DTL Grants Program Handbook

1. What is the Data Transparency Lab Grants Program?

The Data Transparency Lab (DTL) is a community-based effort among universities, businesses and institutions to support research in tools, data, and methodologies for shedding light into the use of personal data by online services, and to empower users to be in control of their personal data online.

In order to support research in these areas, DTL will award in 2015 up to 10 research grants of 50,000 Euro per grant to academic institutions worldwide.

The criteria for applications and further information about the application process are described in this document.

2. Key Dates for DTL Grants Program

The DTL Grants program has been organized as a set of stages with associated deadlines, as detailed below:

- "Call for proposals" publication date: April 15th, 2015.
- Proposal submission deadline: May 15th, 2015 (11:59pm), Madrid (CEST) time.
- Notification of grants awarded: Early June 2015.

Call for Proposals

The "Call for Proposals" marks the launch of the Grants Program. In this first stage, DTL will publicize information and guidelines for the grants application.

Applications will only be considered for the review and evaluation phase if they have been submitted following the Proposal Guidelines and have been received by DTL before the submission date. Proposal documents should be submitted as a single PDF file along with applicant information on our Hot CRP submission site: https://dtlresearch.tid.es

For any questions or issues, please contact DTL at grants@datatransparencylab.org

Proposal evaluation and notification of acceptance

Once received by DTL, applications will go through a comprehensive evaluation process. Applicants will be notified of whether they have successfully been granted an award within 2 weeks from the time of submission.

Applications will be evaluated by a committee of experts composed of (in alphabetical order):

Steering Committee	
Alex 'Sandy' Pentland	*MIT Connection Science*
Alina Hua	*Mozilla*
Pablo Rodríguez	*Telefonica Research*
Jeni Tennison	*ODI*
Research Committee Chairs	
Krishna Gummadi	*Max Planck Institute for Software Systems*
Nikolaos Laoutaris	*Telefonica Research*
Research Committee Members	
John W. Byers	*Boston University*
Claude Castelluccia	*INRIA*
Augustin Chaintreau	*Columbia University*
Jon Crowcroft	*University of Cambridge*
Paul Francis	*Max Planck Institute for Software Systems*
Tristan Henderson	*University St. Andrews*
Christian Kreibich	*ICSI Berkeley*
Balachander Krishnamurthy	*AT&T*
Alan Mislove	*Northeastern University*
Sue Moon	*Kaist*
Arvind Narayanan	*Princeton University*
Andrew Odlyzko	*University of Minnesota*
Nuria Oliver	*Telefonica Research*
Salvatore Ruggieri	*UNIPI*
Matthew Smith	*Bonn University*

Upon approval of the grant awards by the Steering Committee as proposed by the Research Committee, the grantees will receive a formal notification from Committee Chairs within 2 weeks time after the submission deadline.

The decision will be communicated to the Principal Investigator listed on each proposal and also will be announced on the DTL website www.datatransparencylab.org.

Grants assignment and contract signatures

Once successful applicants have been sent an award notice, a set of individual processes will begin with each granted institution in order to complete the legal and administrative requirements needed to transfer funds.

Throughout the process, DTL will be providing email support *via* grants@datatransparencylab.org

3. Eligibility and requirements

DTL funding will generally be given as unrestricted gifts to universities, and overhead should not be assessed over them.

The grants are aimed towards fully or partly supporting the work of a Principal Investigator (PI) and at least one PhD student or postdoc for approximately 1 year. Generally, each grant will not exceed the amount of 50,000 euros.

DTL may choose to fund further years for a Research Grant Project upon evaluation of successful results and outcomes in year one, as well as proposed future work.

4. Grant budgeted amounts

The awards have been designed to fund 50,000 Euro/year per grant.

5. Grant Research Topics

Proposals should be categorized in one or several of the following list topics and areas. This is not an exhaustive list, but will be used by the Research Committee to categorize the proposals.

Tools, Platforms, Measurements, and Methodologies for:

Reverse-Engineering Personal Data Usage in Online Services (e.g., advertising, recommender services, pricing and availability of goods & information):

-- Behavioral targeting
-- Context / Location-based targeting
-- Social graph-based targeting
-- Involuntary (or implicit) customization / targeting

Detecting Personal Data Gathering by Online Services:

-- Techniques for fingerprinting and tracking users
-- In-app tracking and targeting
-- Information leakage from applications and platforms
-- Cross-platform/domain information/profile trading, aggregation, fusion

Privacy-preserving Personal Data Analytics / Management:

-- Anonymizing platforms
-- Sharing and hosting platforms for privacy-sensitive datasets
-- Data encoding schemes and privacy by design
-- Advertising-friendly privacy-preserving tools and platforms

Raising User and Societal Awareness:

-- HCI issues with understanding privacy threats, policies, & implications
-- Measuring the value of personal information
-- New information marketplaces
-- Impact of personalized services -- implicit discrimination, personal filter-

bubbles, & societal polarization

-- Privacy / anti-discrimination laws and their implications for personalized services

6. Roles and Responsibilities

Awarded applicants terms and conditions

Successful applicants are expected to present their intermediate results in the annual DTL workshop by the end of 2015 and duly acknowledge the funding source (DTL). There are no other obligations beyond the aforementioned.

A list of awardees will be made public on the DTL website and principal PI will receive notification through the specified email address in the proposal.

Data Transparency Lab will strongly encourage a fluid flow of information between the DTL Research Committee and the PI, by acting as receptor of any intermediate results that the PI may choose to share.

In addition to this, applicants are encouraged to publicize that they participate in the Data Transparency Lab Grants Program on their personal websites and/or social media channels.

Role and responsibilities for Grant Program Committee Chairs

In addition to selecting the research topics of interest, and evaluating the proposals, the Research Committee Chairs for DTL Research Grants will be expected to oversee DTL research work in 2015. Before final selection of applications, call submissions will be taken to the Data Transparency Lab's Steering Committee for approval of grant assignments.

Possible conflicts with the Steering and/or Research Committee members will be handled and collected during the submission and the review process.

Role of Steering Committee and escalation process

Data Transparency Lab's Board of Directors, which is composed by one representative per Founding Member shall set an overall policy and provide strategic guidance and review DTL Research Program Task Force activities, including the final assignment of grants to academic partners, the allocation of resources and other policy statements issued in the form of "DTL Recommendation" documents. All policy documents will be posted on the DTL website (www.datatransparencylab.org).

7. Grant proposal format

Applications should be brief. In order to submit a proposal, applicants should include:

-- A main description of up to 3 pages (9pt font) explaining succinctly the main idea, its relevance to DTL, the deliverables that will be produced (tool, dataset, platform, etc.), and the main innovation with respect to current state of other activity in the area.

-- CV of Principal Investigator and main student (2 pages each).

Both documents should be submitted as a single PDF file along with the information of the applicants at the Telefónica HotCRP submission site of DTL at: https://dtlresearch.tid.es

8. Proposal Evaluation Criteria

The proposals will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

-- Relevance of the research to the Data Transparency Lab research areas (as set forth at: http://datatransparencylab.org/#grants)

-- Potential to produce software tools and platforms that enable end-users to better understand or control how their personal information is being collected and used in deployed online services.

-- Groundbreaking potential and innovative approach of the proposed research work.

-- Potential societal or business impact of the research trajectory on the overall area of personal data transparency

-- Potential for the research to inform other work / lead to opportunities for further research and insights.

Please also be aware that proposals will be selected following an adequate and proportional coverage for each of the main topic areas of interest for the Data Transparency Lab.