



Brussels Laboratory for Data Protection & Privacy Impact Assessments (d.pia.lab)
Research Group on Law, Science, Technology & Society (LSTS)
Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB)

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS: PH.D. POSITION ON PRIVACY- AND PERSONAL DATA PROTECTION IMPACT ASSESSMENTS IN CONNECTION WITH NO GATE BORDER CROSSING SOLUTIONS

The multidisciplinary Research Group on Law, Science, Technology & Society (LSTS) at the Faculty of Law and Criminology at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB), established in 2003, has become a prominent European research institute in the area of technology and regulation. The team is led, both administratively and academically, by Prof. Dr. Serge Gutwirth and Prof. Dr. Paul De Hert. The staff comprises around 45 researchers: professors as well as senior and post-doctoral-, doctoral- and associated researchers. Research staff at the VUB-LSTS have backgrounds in a number of areas, including law, ethics, philosophy, political science, sociology, chemistry, criminology and others. Great emphasis is placed on incorporating a multidisciplinary perspective in all our work.

The Brussels Laboratory for Data Protection & Privacy Impact Assessments, or d.pia.lab, is a sub-unit within the VUB-LSTS, established in 2015, which connects basic, methodological and applied research, provides training and delivers policy advice related to impact assessments in the areas of innovation and technology development. Whilst legal aspects of privacy and personal data protection constitute the core expertise, the Laboratory mobilises other disciplines including ethics, philosophy, surveillance studies and science, technology and society (STS) studies.

The VUB-LSTS is now looking for a motivated doctoral researcher to join the team to work on data protection- and privacy impact assessments.

As part of his or her duties, the researcher will be working on a multidisciplinary research and innovation project funded by the European Union, coordinated by VUB and which *“aims to develop a unified and tailored impact assessment method and to carry out comprehensive evaluations of wide range of contactless crossing point technologies, taking into account ethics, legal and otherwise regulatory requirements, privacy and personal data protection concerns, threats of discrimination and other societal issues”*.

In particular, the researcher is expected to:

- contribute to the development of an appropriate impact assessment method for border-crossing authorities;
- contribute to the conduct of an assessment of the impacts of border crossing technologies on the relevant privacy, personal data protection, ethical and other regulatory concerns (by e.g. carrying out surveys or interviews to travellers and border control authorities);

- provide legal and ethical advice to project partners;
- contribute to the overall project's coordination;
- representing the project at relevant third party events.

While working on the said research project, and within the first year of employment, the researcher is expected to develop a research proposal for a doctoral thesis (PhD) on a topic within the expertise of VUB-LSTS (i.e. not necessarily limited to impact assessment).

In addition, the researcher will have the opportunity to take an active role in VUB-LSTS and in the d.pia.lab, contributing to their research agendas, attending and presenting in seminars, assisting in organizing conferences and workshops, publishing in books and journals, and participating in competition for national and European funding opportunities.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Candidates are expected to possess the following qualifications:

- a master's degree in law, preferably with a specialization in technology law or personal data protection law, awarded by the deadline for applications;
- relevant working experience (includes internships and traineeships); acquaintance with EU Horizon 2020 projects is welcome but not required;
- demonstrate enthusiasm by contributing to ongoing research activities and attracting external funding for research projects;
- fluency in English, and the ability to conduct research in at least one other language;
- excellent organisational and communicative skills;
- the ability to work independently, under pressure, respect deadlines, and produce quality work.

CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT

The successful candidate will be integrated in a dynamic team, composed of both experienced and early career researchers, working under the guidance of Prof. Dr. Paul De Hert. The successful candidate will collaborate closely with the other members of the Brussels Laboratory for Data Protection & Privacy Impact Assessments, as well as other members of the VUB-LSTS, and will have access to doctoral training offered by the VUB, as well as to all facilities of the University. Successful candidates are expected to work at the VUB premises in Brussels; yet the position involves travelling – mostly in Europe – for research-related events. Office space and equipment will be provided along with a budget for travelling and other research-related expenses.

The VUB offers employment as a full-time doctoral researcher. The PhD degree will be awarded in law. For more information about facilities and benefits of employment at Vrije Universiteit Brussel, please visit <http://www.vub.ac.be> under the heading 'future employees'.

Contract: full-time research grant for one year, renewable on an annual basis. Extension of the contract is subject to the agreement of the doctoral committee. Remuneration is at the level of a full-time research assistant at a Flemish university (i.e. approximately €1.900 net per month) and includes contributions for social security. Secondary employment is not allowed.

APPLICATION

The candidate will be selected on the basis of the quality of the application, expertise, work experience and qualifications. The application documents are to be consolidated into a single PDF file and sent by email to Prof. Dr. Paul De Hert at Paul.De.Hert@vub.be, with a copy to Ms. Ioulia Konstantinou, Managing Director of the d.pia.lab, at Ioulia.Konstantinou@vub.be.

Applications (in English) must include the following:

- a curriculum vitae;
- a cover letter which explains the motivation and qualifications of the candidate;
- samples of 2 (two) recent works: essay or excerpt from recent (academic) research or article written by the candidate (max 5000 words per contribution);
- 1 (one) letter of recommendation.

Incomplete applications will not be considered.

Deadline for the submission of applications is **20 May 2019 at 12:00** (Brussels time zone). It is currently envisioned that the successful candidates will be shortlisted by the end of May 2019, interviews held in early June 2019, and the position will start on 1 July 2019 (the start date is subject to change).

If you are interested in learning more about the project on which you will be working, its content, team, consortium, or about working as researcher at VUB-LSTS, please visit the LSTS website <https://lsts.research.vub.be/> or send us an email. The work will be carried out building upon the experience of the d.pia.lab; more information: www.dpialab.org.
