

D6.7 – Award of Doctoral Degree (ESR 4, ESR5, ESR6, ESR16)

Status	Complete		
	ZH	Zhicheng He - ESR4	SU
	MK	Maksymilian Kuźmicz - ESR5	SU
	GP	Giorgi Parulava – ESR6	SU
	IP	Irakli Pkhakadze - ESR16	SU
Contributors	PW + LC	Professor Peter Wahlgren + Dr. Liane Colonna	SU
Reviewers	PW + LC	Professor Peter Wahlgren + Dr. Liane Colonna	SU
	FFR	Prof. Francisco Florez-Revuelta	UA

Version	Date issued	Release comments
V0.1 (D)	06/02/2025	Deliverable Template Structured. Sent to CO for structural check
V1.0 (R)	28/02/2025	Deliverable finalised by PW for submission to the European Commission (EC)

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Executive Summary

This deliverable presents information on Early Stage Researchers (ESRs) and the status of the Doctoral degrees awarded at the end of the visuAAL project (2025). The deliverable complements D1.2 – *Doctoral Theses* (M54). As per the Grant Agreement (GA) awards may be given after the end of the project, as ESRs may require more than 3 years to finalise their degree and submit their theses. Additionally, academic or administrative requirements may delay the award of the doctoral degrees.

Document Structure:

- **Introduction:** A brief overview of the deliverable's aim and the content it includes.
- **ESR Award status:** A summary of each ESR's research topic and award status at the conclusion of the visuAAL project.

1. Introduction

This deliverable presents information on the Stockholm University (SU) Early Stage Researchers (ESRs) and the status of the Doctoral degrees awarded at the end of the visuAAL project (2025). The deliverable complements D1.2 – *Doctoral Theses* (M54). As the Grant Agreement (GA) awards may be given after the end of the project, and as ESRs at SU require 4 years to finalise their degree and submit their theses, the academic or administrative requirements may delay the award of the doctoral degrees.

In total 4 ESRs were recruited by SU. In summary:

- **ESR 4** is tentatively scheduled to publicly defend his doctoral thesis on 5 September 2025.
- **ESR 5** is scheduled to publicly defend his thesis on 6 May 2025. His opponent and examination committee have formally been appointed and approved by the university.
- **ESR 6** exited the programme in year 2 (2023)
- **ESR 16** replaced ESR6 in 2024. Due to his limited time in the project, it was agreed that this ESR would not be required to pursue/or completed a post-graduate qualification. Instead he would develop a comprehensive report on the topic of digital twins which could be used as a basis for a PhD proposal from which he can target future PhD scholarship awards.

2. ESR Award Status

This section provides the final award status of each ESR at the end of the visual project and where relevant post-project plans to complete their post-graduate qualification or seek future PhD Scholarship awards.

Zhicheng He - ESR4

Draft PhD Title: Health Data Governance in the Age of Digital Health: Legal Approaches of the EU and China

Award Status: Zhicheng He plans to complete his PhD after the conclusion of the visuAAL project. Currently, the public defence of the PhD thesis is tentatively scheduled for September 5, 2025, and the application for this has been submitted to the university.

ESR5 - Maksymilian Kuźmicz

PhD Title: Proactive Balancing: AI-driven video-based Active Assisted Living technologies and balancing of interests

Award Status: Maksymilian Kuźmicz is scheduled to publicly defend his thesis on 6 May 2025. His opponent and examination committee have formally been appointed and approved by the university. Below is the formal protocol evidencing the plans for the public defence of the dissertation.

STOCKHOLMS UNIVERSITET
Juridiska fakultetsnämndens
forskningsutskott

UTDRAG UR PROTOKOLL
fört vid sammanträde
2024-12-03

ÄRENDE

ÅTGÄRD

9. Fråga om utsättande av disputationsdatum samt utseende av opponent och betygsnämndsledamöter samt ordförande vid disputation för forskarstuderande Maksymilian Kuzmicz, för avläggande av juris doktorsexamen med avhandlingstiteln "AI-driven video-based AAL technologies and balancing of interests" (dnr SU FV-3931-24).

Beslutas att disputation ska äga rum den 6 maj 2025.

Beslutas att till fakultetsopponent utse professor Tobias Mahler, Oslo universitet, Norge.

Beslutas att till ordförande utse professor Peter Wahlgren, Stockholms universitet.

Till betygsnämndsledamöter utses professor Panagiotis Papapetrou, Institutionen för data och systemvetenskap, Stockholms universitet, universitetslektor Petra Gyöngyi, Lunds universitet och docent Stanley Greenstein, Stockholms universitet.

Till betygsnämndssuppleant utses docent Patricia Jonason, Södertörns universitet.

Slutseminarium har hållits den 11 september 2024.

Punkten förklaras omedelbart justerad.

Beslut i detta ärende har fattats av Juridiska fakultetsnämndens forskningsutskott.

(x) närvarande

(xx) närvarande via zoom

(a) anmält förhinder

Ordinarie ledamöter

ESR6 - Giorgi Parulava

ESR 6 was recruited on 2021-07-01 and exited the project on 2022-08-31 without completing his research or submitting a thesis.

ESR16 - Irakli Pkhakadze

PhD Research Proposal Focus: Digital twins as a way to help ensure legal compliance of video-based AAL technologies

Award Status:

Irakli Pkhakadze completed his fellowship in the short period between 07/03/2024 and 31/01/2025, hence the focus was on the scoping review and PhD proposal (as agreed). During this intensive period, ESR 16 produced a comprehensive report on Digital Twins, titled *"Digital Twins as a Way to Help Ensure Legal Compliance of Video-Based AAL Technologies"*, which explores how Digital Twins can underpin privacy-centric and compliance-focused frameworks in video-based Ambient Assisted Living (AAL) technologies.

A condensed version of this work, entitled *"Too Good to be True? Synthetic Data and Digital Twins in Ambient Assisted Living: A Privacy Centric and Compliance-Focused Approach"*, was submitted to IJCNN 2025 Conference. This premier international conference on neural networks, scheduled to be held in Rome, Italy from June 30 to July 5, 2025, provides an esteemed platform for the exchange of innovative ideas and interdisciplinary research. In addition to his paper submission, Pkhakadze has been appointed as a reviewer for IJCNN 2025.

Earlier, Pkhakadze presented his work at the Joint visuAAL-GoodBrother Conference on Trustworthy Video- and Audio-Based Assistive Technologies, held in Alicante, Spain from 18–20 June 2024. Alongside these high-profile engagements, he actively participated in various project-related activities and deliverables, contributing to the broader objectives of the research initiative.

Pkhakadze intends to further develop this research into a full-fledged PhD proposal once a suitable doctoral position becomes available, ensuring that the innovative insights gained during the fellowship continue to enrich the evolving landscape of Digital Twin applications in legal compliance and privacy assurance.

Disclaimer

This project has received funding from the *European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme* under grant agreement No.861091. This document reflects the views only of the authors, and the European Union cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.”



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