



## VACANCY NOTICE

### SECONDED NATIONAL EXPERT TO THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

<b>Post identification:</b> (DG-DIR-UNIT)	<b>JRC-B-6_Research</b>
<b>Head of Unit:</b> <b>Email address:</b> <b>Telephone:</b> <b>Number of available posts:</b> <b>Suggested taking up duty:</b> <b>Suggested initial duration:</b> <b>Place of secondment:</b>	<b>Carlos Torrecilla Salinas</b> <a href="mailto:Carlos.TORRECILLA-SALINAS@ec.europa.eu">Carlos.TORRECILLA-SALINAS@ec.europa.eu</a> + 34 9544-80580 1 1 <sup>st</sup> quarter 2023 <sup>1</sup> 2 years <sup>1</sup> <input type="checkbox"/> Brussels <input type="checkbox"/> Luxemburg <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: Ispra or Sevilla
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> With allowances <input type="checkbox"/> Cost-free
<b>This vacancy notice is also open to</b>  <input type="checkbox"/> <b>the following EFTA countries :</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Iceland <input type="checkbox"/> Liechtenstein <input type="checkbox"/> Norway <input type="checkbox"/> Switzerland <input type="checkbox"/> EFTA-EEA In-Kind agreement (Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway) <input type="checkbox"/> <b>the following third countries:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>the following intergovernmental organisations:</b>	

#### 1. Nature of the tasks

The Joint Research Centre (JRC) is the science and knowledge service of the European Commission: our mission is to support EU policies with independent evidence throughout the whole policy cycle.

The current vacancy is with the newly formed European Centre for Algorithmic Transparency (ECAT), which, through its scientific and technical expertise and analyses, will reinforce the European Commission's supervisory role in the context of the EU Digital Services Act (DSA) – in close collaboration with the Directorate General for Communication Networks, Content and Technology (DG CONNECT). The ECAT will be established in the second half of 2022 and will be located in three JRC sites (Seville, Ispra and Brussels).

The EU Digital Services Act (DSA) is the world's first platform regulation that seeks to comprehensively address the most pressing societal risks emerging from the use of online platforms. Amongst other challenges, it focuses on tackling the dissemination of illegal content, goods and services online, protecting freedom of expression, and addressing disinformation.

It imposes obligations for online intermediaries and platforms (e.g. online marketplaces, social networks, content-sharing platforms, app stores, and online travel and accommodation platforms) according to their role, size and impact in society. It seeks to empower users of digital services – for example by regulating advertising and recommender systems on online platforms – and to protect them, by imposing obligations on digital services and holding them accountable through an unprecedented transparency mechanism.

Since a wider reach is coupled with the most severe risks, very large platforms and search engines with a user base of more than 45 million monthly average users (representing around 10% of the EU population) bear special obligations. Most prominently, they will be subject to a supervised risk management obligation and

<sup>1</sup> These mentions are given on an indicative basis only (Art.4 of the SNE Decision).

will need to adapt their service, their systems and their algorithms to address the societal risks they may pose. They will be subject to external independent auditing and will be under public scrutiny from civil society, vetted researchers and others.

This adaptive and anticipatory legal framework needs strong regulatory supervision and cutting-edge competence within the regulators. The European Commission will lead the supervision and enforcement of obligations for the largest platforms and search engines. This vacancy is part of the Commission's efforts to strengthen its capability and prepare for the enforcement of the rules. The Regulation was proposed by the European Commission in December 2020 and should enter into force in the last quarter of 2022.

We offer:

- a job in a dynamic, multidisciplinary research field at the cutting edge of algorithmic systems transparency and trustworthy artificial intelligence, with a tremendous societal impact in Europe and beyond;
- a unique opportunity to help make the online space safer and more transparent for all Europeans and to work hands-on on some of the most exciting and complex challenges brought by online platforms;
- a family-friendly working environment, with online collaboration and occasional travel for on-site investigations on the premises of online platforms and cooperative work with colleagues in Brussels, Seville or Ispra.

The jobholder will join an interdisciplinary and multicultural team of researchers working in the ECAT and more broadly contribute to the JRC's research portfolio on Trustworthy Artificial Intelligence and algorithmic transparency. S/he will work in close collaboration with a wide range of partners, in particular legal and policy experts in the enforcement units of the European Commission, in DG CONNECT, external researchers and scientists, and other various stakeholders in EU Member States and civil society organisations.

For this team, we are looking for researchers in the area of algorithms in online platforms and search engines, including for moderation and recommender systems.

The jobholder will work at the intersection between scientific research and policymaking. On the research side, s/he will contribute to establishing a research roadmap and carry out independent research in the area of online platforms' and online search engines' algorithms. This will include e.g. defining methodologies for testing risk mitigation measures and for ensuring fairness, transparency, human oversight and social well-being, and for analysing the impact of the use of algorithms in society, including on fundamental rights. On the policy side, s/he will support the ECAT's activities on the implementation and enforcement of the DSA, in close collaboration with other Commission services, other scientists and stakeholders/experts in the EU Member States and civil society organisations.

The work may involve:

- research on methodologies for ensuring fairness, transparency, explainability and human oversight of algorithms;
- collecting, processing and analysing data from various sources to assess the opportunities, risks and socio-economic impact of algorithms;
- defining methodologies for the documentation, evaluation and auditing of algorithms;
- providing scientific support to the implementation and enforcement of the Digital Services Act;
- closely collaborating with colleagues involved in investigations of online platforms;
- engaging and interacting with stakeholders and experts in the aforementioned areas, including algorithm auditing;
- contributing to briefings and delivering input on short-term requests from key partners (under the supervision of responsible team leader);
- nurturing a network of international researchers and research centres, including by drafting scientific publications and reports for a variety of audiences (experts/scientists, policy makers, the general public);
- defining and following up external studies or service contracts.

## **2. Main qualifications**

### **a) Eligibility criteria**

The following eligibility criteria must be fulfilled by the candidate in order to be seconded to the Commission. Consequently, the candidate who does not fulfil all of these criteria will be automatically eliminated from the selection process.

- Professional experience: at least three years of professional experience in administrative, legal, scientific, technical, advisory or supervisory functions which are equivalent to those of function group AD;
- Seniority: candidates must have at least one year seniority with their employer that means having worked for an eligible employer as described in Art. 1 of the SNE decision on a permanent or contract basis for at least one year before the secondment;
- Linguistic skills: thorough knowledge of one of the EU languages and a satisfactory knowledge of another EU language to the extent necessary for the performance of the duties. SNE from a third country must produce evidence of a thorough knowledge of one EU language necessary for the performance of his duties.

## b) Selection criteria

### Diploma

- university degree or
- professional training or professional experience of an equivalent level

in the field(s) : computer science, data science, artificial intelligence or another field relevant to the position, ideally with a focus on algorithmic design and auditing.

### Professional experience

At least 3 years of relevant research experience in the above-mentioned fields.

### Furthermore, the following experience would be desirable:

- Research results demonstrated by scientific publications in the field of algorithmic decision-making, addressing concerns such as fairness, transparency, explainability, human oversight and impact.
- Practical experience in algorithmic decision-making of online platforms, such as recommender systems or search engines, focusing on their system-centric and/or user-centric assessment.
- Experience of working in interdisciplinary teams following replicability practices and leading community initiatives.

### Language(s) necessary for the performance of duties

Very good (C1) knowledge of English.

## 3. Submission of applications and selection procedure

Candidates should send their application according to the **Europass CV format** (<http://europass.cedefop.europa.eu/en/documents/curriculum-vitae>) in English, French or German **only to the Permanent Representation / Diplomatic Mission to the EU of their country**, which will forward it to the competent services of the Commission within the deadline fixed by the latter. The CV must mention the date of birth and the nationality of the candidate. **Not respecting this procedure or deadlines will automatically invalidate the application.**

Candidates are asked not to add any other documents (such as copy of passport, copy of degrees or certificate of professional experience, etc.). If necessary, these will be requested at a later stage. Candidates will be informed of the follow-up of their application by the unit concerned.

## 4. Conditions of the secondment

The secondment will be governed by the **Commission Decision C(2008)6866 of 12/11/2008** laying down rules on the secondment to the Commission of national experts and national experts in professional training (SNE Decision).

The SNE will remain employed and remunerated by his/her employer during the secondment. He/she will equally remain covered by the national social security system.

Unless for cost-free SNE, allowances may be granted by the Commission to SNE fulfilling the conditions provided for in Art. 17 of the SNE decision.

During the secondment, SNE are subject to confidentiality, loyalty and absence of conflict of interest obligations, as provided for in Art. 6 and 7 of the SNE Decision.

If any document is inexact, incomplete or missing, the application may be cancelled.

Staff posted in a **European Union Delegation** are required to have a security clearance (up to SECRET UE/EU SECRET level according to Commission Decision (EU, Euratom) 2015/444 of 13 March 2015, OJ L 72, 17.03.2015, p. 53).

The selected candidate has the obligation to launch the vetting procedure before getting the secondment confirmation.

## **5. Processing of personal data**

The selection, secondment and termination of the secondment of a national expert requires the Commission (the competent services of DG HR, DG BUDG, PMO and the DG concerned) to process personal data concerning the person to be seconded, under the responsibility of the Head of Unit of DG HR.B.1. The data processing is subject to the SNE Decision as well as the Regulation (EU) 2018/1725.

Data is kept by the competent services for 7 years after the secondment (2 years for not selected experts).

You have specific rights as a 'data subject' under Chapter III (Articles 14-25) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1725, in particular the right to access, rectify or erase your personal data and the right to restrict the processing of your personal data. Where applicable, you also have the right to object to the processing or the right to data portability.

You can exercise your rights by contacting the Data Controller, or in case of conflict the Data Protection Officer. If necessary, you can also address the European Data Protection Supervisor. Their contact information is given below.

### **Contact information**

#### **- The Data Controller**

If you would like to exercise your rights under Regulation (EU) 2018/1725, or if you have comments, questions or concerns, or if you would like to submit a complaint regarding the collection and use of your personal data, please feel free to contact the Data Controller, Unit HR.B.1, [HR-B1-DPR@ec.europa.eu](mailto:HR-B1-DPR@ec.europa.eu).

#### **- The Data Protection Officer (DPO) of the Commission**

You may contact the Data Protection Officer ([DATA-PROTECTION-OFFICER@ec.europa.eu](mailto:DATA-PROTECTION-OFFICER@ec.europa.eu)) with regard to issues related to the processing of your personal data under Regulation (EU) 2018/1725.

#### **- The European Data Protection Supervisor (EDPS)**

You have the right to have recourse (i.e. you can lodge a complaint) to the European Data Protection Supervisor ([edps@edps.europa.eu](mailto:edps@edps.europa.eu)) if you consider that your rights under Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 have been infringed as a result of the processing of your personal data by the Data Controller.

To the attention of candidates from third countries: your personal data can be used for security checks.