LeADS

LeADS Newsletter

Beginning of the LeADS Research Journey

Followed by an intensive interdisciplinary training program in Pisa at Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna, the 15 Early Stage Researchers (ESR) have begun their research journey in the 7 institutions participating in the LeADS project.

One of their first tasks consisted of drafting an individual personal career and skills development plan where each ESR outlined their planned activities, an evaluation of training needs, and career goals for the upcoming years. Furthermore, the ESRs kick-started their research by drafting a research plan where they detailed research questions, method, and proposed a first state of the art analysis about the field of their own topic. The aim of this plan is to assist the researchers in building and enhancing their own research and professional profile to ultimately enhance their future employability by identifying training needs that benefit them in

academic or industrial contexts.

Furthermore, throughout periodic meetings in the four crossroads of the LeADS project (1. Privacy vs Intellectual Property 2. Trust in Data Processing & Algorithmic Design 3. Data Ownership 4. Empowering individuals) the ESRs have presented their individual advances and challenges they encountered thus far during their research. This exchange has already allowed them to identify synergies and to reflect on how their individual research can

contribute to these four overarching challenges that still need to be addressed in data-driven societies and which constitute the backbone of the LeADS project.

The year began furthermore with several conferences that have been organized by LeADS in collaboration with other actors discussing pressing topics of our time such as explainability of AI. In addition to a recap of the conferences, this Newsletter provides an outlook on the upcoming training activities for the ESRs.

Legality Attentive AI: Awareness Conference on Explainability of AI

In cooperation with the Brussels Privacy Hub, LeADS organized an awareness conference on the topic of explainability of AI that took place on Privacy Day 2022. It brought together a panel of distinguished, interdisciplinary speakers from private and public institutions:

Paul Nemitz, the principal advisor on justice policy for the EU Commission; Catelijne Muller, president of the organization ALLAI that promotes responsible AI; Fosca Giannotti of Scuola Normale Superiore and director of research of computer science at National Research Council (CNR); Ricardo Masucci, global director of privacy policy at Intel; and Dafna Feinholz, chief of ethics of science and technology at UNESCO.

Coming from different scientific backgrounds, the panel brought in very diverse perspectives combining views from regulatory institutions, civil society, business as well as the scientific community.

Together they reflected and discussed different questions such as which regulatory approach should be adopted towards AI and what does explainability of AI actually entail – for whom should algorithms be explainable?

A summary of this meaningful debate, authored by ESR Robert Poe, as well as a link to rewatch the entire discussion can be accessed on the [blog of the LeADS Website](#).

Recent Perspectives on Dynamic Consent in Research: A Combined Legal and Technical Approach

In cooperation with SoBigData++, which strives to create a multi-disciplinary research infrastructure for big social data analytics, LeADS organized a joint awareness panel on questions surrounding possibilities of dynamic consent. The latter allows participants in, for instance, long term clinical studies to revise and change their choices on participation overtime. Such a dynamic model of consent can especially be useful in long term studies when future uses of data are unclear at the moment of their collection.

Together with Deborah Mascalzoni and Roberta Bisotto from EURAC Research Center, Giulia Schneider from Catholic University of Milan, two ESRs from LeADS discussed two fields of research that have to be integrated: on the one hand understanding the normative framework with regard to dynamic consent, encompassing both a legal and ethical dimension. And on the other hand, the need to have tools to put dynamic consent into practice and which are viable for both researchers as well as data subjects.

ESRs Tommaso Crepax and Cristian Lepore discussed how dynamic consent integrates into the European data protection framework and gave concrete examples how it is implemented from a technical viewpoint – merging both legal and technological perspectives on the topic.
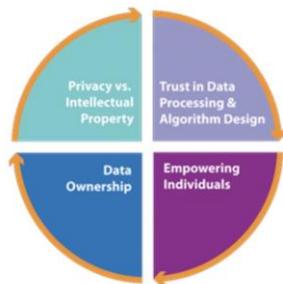
The presentations can be rewatched on the [Blog of the LeADS Website](#).

Upcoming ESR Training Modules in Pisa

The cross-interdisciplinary training program for the ESRs constitutes a fundamental part of the LeADS project. Being capable to fully understand the challenges posed by the digital transformation and data economy requires knowledge in different fields such as computer science, law, or economics. The LeADS training program is therefore structured around six modules that together aim at training a new generation of researchers as legality attentive data scientists that become experts in both law and data science capable of working within and across the two disciplines.

Between March and April, the 15 ESRs will therefore meet again for two weeks in Pisa for their third training module. Followed by an initial research design course on how to assess the societal relevance of their research question, the ESRs will receive introductory courses to EU and international law for non-experts to level the playing field between lawyers and computer scientists in the group.

Reflecting Crossroad 1 Privacy vs Intellectual Property, several courses will provide in-depth knowledge about Human Rights and Data Protection as well as Intellectual Property Law. The analysis of current legislative proposals such as the European AI act will equally be subject to an extensive analysis and discussion in an individual course. The data scientist perspective is provided by training on, for instance, tools and techniques for data mining. To ensure that the perspective is not simply interdisciplinary but also cross-cultural, another course will discuss American and Chinese approaches to privacy. Finally, the ESRs will be provided with insights into the enforcement practices of data protection regulation by the Italian competition authority.

The teaching is provided by various experts from the different beneficiaries such as Giovanni Comandé from Scuola Superiore Sant' Anna, Paul De Hert from Vrije Universiteit Brussel, and Fryderyk Zoll from Jagiellonian University.

In case you want to reach out to us, you can do so by writing us an email at info@legalityattentivedatascientists.eu.

You can also find us in the following social media platforms:

Twitter: @LeADSmsca

LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/in/LeADSMSCA

YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCaKqETPbi2OsmfzJp_44JnA