

Terms of reference

# DTH-Lab Fellowship Programme 2025

Advancing solidarity-based data governance in the health sector

## Introduction

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The DTH-Lab is a global consortium of partners working to drive value-based and youth-centred digital transformations of health at global and country levels.

The DTH-Lab's fellowship programme offers students and early career professionals from low and middle-income countries opportunities to support a specific area of the Lab's research or analysis. An important aim of the fellowship programme is to contribute to building the capacity of future health leaders to shape policy and governance issues related to the digital transformations of health.

## About the project

The framework for solidarity-based data governance promoted by DTH-Lab has three main pillars. Pillar One seeks to facilitate data uses that create significant benefits for people (and not only businesses) without posing unacceptable risks to individuals or groups (i.e. they create positive public value). Such data uses should be actively facilitated, e.g. by providing public support. Pillar Two focuses on avoiding and mitigating harm; Pillar Three seeks to ensure that commercial profits made on the basis of people's personal data are fairly shared with the people and communities that the data come from.

This research project focuses on Pillar One, the facilitation of data uses that are likely to create significant public value. Its aim is to identify examples of data uses in the health sector that indeed have the potential to generate significant public value. Fellows will identify examples from around the world and select two for more in-depth study. The final deliverable will be two case studies to increase understanding of the intended and unintended effects of the selected data use instruments/initiatives.

## About the fellowship

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The duration of this fellowship will be from **April to December 2025**. The fellowship will be in the form of a consultancy: fellows will receive a stipend in the amount of **up to 1,800 USD** for an engagement of up to **30 days of work** and the completed milestones. This research will be exclusively desk-based.

Fellows will be supervised by DTH-Lab's Policy and Research Coordinator with additional guidance from partners at the University of Vienna. Fellows will work remotely according to their preferred schedule and location. Available support from DTH-Lab team includes:

- An induction and regular virtual meetings with the supervisor.

- Provision of background materials and contacts for interviews, etc.
- Regular input and feedback on their work.
- Opportunities for the fellow to discuss his/her research with experienced DTH-Lab partners and build their professional networks.
- Opportunities for the fellow to promote and present their work following publication.

## Research questions

1. What are examples of data uses in the health sector that can generate significant public value?
2. What can we learn from specific data uses in relation to their potential to generate public value or cause harm?

## Proposed timeline and deliverables

Work phase	Deliverable	Approx number of days
1. <b>Refine terms of reference for the project</b> Following an induction call you will have the opportunity to refine the design of your project.	Updated terms of reference for the project including methodology and timeline.	2
2. <b>Background research</b> Conduct a literature review/scoping exercise to gather examples of data uses in the health sector that have the potential to generate public value.	Findings documented and shared with supervisor.	8
3. <b>Select examples for further investigation</b> Identify two examples for in-depth study and conduct research into the initiatives and their impact.	Findings documented and shared with supervisor.	10
4. <b>Draft case studies</b> Write up your case studies using a provided template for formatting and referencing.	Draft case studies submitted for review.	5
5. <b>Finalize case studies</b> Incorporate feedback from reviewers and finalize the case studies.	Final case studies submitted.	5
	<i>Total days</i>	30

## Expressions of interest

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**Fellowship opportunities are available for students or early career researchers aged 30 or under and based in a low or middle-income country.**

The ideal research fellow must possess the following:

1. **Educational background:** Fellows must be affiliated with an academic or research institution, either as a student or researcher. A degree in the field of study, or prior experience of working on the topic, is an advantage.
2. **Research skills:** Fellows need to possess strong research skills, including the ability to design research assignments, collect and analyze data, and draw conclusions from their findings. They may have expertise in specific research methodologies, techniques, or tools relevant to their field.
3. **Communication skills:** Fellows must have effective communication skills, as they need to be able to communicate their research findings through written publications, presentations and discussions with colleagues. They should be able to convey complex ideas in a clear and accessible manner to diverse audiences.
4. **Time management and organizational skills:** Fellows need to be able to manage their time effectively and meet agreed deadlines. They must be self-motivated and able to work autonomously.

### To apply

To apply for a position, please follow the instructions on our [Current Opportunities webpage](#). The deadline for applications is 23:59 CET on Sunday 23rd March 2025.

Applications will only be considered if they include the following material:

- Curriculum Vitae / Resume including date of birth, where you are located and details of two referees.
- A short cover letter (maximum of 2 pages) outlining your relevant skills and experience and a summary of how you would approach this work.

DTH-Lab welcomes applications from individuals of all backgrounds. Interviews will be held during the week beginning 7th April.

Due to the expected volume of submissions, only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

Interested candidates can request further background information on DTH-Lab and its existing work on this topic by writing to [team@dthlab.org](mailto:team@dthlab.org).