Recruiting Department/Research Unit: Department of Law

Title: The vulnerability protection system in European Union law

Offer description:

The term 'vulnerability' is used in several areas of EU law. This concept assumes fundamental importance in the European digital single market. In particular, the Data Protection Regulation (EU) 2016/679 uses the category of vulnerability to define the status of the data subject in relation to the data controller. In Regulation (EU) 2022/2065 on a single market for digital services (the so-called DSA - Digital Services Act), the concept of vulnerability is used to describe the condition of certain less savvy users: it is, therefore, understood as a quality that could be exploited by digital service providers to provide services for a fee or to steal personal data. In Directive (EU) 2022/2555 on measures for a common high level of cybersecurity, the term vulnerability is used by the legislator as a synonym for 'fragility' of an information system. Finally, the proposal for a regulation on artificial intelligence uses the term 'vulnerability' in a polysemous manner: in this context, this notion is related to the rapid evolution of artificial intelligence-related technologies that expose less well-equipped actors and make them more easily susceptible to attack than a technology whose full potential is not yet known.

However, despite its undoubted relevance, the notion of vulnerability is never fully clarified by the legislator. Nor, on the other hand, is the interpretation that the Court of Justice of the European Union has so far provided of this term very helpful.

The aim of the research is, therefore, to elaborate a systematic definition of vulnerability as a general category in the European Union legal order, to identify its ontological structure and, consequently, to define the characteristics of the protection system.

In implementing the project, the researcher will be required to:
- create a database (or collection) of the case law of the Court of Justice of the European Union;
- publish two articles in band A scientific journals;
- organise a seminar, at the end of the research activities, to disseminate the research results.

Researcher career profile:

- R1 First Stage Researcher (up to the completion of PhD)

For further details https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/europe/career-development/training-researchers/research-profiles-descriptors

Location: Macerata, Italy

Type of contract:

- temporary

Job status

- full time

Expected start date and duration of the contract: 12 (twelve) months. The exact start date will be provided after the selection process.
Annual gross salary: € 19.367,00

Selection criteria: Master’s Degree in Law

Preferential selection criteria:
1. PhD in the field of law is an advantage;
2. Possession of at least three scientific publications;
3. Good knowledge of the English language.

Application deadline: 04/11/2023, 1 p.m.

Full details are available at: https://www.unimc.it/it/ateneo/bandi-e-concorsi/finanziamenti-ricerca/bandi-assegni-ricerca

Enquiries can be made to: Ufficio Ricerca Scientifica e Dottorato – ufficio.ricerca@unimc.it

DISCLAIMERS

- The University of Macerata has adopted an OTM-R (Open, Transparent and merit-based Recruitment) policy within the framework of its Human Resources Strategy for Researchers; see https://www.unimc.it/it/ricerca/hrs4r/la-policy-otm-r-open-transparent-and-merit-based-recruitment-of-researchers

- The University of Macerata pursues an equal opportunities and diversity policy as well. Among facilities, a kindergarten is available for university’s employees. Specific facilities and services are also dedicated to employees with disabilities (transportation services, specific technologies for studying).