



2016-IPR-A5-FGIV-7965

Digital transformation – governance of human societies

Position for:

**FG IV Project Manager -
Technical Project Leader
(Scientific)**

As the science and knowledge service of the Commission, the mission of DG Joint Research Centre is to support EU policies with independent evidence throughout the whole policy cycle.

The JRC is located in 5 Member States (Belgium, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and Spain). Further information is available at: <http://www.jrc.ec.europa.eu>

In its recently established Centre for Advanced Studies (CAS), the JRC is deepening its knowledge base and explores new research areas of relevance for European policy. The CAS provides an interdisciplinary and stimulating 'space' where JRC scientists can engage in research in policy-relevant thematic areas and connect with lead institutions worldwide.

JRC is now looking for a Lead Scientist to develop a novel CAS project on "Digital Transformation – The governance of human societies". The aim of the project is to investigate how changes in information technology trigger major changes in political institutions and the organisation of society. In particular, it aims to understand how digital technologies, and the shift in data collection, analysis, and knowledge about society from the public to the private sector affect institutional architectures and governance at all levels.

Within the CAS, the successful candidate will establish a team of up to 4 scientists, design the concept, methodology and implementation plan of the research project, contribute to the excellence of the output and international outreach, establish cooperation with leading European and international experts in the field, and conclude the project with key scientific findings and recommendations for policy makers. The project has a maximum duration of three years and is well provided with financial resources for execution.

Qualifications:

Candidates must have

- a PhD (doctoral Diploma) in a relevant research field or a minimum of five years professional experience after university studies;
- Demonstrated experience in research on digital information technologies, the information economy or another relevant field for the project;
- A solid background in economics, political science, cognitive social science or social construction of technology research would be an asset;
- Professional experience in leading research projects, teams and/or international networks.

Documented skills in developing and implementing new research directions, in particular in multi-disciplinary

	<p>fields, are an advantage. Excellent written and spoken English (C1) is essential.</p> <p>Interested candidates should provide in addition to the application form, a curriculum vitae indicating a list of publications with the 10 most relevant publications highlighted.</p> <p>As part of the application form, applicants should provide a short research proposal on the topic (see annexed briefing) specifying the objectives, concept and methodology (2 pages max).</p> <p>Upon request a contact point for references may be requested.</p>
Directorate Unit	<p>Strategy and Work Programme Coordination Scientific Development</p> <p>JRC Centre for Advanced Studies The digital transformation - machine intelligence and human behaviour</p> <p>Further information: https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/en</p>
Indicative duration	12 months initial contract with possible renewals up to maximum 6 years
JRC Site Country	<p>Ispra or Seville</p> <p>Italy or Spain</p>
Rules and eligibility	<p>The candidate must be on a valid EPSO reserve list for Function Group IV contract staff or have applied to the permanent open call for researchers FG IV: https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/en/working-with-us/jobs/vacancies/function-group-iv-researchers</p> <p>Auxiliary contract staff: https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/en/working-with-us/jobs/temporary-positions/contract-staff-members</p> <p><i>Please note that due to the high number of applications received only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.</i></p>

Background
The Digital Transformation - Governance of Human Societies

As enormous amounts of information and information processing capacity become available, digital information technology induces structural changes in individual human behaviour and in the collective (social) behaviour of human societies.

The impacts of these changes stretch far beyond the economy and include individual cognitive and psychological effects and changes in the economic, social and political institutions that govern collective behaviour. An urgent, complex and policy relevant question in this context is how the next generation of computing affects human society. This is an interdisciplinary research area that combines the insights from economics, cognitive science, computer science and political science, amongst others.

Historians have observed the impact of major changes in information technology (writing, printing, mass media) on the institutional and governance structures of societies. The evolution of digital technologies is expected to trigger even deeper transformations in public and private institutions at multiple levels, and in the organisational fabric of society.

Research on these transformations so far has concentrated at the level of individual organisation or institution. However, a conceptual framework for understanding the interactions between digital technologies, new information flows and institutional change or changes in collective behaviour, is still lacking. Understanding these interactions and their implications for governance of human societies in the early stages of the digital transformation is of major social and political relevance in order to effectively manage both positive and negative impacts today and in the future.