1. **Background and aims of the study**

   This study aims to understand the spread and impact of data science techniques in local governments across Europe. The study is funded by Google.

2. **Why have I been invited to take part?**

   You have been invited to take part because you are involved with local government and use data science, technology, and related tools in the local government policy context.

3. **Do I have to take part?**

   No. You can ask questions about the study before deciding whether or not to participate. If you do agree to participate, you may withdraw yourself and your responses from the study at any time, without giving a reason and without penalty, by advising the researchers of this decision.

4. **What will happen in the study?**

   If you are happy to take part in the study, you will be asked to complete a short online survey, which should take approximately 5 to 10. Your responses will be stored securely at the research site, the Oxford Internet Institute. In the final report, responses will be presented in aggregate fashion, and not linked specifically to any individual or organisation.

5. **Are there any potential risks in taking part?**

   There are no risks involved in taking part.

6. **Are there any benefits in taking part?**

   There are no direct benefits for participants taking part in this project. All participants will receive a copy of the survey results once it has been completed.
7. What happens to the data provided?

The research data and any personal or sensitive data will be stored confidentially in a secure building in the Oxford Internet Institute on an encrypted hard drive. Your responses will be fully anonymised. The research team, Drs Bright and Ganesh, will have access to the survey data. The research team will use the data as part of a public report on the use of data science technologies in local government in Europe. In the report, aggregate responses will be presented for each question (for example, we will present the percentage of respondents who indicated their organisation is using the Python programming language). Individual responses will never be linked to individuals or organisations in the presentation of the report.

All research data and records will be stored for a minimum retention period of 5 years after publication or public release of the work of the research. This is in line with University of Oxford guidelines and standard professional practice.

8. Will the research be published?

The research will be published as an openly available report and in academic journals.

9. Who has reviewed this study?

This study has been reviewed by, and received ethics clearance through, the University of Oxford Central University Research Ethics Committee (reference number: SSH OII C1A 17 072).

10. Who do I contact if I have a concern about the study or I wish to complain?

If you have a concern about any aspect of this study, please speak to the relevant researcher Dr Bharath Ganesh, +44 1865 612342 or their supervisor, Dr Jonathan Bright, +44 1865 287233 who will do their best to answer your query. The researcher should acknowledge your concern within 10 working days and give you an indication of how they intend to deal with it. If you remain unhappy or wish to make a formal complaint, please contact the relevant chair of the Research Ethics Committee at the University of Oxford who will seek to resolve the matter in a reasonably expeditious manner:

Chair, Social Sciences & Humanities Inter-Divisional Research Ethics Committee; Email: ethics@socsci.ox.ac.uk; Address: Research Services, University of Oxford, Wellington Square, Oxford OX1 2JD

11. Further Information and Contact Details

If you would like to discuss the research with someone beforehand (or if you have questions afterwards), please contact:

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