



2022-SVQ-B6-FGIV-020528

**FG IV – Scientific Project Officer – Trustworthy recommender systems**

**POSITION FOR:**

Member of the contract staff IV – art. 3b of the Conditions of Employment of Other Servants

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CONSLEG:1962R0031:20110101:EN:PDF>

**WE ARE:**

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: <https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/>

**The current vacancy is in the Digital Economy Unit (JRC.B.6)** of the JRC Directorate Growth and Innovation. The unit provides quantitative and qualitative techno-socioeconomic research targeting the impacts of the Digital Transformation on the economy and society. It studies the current and emerging facets of digital transformation, and its impacts on the European economy, society and environment, in support of policies under the priority “A Europe fit for the Digital Age”. In particular, the unit provides techno-socio-economic research on the impacts and strategic role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and other digital technologies, data and digital platforms for the economy and society, and it supports the modernisation of public sector.

**WE PROPOSE:**

In April 2021, the European Commission proposed a Regulation on Artificial Intelligence (the “AI Act”) aiming to create the conditions for the development and use of trustworthy artificial intelligence in the Union. The AI Act lays down a set of obligations for different participants across the AI value chain, effectively following a risk-based approach that imposes certain requirements when an AI system is likely to pose risks to fundamental rights and/or safety. In this context, providers of high-risk AI products would be required to address concrete concerns such as transparency, human oversight, accuracy, robustness, cybersecurity, risk management, data governance or record keeping.

In addition, the European Commission has proposed the Digital Services Act (DSA), which aims to create a safer digital space where the fundamental rights of users are protected. The rules specified in the DSA primarily concern online intermediaries and platforms, e.g. online marketplaces, social networks, content-sharing platforms, app stores, and online travel and accommodation platforms. For very large online platforms and search engines, it establishes transparency requirements for recommender systems, enforces the access to data for independent researchers with the goal of carrying out independent evaluations, and promotes research on systemic risks that can be brought by these systems.

In the context of these two very important policy files, we are offering a research position in the area of trustworthy AI, with a focus on recommender systems. The candidate will join an interdisciplinary and multicultural team of researchers working on Artificial Intelligence in the Digital Economy Unit and more broadly contribute to the JRC’s research portfolio on Trustworthy Artificial Intelligence and algorithm transparency.

The jobholder will work at the intersection between scientific research and policy-making. On the research side, s/he will establish a research roadmap and carry out independent research in the area of trustworthy recommender systems, e.g. defining methodologies for ensuring fairness, transparency, human oversight and social well-being and analysing their impact on fundamental rights. On the policy side, s/he will support the implementation and further development of the mentioned regulatory frameworks, collaborating with policy units, high-level experts and standards organisations.

The work may involve:

- research on methodologies for ensuring fairness, transparency and human oversight of recommender systems;
- collecting, processing and analysing data from various sources to assess the opportunities, risks and socio-economic impact of recommender systems;
- defining methodologies for the documentation, evaluation and auditing of recommender systems;
- providing evidence to support the implementation and enforcement of the AI Act and Digital Services Act;
- engaging and interacting with stakeholders and experts in the area of trustworthy AI and algorithm auditing;
- contributing to briefings and delivering on time short-term requests from key partners (under the supervision of scientific officer responsible);
- 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.

**WE LOOK FOR:**

We are looking for a highly motivated and outstanding candidate with a keen interest in supporting EU digital policies and the following experience/skills (required):

- A PhD (doctoral Diploma) or a university degree (if combined with at least 2 years relevant research) in the fields of computer science, data science, artificial intelligence or another field relevant to the position, ideally with a focus on recommender systems.
- Very good (C1 level) knowledge of English.

The following experience/knowledge is desirable:

- Research track record demonstrated by scientific publications in the area of recommender systems, ideally related to trustworthy AI, addressing concerns such as fairness, transparency, explainability, human oversight and impact.
- Practical experience on recommender systems and platforms, and its evaluation from a system-centric and/or user-centric perspective.
- Experience working within interdisciplinary teams, following reproducibility practices and leading community initiatives.

**INDICATIVE CONTRACT'S DURATION:**

36 months initial contract with possible renewals up to maximum 6 years.

**PLACE OF WORK:**

Seville (ES)

**ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:**

Candidates for this contract agent post shall:

– (i) have passed a valid EPSO CAST selection procedure;

or

– (ii) be registered in the EPSO Permanent CAST [https://epso.europa.eu/documents/2240\\_en](https://epso.europa.eu/documents/2240_en)

or

- (iii) be registered in the specialised call for researchers [https://joint-research-centre.ec.europa.eu/working-us/jobs-jrc/temporary-positions/contract-staff-members/function-group-iv/job-opportunities-research-fellows-european-commission\\_en](https://joint-research-centre.ec.europa.eu/working-us/jobs-jrc/temporary-positions/contract-staff-members/function-group-iv/job-opportunities-research-fellows-european-commission_en) (used mainly by the JRC).

With a valid application number to one of the above, you may then apply for this specific vacancy at JRC through: <http://recruitment.jrc.ec.europa.eu/?type=AX>.

**RECRUITMENT POLICY:**

The Joint Research Centre

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