



Press statement of the European Board for Digital Services

29 October 2025

Researchers' access to platforms' data – Entry into force of Delegated Act on Data Access

Today, groundbreaking new rules supporting scientific research on Very Large Online Platforms and Very Large Search Engines come into effect.

Independent research plays a crucial role in contributing to a safe, predictable and trusted online environment for all users. This is why the Digital Services Act (DSA) includes several transparency obligations, aimed at increasing data and information. With the entry into force of the Delegated Act on Data Access, pursuant to the provisions set in the DSA, qualified researchers can now apply for access to platform's non-publicly accessible data: a key element for studying systemic risks in the online environment. This can help to answer research questions related to systemic risks such as: what content is recommended to children and teenagers on their social media feed, and how exposed are they to harmful content? How are platforms protecting consumers from online financial scams and how effective are the measures put in place?

To get access to the relevant data, researchers will be required to formulate thorough and comprehensive requests. They will have to identify the data necessary for their research project and describe how it will be accessed and processed in a safe and secure way, that offers appropriate guarantees for protecting the interests of all parties. These unprecedented rules are an essential enabler for independent scrutiny through research of risks associated to online services that shape our daily lives.

Today also marks an important step for the Digital Services Coordinators' (DSC) joint effort to make this provision work in practice. Following the [Board's endorsement](#) of how DSCs can cooperate on assessing data access applications in June, they will now begin assessing the first data access applications [via the DSA data access portal](#).

In the context of access to platform data, it is critical to ensure a balanced process, that enables researchers to carry out their work while offering appropriate safeguards for personal data and users' rights to privacy, as well as businesses' legitimate interests and operational integrity.

DSCs will work in close cooperation within the framework established by the Delegated Act to ensure platforms' data is handled responsibly and ethically across all Member States.

Data access for vetted researchers under the DSA is a new process for all parties involved which will ultimately contribute to the detection, identification and understanding of systemic risks in the Union. The DSA Board is committed to ensuring the effective implementation of this provision by applying the rules consistently and efficiently across the EU, contributing to the overall objectives of the DSA.