



**CALL FOR APPLICATIONS: PhD POSITION ON PRIVACY AND PERSONAL DATA PROTECTION LEGISLATION IN CONNECTION WITH SMART TECHNOLOGIES (ENERGY AND TRANSPORT)**

The multidisciplinary Research Group on Law, Science, Technology & Society (LSTS) is an independent entity within the Faculty of Law & Criminology at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB). With more than 45 researchers at all levels of experience, LSTS has become a prominent European research institute in the area of technology regulation. The team is led, both administratively and academically, by Prof. Serge Gutwirth and Prof. Paul De Hert. The staff comprises several postdoc researchers, PhD researchers, associated researchers and affiliated professors. Research staff at 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.

**LSTS is looking for a motivated researcher to join its research unit on smart technologies (energy and transport) and personal data protection law.**

As part of his or her duties, the candidate, will be working on an ongoing innovation project funded by the European Commission (H2020) with a focus on providing solutions for cities to *“significantly increase their overall energy and resource efficiency through actions addressing the building stock, energy systems, mobility, and air quality”*.

In particular, the researcher is expected to focus on:

- the legal and regulatory aspects of the project, based on the applicable EU data protection legislative frameworks;
- legal and regulatory aspects related to incubating technology focused SMEs in the EU;
- supporting the activities of the project partners, providing legal advice or expertise for deliverables or project development as required.

While working on the project, the researcher is expected to develop a proposal for a doctoral degree (PhD). In addition, the researcher will have the opportunity to take an active role in LSTS contributing to its research agenda, attending and presenting in seminars, assisting in organizing conferences and workshops, and helping the Centre in competing in national and European funding opportunities.

**ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

Candidates are expected to possess the following qualifications:

- a master’s degree in law, criminology, sociology, ethics, or STS, preferably with a specialization in technology, awarded by the deadline for applications;
- relevant working experience;

- 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.

Interdisciplinary experience (for example, in an area such as law and economics or computer science) would be an added bonus.

### **A FEW SKILLS REQUIRED**

The researcher is expected to:

- Develop an original PhD thesis on topics related to the privacy and data protection aspects of smart technologies;
- Coordinate and manage the execution and implementation of LSTS projects and activities;
- Participate in international seminars and conferences;
- Publish in peer reviewed journals;
- Draft project proposals for external funding in collaboration with other researchers;
- Contribute to the existing research activities of LSTS;
- Represent LSTS at third party events.

### **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. Paul de Hert. The candidate will collaborate closely with the other members of 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. Office space and equipment will be provided along with a budget for travelling and other research-related expenses.

We offer 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 the 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 for a maximum of four years. 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 following application documents are to be consolidated into a single PDF file sent by email to [isborocz@vub.be](mailto:isborocz@vub.be).

Applications (in English) should include the following:

- a curriculum vitae;

- a cover letter which explains the motivation and qualifications of the candidate;
- two recent works: essay or excerpt from recent research or article written by the candidate;

Deadline for the submission of applications is 15 July 2018, 12:00 CET. It is currently envisioned that the successful candidate will be notified by the end of August and the position will start on 1 September 2018 (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 [www.vub.ac.be/LSTS/](http://www.vub.ac.be/LSTS/) or send us an email.**