands-on workshops, and masterclasses all year round with highly renowned universities, professional communities, and data-driven professionals.

In early 2021, we held several data-driven educational sessions for Sciences Po, Queen Mary's Digital Environment Research Institute, Bar-Ilan University, as well as The University of Hong Kong.

Earlier this year, The Bright Initiative held a talk at Sciences Po with Bright Data's CEO, Or Lenchner, about the rise of data and the critical role of bots.











"Thank you to The Bright Initiative for this wonderful experience. The speakers were really fascinating, and we learned a lot; we are thankful to them for sharing their knowledge about this timely topic with us."

**Asst. Prof Guillaume Chapelle,** Sciences Po



#### **Ort Netanya**

Ort Netanya is the first high school in Israel to establish a dedicated data science department. We volunteered our services and expertise to help drive the department forward and create excitement around data amongst students. During 2020, The Bright Initiative hosted several workshops, seminars, and webinars for the high school, run by Bright Data's CEO, Or Lenchner. Moving forward, The Bright Initiative also plans to offer a mentorship program for the school's young students.

# Critical research powered by our technology

Data-driven research is the foundation of human advancement and innovation. The Bright Initiative is currently supporting 28 academic research projects, offering its technology to some of the world's top research institutions.

#### Closing the digital divide



**Princeton University** 

**United States** 

Princeton University's research aimed to close the "digital divide" within the United States by creating an accurate map of internet coverage throughout the country. Published earlier this year, this research is more critical than ever today, as the world has been forced to move online at an accelerated speed.

#### The impact of researchers' locations on the level of web-page access



Royal Holloway
University of London



University of Oxford

England

This collaborative research by Royal Holloway University of London and University of Oxford aims to determine whether researchers around the world have equal access to specific web pages, regardless of their locations. Bright Data's technology is instrumental for this research to access web pages from different locations using.



"I wouldn't be able to do my research without access to public online data. It allows us to perform meta-analysis – gathering data from many different pieces of research and synthesizing it to get the bigger picture. There is so much work being done in life sciences, social sciences, climate studies, the digital humanities, etc., and having access to it all to get the bigger picture is key."

Prof. Hugh Shanahan, on behalf of Royal Holloway University and Oxford University

#### Legal bias in the judicial system of a developing country



Switzerland

ETH Zurich, a renowned engineering-focused university, is conducting research looking at the availability of justice services across India. By using openly available web data sources, they can explore and investigate court cases as well as look into different communities in India and their use of justice departments.



The University of Iowa

**United States** 

The University of Iowa's computer science department has set out to understand SEO engineering that happens on Google search, which allows extremist groups to fill the void with misinformation. For this research report, they use Bright Data's technology to gain access to publicly available search results for specific terms.

#### Discriminatory practices on online platforms

### SciencesPo

**Sciences Po** 

France

This research project, supported by the French Ombudsman, aims to identify discriminatory practices on online platforms. The research team will perform several Randomized Controlled Experiments to identify whether ethnic minorities suffer from discrimination in their online activities and, if so, the mechanisms behind these discriminatory actions.



"The LIEPP supported by the French Ombudsman uses Bright Data's technology in a research project designed to identify discriminatory practices against ethnic minorities on online platforms. The fact that The Bright Initiative offers a large number of French IPs is critical in reducing the risk of getting blocked when performing randomized control trials and identifying whether ethnic minorities do, indeed, suffer from discrimination in their online activity."

#### The effects of working from home during COVID-19



The University of Hong Kong

Hong Kong

A group of researchers at the University of Hong Kong are building a model of the number of companies abiding by government regulations and working from home, and whether their employees' levels of work efficiency has been affected.



"The fact that Bright Data's technology has breadth of coverage across regions and IPs allows me to confidently characterize network blocks, which, in turn, allows me to understand which networks likely belong to residential versus commercial users. This scale of collectible information is an invaluable and irreplaceable resource."

Alan Kwan,
Assistant Professor at The University of Hong Kong

#### **Analyzing digital inequity in the United States**



<u>University of California,</u> Santa Barbara

United States

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, our dependence on quality access to the internet as well as our overall online footprint has significantly increased. This research project aims to better understand the various dimensions of this digital inequity that exist in the United States. Bright Data is providing the researchers with its proxy network, so that they can easily obtain the data they need from major U.S. internet service providers without the risk of getting blocked.

#### The effects of student debt on labor market outcomes



**Boston College** 

United States

Outstanding student debt in the United States has drastically increased over the last decade – from \$260 billion in 2004 to \$1.46 trillion in 2019. This research study is examining the effects and consequences of student debt on individual labor market outcomes – an inquiry which is significantly complicated by data limitations. The Bright Initiative is offering its technology to help the researchers collect the publicly available online data they need.

#### Looking into end-to-end violations online



Northeastern University

**United States** 

Northeastern University's research examined end-to-end violations on the internet and represented an alternative approach to detect these violations of DNS, HTTP, and HTTPS, as well as to identify the culprits. In their research, they present results from over 1.2 million nodes across 14,000 cases in 172 countries. They have found that up to 4.8% of nodes are subject to some kind of end-to-end violation. They were also able to measure the incidence of content monitoring. To read more, click <a href="here">here</a>.

#### COVID-19 restrictions and their effects on society



Ben Gurion
University

Israel

One of Ben Gurion University's research projects has been collecting social-media-based data to monitor society's response and sentiments regarding COVID-19 restrictions.

#### Competitiveness of the residential real estate brokerage industry



Georgia Southern
University

**United States** 

We're assisting Georgia Southern University, an associate professor of Economics at Georgia Southern University, with his study on the competitiveness of real estate markets in the United States. Georgia Southern University is relying on Bright Data's technology to collect publicly available data on the real estate market in various cities in the U.S.



"Like all research results, ours are published in conference proceedings and journals. We are also looking into ways of taking Bright Data's technology into the field of education of the Master Digital Driven Business."



# **Internet Transparency**

In an era of rapid technological developments, the regulations in place often fail to keep up with and provide adequate guidance on matters related to internet transparency. Bright Data's mission is to bring clarity to a very complex and evolving domain and establish security guidelines that will shape its industry. Its new company name, Bright Data, together with The Bright Initiative, is meant to represent such a quest for light and transparency.

Over the past year, Bright Data has kept improving its network and solutions, addressing issues in real time as they emerged.

The company takes pride in its strict compliance guidelines. As soon as it suspects that one of its network users might be trying to use its technology for an unapproved use case, or that they might be breaching any of its guidelines, Bright Data terminates its partnership with them. This past year, the company detected, among others: 385 forbidden use cases (during its compliance process, before they were approved), and close to 660 cases failed to meet its compliance requirements - 82 of these cases were attempts to open fake accounts.

Additionally, we have partnered with some leading organizations that are helping us build a better and fairer future for the data collection industry. Thanks to their guidance, we have jointly been championing programs and initiatives that promote integrity, transparency, and ethical standards on the World Wide Web.

#### World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)

Partnering with WIPO.

# Member of WIPO Alert

#### World Ethical Data Forum (WEDF)



The Bright Initiative has partnered with the <u>World Ethical Data Forum</u> (WEDF), the world's leading <u>event</u> on the future of data, which aims to address the ethical dimensions, considerations, and challenges associated with data collection. The Bright Initiative participated participated in the recent WEDF event with a focus on ethical data collection. Together, we have formed a <u>Data Collection Ethical Committee</u> (DCEC), which aims to develop an ethical framework and provide practical tools for industry players. The DCEC is currently recruiting industry experts.

#### Fighting online fraudulent activities

#### abuse.ch

**ABUSE** ch

abuse.ch is a non-profit initiative that fights malware and botnets, making the internet a safer place for millions of users. IT security researchers and law enforcement agencies rely on the data about malicious websites that abuse.ch shares through a platform called URLhaus. The data sets shared through URLhaus are used by open-source tools as well as DNS service providers, including Cloudflare and Quad9, protecting millions of users from cybersecurity threats.

abuse.ch relies on Bright Data's technology to access the content of potentially malicious sites in an automated way without getting blocked. So far, the non-profit has identified and verified over 1 million websites used by bad actors to infect internet users or their devices.



"Bad actors on the internet are getting more and more sophisticated, and often manage to pass as legitimate sites when in fact they are not. To fight these bad actors, I've relied on Bright Data's infrastructure so that I can send automated requests to the target websites without getting blocked and verify whether they pose a threat or not. This way, I can share my data on the current cyber threats with the community."

**Roman Hussy,**Founder, abuse.ch

#### **Market Research Society (MRS)**



The Bright Initiative has teamed up with the Market Research Society (MRS) and has become a member of the MRS's International Affiliate program. MRS is the leading and most experienced professional research regulator in the world, working with government as the sector regulator and with privacy regulators internationally on Fair Data.

#### Preventing social engineering attacks

#### **Picnic Score**



Picnic Score is a cybersecurity firm focused on mitigating and preventing social engineering attacks on enterprises. Picnic Score relies on Bright Data's technology to collect publicly available online data from data aggregators/brokers to inform its clients about what specific public information is available about them on the web, and stop social engineering attacks before they start.

# **Environment and Sustainability**

The planet is our precious home. That's why we strongly believe we should do anything in our power to protect it. This year, we have established our commitment to the planet and the environment with a series of initiatives and collaborations to help build a more sustainable industry sector.

#### Monitoring our climate footprint

#### **Normative**

Headquartered in Sweden, Normative is a platform that helps companies calculate their climate footprint, including scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions, helping them work towards the net-zero emissions goal. At the core of this initiative, there is the belief that measuring and reporting the company's impact on the environment is the first step in order to take action and adopt an effective plan to reduce emissions.

## normative

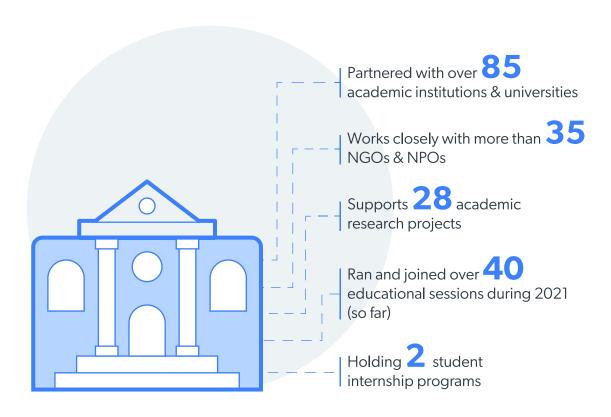
#### **Net Zero Pledge**

#### **Market Research Society (MRS)**

The Bright Initiative has signed up to the Net Zero Pledge called by the Market Research Society. The Pledge is designed for MRS's partners to demonstrate their commitment to sustainable practices and tackle the growing climate emergency. By signing up, we are committing to making our business "net zero" by 2026.



# The Bright Initiative in numbers



# **Summary**

Together with our partners, we hope to grow and expand. The Bright Initiative's vision is to keep impacting the world for good and driving forward programs, projects, and initiatives that matter the most. Our goal is to make a lasting impact on all aspects of society.

Special thanks to all of our inspiring partners. We hope our support truly made a difference.

