



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 IMPACT ASSESSMENT AS A (NEW) (LEGAL) TOOL FOR  
THE PROTECTION OF PRIVACY AND PERSONAL DATA**

**INTRODUCTION**

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. Mireille Hildebrandt and Prof. Dr. Gloria González Fuster. The staff comprises around 50 researchers: professors as well as senior and post-doctoral-, doctoral- and associated researchers. Research staff at the VUB-LSTS have background in a number of areas, including law, ethics, philosophy, political science, sociology, criminology and others. Great emphasis is placed on incorporating a multidisciplinary perspective in all their 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 its core expertise, the Laboratory mobilises other disciplines including ethics, philosophy, surveillance studies as well as science, technology and society (STS) studies.

**The VUB-LSTS-d.pia.lab is now looking for a motivated doctoral researcher to join the team to work on the concepts of data protection- (DPIA) and privacy impact assessment (PIA) as tools for the protection of privacy and personal data.**

As part of his or her duties, first, the researcher will co-work on a number of multidisciplinary research and innovation projects (co-)funded by the European Union, which – among others – aim to develop (privacy) (data protection) impact assessment methods tailored down to specific emerging technologies and to carry out the assessment process in accordance with these methods.

In particular, the researcher is expected to:

- contribute to the development of impact assessment methods tailored down to the context of specific emerging technologies;
- contribute to the conduct of the assessment processes in accordance with the above-mentioned methods;
- contribute to the overall research projects' coordination;
- participate in (international) seminars and conferences;
- (co-)author scientific and professional articles in (peer reviewed) journals;
- contribute to drafting research project proposals for external funding.

Second, the researcher will develop an original doctoral thesis (PhD) related to the concept of impact assessment as a (new) (legal) tool for the protection of privacy and personal data. More specifically, while working on the said research projects, and within the first year of employment, the researcher is expected to develop a research proposal for his or her doctoral thesis.

Third, 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, assisting in organizing conferences and workshops, and publishing in books and journals, among others.

#### **ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

Candidates are expected to possess the following qualifications:

- a master's degree in law, preferably with a specialization in technology law, or privacy- and/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 the ongoing research activities and attracting external funding for research projects;
- academic writing skills;
- 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 and Dr. Dariusz Kloza. The successful candidate will collaborate closely with other members of the Brussels Laboratory for Data Protection & Privacy Impact Assessments (d.pia.lab), 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 Dr. Dariusz Kloza at [Dariusz.Kloza@vub.be](mailto:Dariusz.Kloza@vub.be), with a copy to Ms. Ioulia Konstantinou, Managing Director of the d.pia.lab, at [Ioulia.Konstantinou@vub.be](mailto: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;
- a draft research proposal for a doctoral thesis (1 page);
- 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 **10 February 2020 at 12:00** (Brussels time zone). It is currently envisioned that the successful candidates will be shortlisted by 17 February 2020, interviews held on 24 February 2020, and the position will start on 15 March 2020 (the start date might be negotiable).

**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](http://www.dpialab.org).**

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