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LeADS Conference and TILL Workshop in Toulouse

On the 7th and 8th of December 2022, the 15 Early-Stage Researchers (ESRs) met again for the Conference on Data Sciences and EU Regulations and for the Technology Innovation in Law Laboratories (TILL) workshop in Toulouse, France. The events took place under the auspices of IRIT, Université Toulouse III – Paul Sabatier, one of the beneficiaries of the LeADS project.

Conference on Data Sciences and EU Regulations

The two-day LeADS event kicked off with the Conference on Data Sciences and EU Regulations organised by IRIT. The conference was divided into three sessions. The opening session consisted of two keynote talks. The first keynote was entitled “Technological Barriers & Opportunities for Data Sciences” by **Jean-Michel Loubes** from IMT-ANITI who presented his research on algorithmic bias. The second keynote, entitled “Barriers and opportunities for Data Sciences brought by EU Regulations” by **Emanuel Weitschek** from the Italian Competition Authority made an analysis of the current EU Regulations that provide opportunities for data sciences, such as the Data Markets Act.



The conference continued with the LeADS ESRs’ poster session, where they presented the development of their research.



The third and final session was a panel discussion on “Best practices for digital technology development in the era of big regulation” with **Gabriele Lenzini** from University of Luxembourg, **Jessica Eynard** from Université Toulouse 1 Capitole, **Nicolas Viallet** from Université de Toulouse, and **Teesta Bhandare** from Art Garde. The panel covered many topics such as AI for art tokens, online age verification and children’s safety on the internet, and the relevant EU policy and regulatory measures.

Technology Innovation in Law Laboratories (TILL) Workshop



On the second day, the ESRs gathered at IRIT again for the **Technology Innovation in Law Laboratories (TILL)** workshop. These two-part workshop series in the LeADS training program present the ESRs with the opportunity to do hands-on exploration of practical cases. The goal of the TILL workshops is to go beyond the conventional learning practices and focus on horizontal interactions and collaborative learning. TILLS also aim to prepare the ESRs for their upcoming secondments (at companies and regulators) in terms of knowledge transfer and in a more general pedagogical context seeking to reconcile the different vocabularies and practices around technology and law.

The first one of the TILL workshops was co-organised by the LeADS beneficiaries Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB) and University of Luxembourg. The practical cases to be worked on were provided by the LeADS partners TELLU, Italian Competition Authority (AGCM) and INDRA.

The workshop kicked off with an introduction by **Imge Ozcan** from VUB and **Arianna Rossi** and **Marietjie Botes** from University of Luxembourg. Following this introductory session, the workshop continued in breakout sessions where the ESR teams worked on the practical cases.

Team 1 was composed of ESRs **Xengie Doan**, **Fatma Sumeyra Dogan**, **Aizhan Abdrassulova**, and **Soumia Elmestari**. They worked on a use case on health personnel access to e-health data provided by TELLU. Supported by their mentors Arianna Rossi (University of Luxembourg) and **Katarzyna Południak-Gierz** (Jagiellonian University), the group of ESRs discussed solutions and proposed a health data management prototype that offers read access only to patient data, 2F authentication, encryption, and easy opt-out solutions.



Team 2, formed of ESRs **Tommaso Crepax**, **Barbara Lazzarotto**, **Mitisha Gaur**, **Qifan Yang**, and **Louis Sahi**, worked on a practical case related to data portability provided by the Italian Competition Authority. With the support of their mentors, **Marietjie Botes** (University of Luxembourg) and **Ali Mohamed Kandi** (Toulouse III-Paul Sabatier University), the team worked on an Instagram story as a case study and came up with a data portability proposal, covering several crucial aspects such data protection, IP Law, technical standards and economic implications.

Team 3, formed by ESRs **Armend Duzha, Onntje Hinrichs, Cristian Lepore, Maciej Zuziak, and Robert Poe**, worked on a practical case on biometrics deployment in security systems provided by INDRA. Supported by their mentors **Gloria González Fuster** (VUB) and **Gabriele Lenzini** (University of Luxembourg), the team proposed a holistic solution providing innovative technical recommendations in line with the security rules for attaining Facility Security Clearance (FSC) and data protection rules embodied in the GDPR.



In the late afternoon, the ESR teams presented their findings in an interactive session and received questions and feedback from the LeADS members and other participants. **Claudia Castillo Arias** (INDRA), **José Francisco Suárez Mulero** (INDRA), **Liubov Kokorina** (TELLU) and **Emanuel Weitschek** (AGCM) also joined the interactive session to provide feedback on behalf of the partners that provided the practical cases.

The ESRs were encouraged to build on the work developed during this workshop and were offered further collaboration opportunities by LeADS partners and beneficiaries. The second TILL workshop will take place in December 2023.

LeADS Year in Review: 2022

As the year 2022 is coming to an end it is a good point in time to look back at the first LeADS year of our 15 ESRs. In November 2021 their collective research journey started to become Legality Attentive Data Scientists and to engage in research in four crossroads, i. e. major challenges that still need to be addressed in data-driven societies: 1. Privacy vs Intellectual Property 2. Trust in Data Processing & Algorithmic Design 3. Data Ownership 4. Empowering Individuals.

More than 7 Weeks of Intensive Interdisciplinary Training

On four occasions the ESRs met to attend a cross-interdisciplinary training program which constitutes a fundamental part of the LeADS project. Being capable of fully understanding the challenges posed by the digital transformation and data economy requires knowledge in different fields such as computer science, law, and economics. The project has therefore been structured around various training modules that together aim at training a new generation of researchers that become experts in both law and data science capable of working within and across the two disciplines.

Between November-December 2021, the ESRs first met each other in Pisa at Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna for their first three weeks of training focusing on a variety of topics ranging from big data analytics and applications, data mining and machine learning, or research ethics and methodology.

Between March and April 2022, the ESRs met again for two weeks in Pisa. Whereas the first training modules involved mainly subjects related to computer and data science, this training module focussed more on [the legal](#)



[perspective](#). The ESRs were taught various topics such as EU cybersecurity law, data protection law, and how AI technology challenges the regulatory framework of intellectual property.

The next training module brought the ESRs to the beautiful [island of Crete](#). In addition to courses on law and data science, the ESRs were divided into interdisciplinary groups for practical sessions to deploy a smart contract and to analyse and identify weaknesses in a security protocol.



Finally, the last module brought the ESRs together in [Kraków at Jagiellonian University](#) in September. The last training module concluded with reflections on data and ownership as well as discussions on problems the ESRs have encountered throughout their first year of research.

Throughout all training modules the ESRs benefited from the combined academic expertise that is available at the 7 beneficiaries of the Leads

project (Scuola Superiore Sant’Anna, University of Luxembourg, Université Toulouse III – Paul Sabatier, Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Jagiellonian University, University of Piraeus, and Italian National Research Council (CNR)). In addition to courses taught by academics, the ESRs also had the chance to get insights into how problems and current discussions in the data economy are perceived by businesses, thanks to the active participation of the LeADS partners (Innov-Acts, BYTE COMPUTER S.A., Intel, the Italian Data Protection Authority, the Italian Competition Authority, Tellu, INDRA, and MMI).

Finally, in addition to these conventional learning practices, the ESRs also met at IRIT, Toulouse for the [Technology Innovation in Law Laboratories \(TILL\) workshop](#). These two-part workshop series in the LeADS training program present the ESRs with the opportunity to do hands-on exploration of practical cases. Three different groups of ESRs had to solve challenges that were provided by LeADS partners (Indra, TELLU, and the Italian Competition Authority). The workshop provided the ESRs with the opportunity to translate their knowledge to concrete cases and receive feedback on the solutions which they developed.



The First year of Research



One of the first tasks of the ESRs consisted of drafting an individual personal career and skills development plan where they had to individually outline their planned activities, and an evaluation of training needs and career goals for the upcoming years. Furthermore, the ESRs launched their research by drafting a research plan where they detailed research questions, methods, and proposed a first state of the art analysis about the field of their own topic. During periodic meetings in the four crossroads of the LeADS project, the researchers presented their individual advances and discussed potential challenges. These early discussions allowed the

ESRs to identify synergies and how their individual research could contribute to these four overarching challenges.

In addition to their individual research, the ESRs started collaborating closely together within the four crossroads since the beginning of their research journeys. The ESRs engaged with each other’s topics to create a collective report that has been nourished from the individual and collective research. Since

the crossroads are composed of researchers from different academic backgrounds, discussions surrounding the different topics were interdisciplinary involving diverse perspectives from law, computer and data science, and economics. During regular meetings the Crossroads were therefore shaped through different perspectives. The result of this intensive process has been a 180-pages long report that constituted the first scientific output of the LeADS project and functions as a backbone for the upcoming research activities. Currently, the ESRs are working in inter-crossroads groups to collectively write working papers on diverse topics such as data governance models, data portability, or data ownership by design that will be published during the second trimester of 2023.

The First Year of Discussing and Presenting Research

Throughout 2022, several conferences have been organised by the LeADS consortium to discuss the latest developments in regulating the data economy. For Data Privacy Day an awareness [conference on the explainability of AI](#) was organised in collaboration with Brussels Privacy Hub and involved a panel of distinguished speakers such as Paul Nemitz of the European Commission, and Fosca Giannotti of Scuola Normale Superiore and CNR.

On two occasions in [Crete](#) and [Toulouse](#), the ESRs had the opportunity to present their research at conferences during collective poster sessions. Further conferences and awareness panels were oftentimes organised with active participation of ESRs, such as the [SoBigData++ and LeADS joint awareness panel](#) on dynamic consent.



At the annual Computers, Privacy and Data Protection conference (CPDP), ESRs were participating in a [dissemination and public engagement activity](#) and many of the LeADS project beneficiaries' contributed to the conference [during panels and talks](#). During [Researchers' Night](#) ESRs participated in various events in different countries, such as in [Greece](#), [Italy](#), [Poland](#), or [France](#). ESRs also individually applied and went to international conferences to present their research like in [Warsaw](#), [Seoul](#), [Roskilde](#), [Madrid](#), or [Utrecht](#). ESRs [filmed research pitches](#) and used the LeADS [blog](#) to communicate on diverse topics such as [critical reflections on Europol](#), [European Health Data Spaces](#), [predictive justice](#), [data property](#), the [data act](#), or [data portability](#).



Finally, the research by ESRs got published in journals on topics such as [consent](#), [child protection in online games](#), the [Data Act and B2G data sharing](#) or [consumer protection](#).

The first year of the ESRs research journey has been an exciting, challenging, and rewarding experience for all participating researchers. It brought together academics from different scientific and cultural backgrounds who are united in their passion on doing research across disciplines. We are very much grateful for the commitment of the multitude of people who have been actively contributing to the advancement and ongoing success of the LeADS project. We are looking forward to the upcoming year which is shaping up to be an even more productive year, with further opportunities for research and new collaborations.

ESRs Presenting and Publishing their Research

ESR **Soumia Zohra El Mestari** participated in the 5th AAAI/ACM conference on Artificial Intelligence, Ethics and Society hosted in Oxford, UK from 1st to 3rd August 2022. Soumia presented her work on "How to preserve privacy during the machine learning pipeline" as part of the student program of the conference. Her work focused on perceiving privacy in terms of trust assumptions made by the different stakeholders at each and every step of the machine learning pipeline.

On November 28th, ESR **Tommaso Crepax** was invited to participate as speaker to an Awareness Panel on Data Portability organised by the SoBigData++ project.

The speakers Dr. Denise Amram (SSSA), Kyle Mc Kibbin (University of Ghent) and our Tommaso Crepax (SSSA) discussed issues of portability as embedded in relevant pieces of regulations. Opening with an explanation on article 20 GDPR from Dr. Amram, Mc Kibbin discussed the interplay between portability in GDPR in respect to the Data Governance Act and Data Act. Closing the debate, Tommaso highlighted that, contrary to what most data scientist would believe—that is, data protection and governance laws are obstacles to research—there are plenty of cases where laws such as the Open Data Directive or the Free flow of Non-Personal Regulation actually open up or give access to useful datasets—according to some specific conditions. Researchers, it seems, have more opportunities to access data than they think they have!

The recording of the event can be found [here](#).

ESR **Qifan Yang** participated in the Symposium on Frontier of Smart Nomocracy jointly sponsored and hosted by the Journal of Xi'an Jiaotong University, Journal of the East China University of Politics & Law, SJTU Law Review, and Journal of Cyber and Information Law in Xi'an (China) on the 12th-13th of November.

Qifan presented her work about personal data value and protection systems as a part of the panel named "Data Property Rights and Data Trading System". She analysed the value distributions of personal information among different subjects and across various transaction parties in the data collection, processing, and analysis process from the perspectives of communication and information economics.

Furthermore, **Qifan** presented her research at the China Economic Law Annual Conference organized by China Economic Law Society in Wuhan (China) on the 3rd-4th of December. Her work entitled "Personal Data Wavering between Privacy and Efficiency: Is Propertization a Good Answer?" was presented in the panel and won the third prize. It illustrated the causes for de facto property rights in personal data, the attribution of de facto property rights in the free market, and its endogenous flaws through the Coase theorem and property theory based on law and economics.

On December 9th, ESR **Aizhana Abdrassulova** presented her research at the international scientific and practical conference "State, Security and Human Rights in the Digital Era". In her presentation she talked about "Information security, data privacy and data trust - how to find a balance?".

Furthermore, on December 19th she talked about "Comparative legal analysis of digitalization of the political space of Poland and Kazakhstan" at the international conference "Legal Comparatistic in Legislative-Political Discourse. Legality or Abuse" held at Kozminski University in Warsaw.

ESRs **Bárbara da Rosa Lazarotto** and **Onntje Hinrichs** presented their research at the [Digital Legal Talks 2022](#) that took place on November 24th in Utrecht.

Bárbara talked about the implications of the Data Act proposal to B2G data sharing in smart cities. Furthermore, Barbara participated in a panel on “Transparency Rules for Digital Infrastructures”

Onntje’s presentation also focussed on the Data Act but on the consumer perspective, i. e. to what extent the proposal delivers on its promise to empower consumers over ‘their data’.

ESR **Fatma Doğan** attended the Pre-ICIS-workshop “[Towards Health Futures: Innovating with Health Data](#)”, held in Copenhagen on 11th December.

The workshop was organized as a part of the International Conference on Information Systems (ICIS). After the panel session, Fatma presented her work in the roundtable session. Her study titled: “Secondary Use of Health Data: A Comparative Analysis of GDPR and European Health Data Space”. She focused on provisions of secondary use in the European Health Data Space and how these provisions will interplay with GDPR and made a comparison of the two legislations.

ESRs **Bárbara da Rosa Lazarotto** participated on November 18th at the international conference “Perspectives of Business Law” organised by the Bucharest Academy of Economic Studies. In her presentation she talked about “General aspects of the Data Act: Focus on business to government data sharing”.

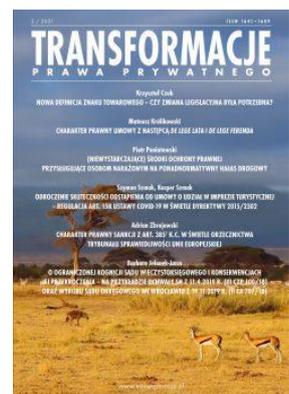
Furthermore, in a course from VUB associate professor Gianclaudio Malgieri, Barbara gave a guest lecture on the Data Act and data sharing for research purposes.

ESR **Onntje Hinrichs’** article “[The Data Act: A Missed Opportunity for Consumers](#)” has been published in the journal *Privacy* in Germany (PinG).

In his article Onntje analysed provisions of the Data Act and presented his perspective on why the Data Act might fail its objective of “empowering individuals with regard to their data”. Instead, it might confirm the de facto ownership position of data holders with regard to IoT data in B2C relations.

Call for Papers

The journal of Jagiellonian University “The Transformation of Private Law (Transformacje Prawa Prywatnego)” published an open call for papers with a deadline end of April 2023. Contributions can have a broad range, on topics such as comments on recent CJEU judgments, book reviews, or article proposals. More information is available on the [website of the Journal](#).



Key facts

Grant Agreement N° 956562
Start Date: 1 January 2021
Duration: 4 years
Coordinator: SCUOLA SUPERIORE DI STUDI UNIVERSITARI E DI PERFEZIONAMENTO S ANNA

Contact us

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