Coding for lawyers

This training provides an introduction to the basics of Python coding. This programming language was chosen for its readability and simple syntax. Moreover, Python is very popular and has numerous applications. Python users include Netflix, YouTube, and Robonaut 2 from the ISS. The participants learn to code legal decision trees with Python. The participants also gain insight into the operation of predictive algorithms and smart contracts.

Dates

Monday 10, Tuesday 11, Thursday 13 February from 9 am to 12 noon. Friday 14 February from 9-12 am and from 1-4 pm.

Location

University of Antwerp

Campus Groenenborger

Auditorium Z.521

Groenenborgerlaan 171 2020 Antwerp

Participation fee

The registration price is 1500 EUR (including drinks and snacks, sandwich lunch Friday 14/02).

CBR is recognized as a training provider for the SME portfolio system, by making use of this, up to 30% can be saved on the participant fees. The application for the SME portfolio must be made at the latest 14 days after the start of the training. The participant undertakes to respect the rules set by the Agency for Innovation & Entrepreneurship. The accreditation number for the SME portfolio of CBR Antwerp is DV.O100321.

Target audience

Legal professions (lawyers, legal counsels, tax lawyers, …). No technical knowledge required.

Certificate

Participants receive the attendance certificate: "Coding continuing education for lawyers".

Registrations

Registrations are preferably done online via this webpage.

This training takes place on the condition that there are at least 15 participants.

However, places are limited to a maximum of 40 participants. So it's best to register quickly!

Programme

Monday, February 10, 2020 (9am-12pm)

Lesson 1: Introduction and Coding Fundamentals (Python) – Monday, February 10, 2020 (9:12 AM)

Description: This lesson explains the basics of Python. On the basis of simple exercises, the participants independently learn to code short programs in Python.

Purpose: By the end of this lesson, attendees will understand the basics of coding.

Teachers: Prof. dr. Toon Calders (University of Antwerp, Faculty of Science,

Department of Informatics) and Prof. dr. Anne Van de Vijver (University of Antwerp, Faculty of Law)

Tuesday 11 February 2020 (9am-12pm)

Lesson 2: Decision trees and lawyers - Tuesday 11 February 2020 (9 am-12pm)

Description: Lawyers consciously and unconsciously use decision trees on a daily basis to arrive at a certain outcome. In this lesson, participants will learn to code such a decision tree in Python.

Goal: After this lesson, lawyers will understand how the law can also be captured in code.

Teachers: Prof. dr. dr. Toon Calders (University of Antwerp, Faculty of Science, Department of Computer Science) and Prof. dr. dr. Anne Van de Vijver (University of Antwerp, Faculty of Law).

Thursday 13 February 2020 (9am-12pm)

Lesson 3: Predictive Algorithms – Thursday 13 February 2020 (9am-12pm)

Description: This lesson makes the leap from lawyers' decision trees to computer science. It takes a closer look at how the computer makes decisions or makes predictions. Building on this insight, it is explained how algorithms can be used to predict court decisions.

Goal: After this lesson, participants will have a more in-depth understanding of predictive algorithms.

Teachers: Prof. dr. Dr. Toon Calders (University of Antwerp, Faculty of Science, Department of Computer Science) and Thomas Aertgeerts (Legal Innovation and Technology lawyer, KLaw).

Friday 14 February 2020 (9am-4pm)

Lesson 4: Smart Contracts: Legal Analysis – Friday 14 February 2020 (9am-12pm)

Description: During this lecture, smart contracts are legally analyzed. What is a smart contract? What is the legal value of a smart contract? What legal complications arise when using smart contracts?

Goal: After this lecture, the participants understand what a smart contract is and what guarantees it can offer.

Lecturers: Thomas Aertgeerts (Legal Innovation and Technology lawyer, KLaw), Tim Fransen (Senior Counsel, KLaw) and Prof. dr. Anne Van de Vijver (University of Antwerp, Faculty of Law).

Lesson 5: Smart Contracts: Technical Analysis – Friday 14 February 2020 (1pm-4pm)