**Signed Statement of Host Organisation**

Please outline in **no more than 1.500 words** the support to be provided to the candidate, by responding to each of the questions below.

1. What position or role will the candidate hold within your organisation?

The candidate will hold a post-doctorate / doctoral studies position in the [Centre for Biomedical Ethics and Law](https://gbiomed.kuleuven.be/english/research/50000687/50000697), Department of Public Health and Primary Care, Faculty of Medicine, University of Leuven (KU Leuven), Leuven, Belgium

1. Please outline the candidate’s compatibility with the host organisation, for example departmental strength in the candidate’s research area, or, in the case of PhD holders, a void that the research can successfully fill.

The candidate will coordinate the following project within the Centre for Biomedical Ethics and Law at the KU Leuven: ‘Developing an Ethics Framework for Data Policy in Times of Crisis’.

This fellowship supports a project to be carried out jointly in cooperation with the International Data Policy Committee of CODATA, International Science Council, along with a consortium of experts from EU, UN, and international institutions. The following organizations are currently being invited to participate in the consortium:

* Ministry of Health, Kyiv, Ukraine
* The National Research Foundation of Ukraine, Kyiv, Ukraine
* Research Ethics Committee of Clinical and Diagnostics Centre, National University of Pharmacy, Kharkov, Ukraine
* CODATA: Committee on Data of the ISC, Paris, France
* International Science Council (ISC), Paris, France
* GO-FAIR Foundation, Leiden, The Netherlands
* Open Access Programme, Electronic Information for Libraries (EIFL), Vilnius, Lithuania
* Global Disaster Risk Reduction, UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA), United Kingdom
* Department of Statistics, Middle East Technical University (METU), Ankara, Turkey
* Ukraine Clinical Research Support Initiative (UCRSI)
* Good Clinical Practice Alliance – Europe (GCPA), Leuven, Belgium
* History of Medicine and Ethics Department, TOBB University of Economics and Technology, Ankara, Turkey
* Salim El-Hoss Bioethics & Professionalism Program (SHBPP), American University of Beirut
* United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)
* Disaster Loss DATA, Integrated Research on Disaster Risk (IRDR), New Zealand
* Science Policy and Partnerships Section, Division of Science Policy and Capacity Building, UNESCO
* Computer Network Information Center, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing, China; Member, International Data Policy Committee (IDPC)
* Disaster Risk Management (Health-EDRM), World Health Organization
* Public Governance, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

1. Please describe the profile of the academic mentor proposed for this candidate. If applicable, please provide details on their experience hosting international guest scholars, in particular any experience hosting researchers at risk.

Professor Kris Dierickx’s research focuses on the applied and fundamental aspects of new technologies in medicine. His main research activities are concentrated on the ethical aspects of predictive medicine, autism, research ethics, data and information management, and scientific integrity. He acts as a reviewer for various journals and has published more than 150 articles in international peer reviewed journals and books. Professor Dierickx has been involved with the Ukraine Clinical Research Support Initiative (UCRSI) during the 2022 period.

Professor Dierickx has more than 20 years’ experience hosting scholars from around the world as doctoral students, post-doctoral research fellows, and international visiting scholars, including scholars from vulnerable regions and vulnerable populations.

Kris Dierickx is involved in various national and international research projects where his focus includes ethics and patient involvement. He was the coordinator of ‘GeneBanC’ (Genetic bio and dataBanking: Confidentiality and protection of data. Towards a European harmonisation and policy), an international research project (STREP) that was funded by the European Commission. He acts as partner or promoter in national research projects on integrity (KU Leuven, FWO), on the ethical aspects of early testing for Alzheimer’s Disease (IWT), and on the ethical challenges in the use of the concept of autism (Opening the Future). Internationally Kris is currently involved research consortia on scientific integrity (European Commission, Chinese Scholarship Council), and on autonomy and vulnerability (Australian Catholic University).

He is member of the Belgian Royal Academy of Medicine, the Flemish Screening Commission, the Deontological Commission of the Superior Health Council, and he serves as an ethicist in several ethics committees. Within the university he is a member of the Committee on Scientific Integrity, the Ethics Committee for experiments with animals, and involved doctoral training programmes. Kris also acts as a contracted reviewer of the European Commission. In 2001 he won the 5-yearly prize ‘Mgr. A. Janssen’.

1. Please provide details of training activities to be offered to the candidate, focused on developing new scientific knowledge through original research on personalised projects. Please outline any complementary training related to the career status of the fellow to be provided to develop key transferable skills and competences common to all fields, foster innovation and entrepreneurship, and promote and (where appropriate) reward Open Science practices.

The ‘Developing an Ethics Framework for Data Policy in Times of Crisis’ focus on examining the ethics, human rights, and humanitarian law principles that are needed to support and frame data policy for preparedness and response to crisis situations. Recent health emergencies, natural hazards, and geopolitical crises have demonstrated the need for evidence-informed decision-making in local, national, regional, and global preparedness and response measures. Recent pandemics/epidemics (COVID -19, Ebola, MERS), natural hazards/disasters (droughts in Europe, Africa, China, USA; floods in Europe, Pakistan, Bangladesh; earthquakes in Papua New Guinea, Peru, Japan), and geopolitical conflicts (Ukraine, Afghanistan, Syria, Yemen, Burkina Faso, Haiti) point to the need for increased data ethics, integrity, and transparency as well as for more robust human rights, humanitarian law frameworks supporting data policy for Open Science in crisis situations.

**Project Objectives**

1. to consider the underlying ethics, human rights, and humanitarian frameworks needed to support data policy during crisis situations;

2. to examine the impact of scientific, political, and societal dispositions on data policy and Open Science when addressing crisis situations; and

3. to support and develop ethics and human rights tools in an Open Science framework that promotes the responsible practice and use data when generating scientific evidence in crisis situations.

**Expected Results**

• An assessment of the ethics, human rights, and humanitarian law needs for data policy in crisis situations

• Ethics and human rights guidance for framing data policy in crisis situations.

**Expected Deliverables**

D1.1 Review of the current Ukrainian, European, and international ethics, human rights, and humanitarian law frameworks for data policy related to crises and disasters. (Month 14)

D1.2 Development of a guidance tool for framing a data policy tool for preparing for and responding to crisis situations. (Month 24)

**Expected Milestones**

Month 18. Analysis of the EU and international policies, practices, and frameworks for ethics, human rights, and humanitarian practices regarding data policy for crises and disasters: deliverable will be published.

Month 24 Creation of a guidance tool for framing a data policy tool for preparing for and responding to crisis situations: deliverable will be publishes.

1. Please outline any practical support measures you have planned for the candidate, in particular any support you intend providing to fellows and family members to access accommodation, medical services, schooling and other social supports, as applicable.

The candidate will be welcomed into the Centre for Biomedical Ethics and Law as well as into the KU Leuven as a full member of the Centre and the university. The candidate will have access to the Centre’s and the university’s full research facilities, including a desk and the required access to university research resources. Through the collaborating institutions in this fellowship, the candidate will also have access to a wide range of resources regarding data policy through the Ukrainian, European, and international institutions in the project consortium directly focused on this topic.

The KU Leuven has excellent support services for foreign and displaced scholars, including support for housing, health insurance, medical services, schooling, spouse and family support, and a wide range of social services.

1. A secondment is an optional component of the application and can be up to a third of the fellowship duration. Secondments can still be planned after the fellowship is underway. Please provide details of any secondments envisaged as part of the MSCA4Ukraine fellowship, either within Ukraine, in another EU country, Horizon Europe Associated Country or other third country as part of the MSCA4Ukraine fellowship. This might include, for example, a secondment to the candidate’s home institution in Ukraine for part of the fellowship duration in order to facilitate return if safe conditions for return are met.

A secondment is foreseen at a relevant institution in Ukraine, likely with the Open Access Programme, Electronic Information for Libraries (EIFL), Kyiv, Ukraine. Possibilities for a secondment with CODATA and/or the GO-FAIR Foundation are also being considered. Thus, given that conditions are safe and there is reliable access to research materials within Ukraine, the project will arrange for a secondment of the researcher to Ukraine in order to gather data and exchange information and learnings. The candidate will also have direct access to Europe and international scholarship and expertise on ethics in during crisis situations. A secondment to Ukraine will assist the eventual reintegration of the candidate into the academic and scientific life of Ukraine post-war as well as help in the implementation of the project outcomes into preparatory and response measures for other crises as they arise.

1. If you have outlined plans for a secondment in question 4 above, please confirm here that as the applicant organisation, if your application is successful, you understand that your organisation would continue as the employer for the full duration of the MSCA4Ukraine fellowship, including during any secondment undertaken by the candidate in Ukraine or elsewhere. Responsibility for reporting on the progress of the fellowship will lie with your organisation for the duration of the fellowship.

As the applicant organisation, KU Leuven confirms that, if the application is successful, it will continue as the employer for the full duration of the MSCA4Ukraine fellowship, including during any secondment undertaken by the candidate in Ukraine or elsewhere. Responsibility for reporting on the progress of the fellowship will lie with KU Leuven for the duration of the fellowship.

1. In addition to, or instead of any proposed secondment, please outline any measures envisaged during the fellowship to maintain or strengthen the candidate’s connections to research and innovation communities in Ukraine. Such measures might include double affiliations, joint supervision of doctoral candidates, facilitating continued distance learning, continued distance teaching, or other measures.

The Centre for Biomedical Ethics and Law at KU Leuven has designed this fellowship to address a specific need of the Ukrainian people during the war. The fellowship also develops an important need potentially for all EU scientists and citizens in helping them to prepare for and respond to crisis situations through ethical and robust data policy supporting reliable scientific evidence. The fellowship will directly benefit the candidate’s connections with leading scientific, academic, and government institutions in Ukraine. It is expected too that the fellowship will ensure future connections with EU the EU data policy and data science community as well as with key international institutions acting in this domain. It is foreseen that this fellowship will further the important academic and scientific relations between Ukraine scholars and institutions and KU Leuven.

1. Please provide an explanation of the requested fellowship duration in respect to the specific needs and interests of the candidate, including related training and support concepts. The minimum allowed fellowship duration is 6 months; the maximum is 2 years. If the duration requested is less than two years, please clarify why this duration is in the best interest of the researcher. If the duration requested is because, for example, the researcher’s intention is to return to Ukraine after 6 months, please demonstrate the realistic short-term measures that are underway or planned to prepare for such reintegration.

The duration of this fellowship is planned for two years (24 months). It is expected that this is the amount of time required to complete the research and deliverables. Following the end of the fellowship, new resources will also be sought to support the implementation of the deliverables and the expansion of the deliverables to other disease areas and populations.

Print Name: Professor Kris Dierickx

Signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date: xx October 2022