



VACANCY NOTICE – 2023-SVQ-T3-FGIV-023340

Scientific Project Officers – Artificial Intelligence and Algorithm Inspections

Type of contract	Member of the European Commission's contract staff, Function Group IV (article 3b of the Conditions of Employment of Other Servants)
Duration of contract	36 months (renewable up to maximum 6 years)
Number of vacancies available	2
Area	Algorithmic transparency, inspection of algorithms, Trustworthy Artificial Intelligence
Place of employment	Seville (ES), Ispra (IT) or Brussels (BE) ¹ Please indicate in your application your preferred place(s) of employment.
Indicative basic salary	3877,47 - 5616,29 € (applicable as of 1 st of January 2022) For more detailed information please consult: Working Conditions

WE ARE

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 analysis, 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 is located **in three JRC sites (Seville, Ispra and Brussels)**.

¹ Being posted on other sites of the JRC (Petten, NL or Geel, BE) can be considered as an option upon request of the candidate.



The **EU Digital Services Act (DSA)** is the world's first platform regulation that seeks to 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.

Under the DSA, 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 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. The first set of 19 have recently been designed.²

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.

We offer:

- work 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.

WE PROPOSE

The jobholder will join an interdisciplinary and multicultural team of applied researchers working in the ECAT, and more broadly contribute to the JRC's research portfolio on [Trustworthy Artificial Intelligence](#). The jobholder will work in close collaboration with ECAT scientific researchers and a wide range of partners, in particular legal and policy experts in the enforcement units of the European Commission, in DG CONNECT. S/he will be part of cross-department teams during investigations and will interact with the technical departments of very large online platforms and very large online search engines. Activities may also include collaborations with external researchers and scientists, and other various stakeholders in EU Member States and civil society organisations.

² See <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/news/digital-services-act-commission-designates-first-set-very-large-online-platforms-and-search-engines>



For this team, we are looking for **specialists in algorithmic systems and Artificial Intelligence**. The ideal candidate would have an in-depth knowledge of modern algorithmic systems, such as those used by very large platforms and search engines, including AI systems for content recommendation and information retrieval.

The work may involve:

- defining and applying new methodologies and tools for the analysis, inspection and auditing of complex state-of-the-art algorithms and AI systems;
- defining and implementing practical experiments to assess the societal risks posed by online platforms' algorithms, producing evidence about their impact on users and society;
- analysis of information from online platforms, such as transparency reports, risks assessments and audit reports, and participation in DSA supervision and enforcement.

WE LOOK FOR

We are looking for **applied AI researchers and practitioners** with a keen interest in supporting EU digital policies. Candidates should have the **following experience/skills (essential)**:

- A university degree and at least 2 years relevant research experience or a PhD (doctoral diploma) in disciplines relevant to this vacancy such as computer science, artificial intelligence or engineering.
- Practical experience in the design, development and/or evaluation of algorithmic systems such as AI-based content recommendation, moderation and search systems.
- Very good (C1 level) knowledge of English.

Any of the following skills and experience would be **desirable**:

- Experience in performing algorithm inspection, auditing or testing activities, or analysing their risks and impact on society and individuals.
- In-depth knowledge of the architecture and lifecycle of large-scale algorithms, such as those used by online platforms and search engines.
- Excellent software engineering and DevOps skills; ability to develop, maintain and deploy production-grade libraries, tools and applications in Python.

HOW TO APPLY

If you are **already on a valid CAST FGIV reserve list**, or you **have already applied to one of the calls below**, you can directly submit your application at <http://recruitment.jrc.ec.europa.eu/?type=AX>.

If not, before applying to this position, **you must register** for one of the two following:

- the [Call for Expressions of Interest | EU Careers \(europa.eu\)](#) (CAST Permanent FGIV), which is used by a wide range of organisations (institutions, bodies, offices and agencies of the European Union), or
- the [specialised call for researchers](#) (JRC Call COM/1/2015/GFIV – Research), which is mainly used by the JRC.



Note that each of the calls above has **different minimum eligibility requirements and different selection tests**.

The JRC cultivates a workplace based on respect for other people and the environment, and embraces non-discriminatory practices and equality of opportunity. In case of equal merit, preference will be given to the gender in minority.