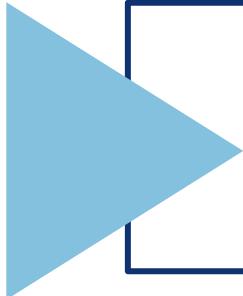


Competition for the benefit of all



Employment offer

Economist (M/F) Digital Economy Unit

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As an independent administrative authority, the *Autorité de la concurrence* ensures the proper competitive functioning of France's economy. It contributes to the regulation of competition at European and international levels. Its cross-disciplinary competence leads it to intervene in all economic sectors.

It has four major missions:

Fight against anticompetitive practices (cartels and abuse)

Control mergers (mergers and acquisitions)

Issue recommendations (opinions to public authorities and economic stakeholders)

Regulate certain legal professions

Ranked in the Elite category (the 1st) for the past 7 years by the *Global Competition Review*, the *Autorité* is also at the forefront of emerging issues related to the digital economy.

ENVIRONMENT OF THE POSITION

The accelerated digitisation of the economy is bringing about profound transformations: the emergence of platforms benefiting from considerable network effects, the disruption of physical distribution through online sales, technological innovations brought about by artificial intelligence and data science... All these phenomena are upsetting the rules of the competition and creating new challenges for the *Autorité de la concurrence*, which has decided to create a Digital Economy Unit at the heart of the *Autorité*'s Investigation Services that will act in a cross-dimensional way, in a similar manner to the Economics Unit and the Inspections Unit.

The Investigation Services, which are supervised by the General Rapporteur, include some 100 permanent case officers (*rapporateurs*). They include five units for handling litigation cases, as well as the Regulated Professions Unit, the Mergers Unit, the Inspections Unit and the Economics Unit. The Digital Economy Unit will be placed under the responsibility of the General Rapporteur. It consists of a head of unit and three experts, who have the status of case officers, which enables them to exercise

the investigation powers provided for by the Commercial Code (*Code de commerce*) (for instance the power to investigate, participation in dawn raids).

DESCRIPTION OF THE POSITION

Digital platforms present numerous specificities due to their price structure (free services offered to certain consumers), network effects, data extraction and processing and to algorithms used by these platforms. Some of these platforms are also characterized by their special ability to enter new markets and significantly modify their structure, being the advertising, bank, retail or media sector, which should also be analyzed. Within the digital economy unit, the economist case officer will thus be in charge of assessing the different implications of these specificities, in particular in terms of analysis and regulation tools.

Within the digital economy unit, the economist will be in charge of developing new investigation tools based on algorithmic technology, big data and artificial intelligence using Open Source Intelligence (OSINT) data or data collected through the *Autorité's* investigative powers¹.

In these missions, the economist will support all the Investigation Services either through the development of new analytical tools or by participating directly in the investigation of cases, in cooperation with the Antitrust or Mergers Units.

Finally, within the Digital Economy Unit, the data scientist will also carry out cross-disciplinary missions: preparing articles, studies or actions related to data and algorithm issues, organising seminars and training courses, in line with the work already carried out on big data, online advertising and algorithms² in particular.

Given that the unit has just been created, the missions for which it will be responsible are very open and the team will therefore be a real source of proposals in this area.

Within this framework, the economist will:

- ✓ Participate in the economic analysis of platforms and the effects of their behaviours on economy;
- ✓ Participate in the conception and development of tools for collecting and analysing big data with a view to detecting anticompetitive practices;
- ✓ Analyse the effects of the use of « big data » and algorithms on the behaviours of companies;
- ✓ participate in the missions assigned to case officers: investigation (collection of evidence, interviews with witnesses, etc.), unannounced inspections and, where necessary, investigation of cases with a partner (decisions on the merits of a case, requests for interim measures, requests for opinions);
- ✓ participate in the *Autorité's* discussions on issues related to the digital economy: collecting information, analysing and drafting studies and opinions;
- ✓ cooperate with counterparts in national and international administrations, as well as with the scientific and academic communities;
- ✓ carry out a technology watch on digital subjects ;
- ✓ developing tools and providing support to the Investigation Services in analysing algorithms (audits and test protocols) and large data sets.

¹ For example, questions asked may relate to the role of data in preserving or gaining competitive advantage, to analysing behaviours used to prevent or increase data collection, collecting and analysing prices, quantities or text data on the Internet, analysing tender databases, pricing algorithms or recommendations, and the automated analysis of documents, etc.

² These studies are available on the *Autorité's* website.

APPLICANT'S PROFILE

The candidate should have excellent knowledge of économie industrielle, statistics, data extraction and processing, programming (Python, R and other languages) and special libraries. The candidate will hold a diploma from a « grande école » or a Master's degree in quantitative economy, along with at least three years of experience in the data science field. The candidate shall be able to work as part of a team and have great written and spoken communication skills. They shall be reactive in order to apprehend quickly complex cases. An understanding of and keen interest in the scientific and technical challenges of the digital economy are essential. Relevant professional experience relating to this sector would be an asset.

The candidate must be capable of working autonomously and show initiative. They will, however, regularly report on the progress of their work and contribute to consolidating shared skills and culture with their peers. The candidate must have excellent interpersonal skills as well as a strong taste for working in close cooperation. Responsive and thorough, they must show that they are able to meet deadlines in processing the cases entrusted to them.

The candidate should have an excellent command of the French language, both written and spoken.

APPLICATION AND RECRUITMENT PROCEDURES

The position is open to both tenured (secondment on contract) and contract (indefinite-term) personnel.

Send applications (curriculum vitae and cover letter) by e-mail no later than 05/03/2020 to recrutement@autoritedelaconcurrence.fr

Please note on your application the reference of the offer: "Rap.Data.SNUM.2020"

For further information, contact

Camille Reynaud, Recruitment Officer at the Human Resources Office, +33 (0)1 55 04 00 20

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