

# Data-protection in the Western Balkans and Eastern Partnership Region

**-high-level exchange and learning week-**

Brussels, week of 18-22 September 2023

## General context

The flow and governance of data have become of cardinal importance in modern times and in an era where interconnectivity and interoperability can leverage improvements and increase efficiency in the delivery of services. The protection of data is a cornerstone in all of this. Over the years the European Union has developed a robust policy and legal framework on data protection (with the GDPR as flagship) in order to provide increased legal certainty for both individuals and organisations processing data and greater protection for the individual in general.

## Aims and objectives

This five-day intense high-level exchange and learning week will provide a unique opportunity for data-protection experts to:

- meet, learn and exchange with key EU actors (European Data-Protection Supervisor, DG Justice, European Parliament) in the area of data-protection and get familiar with latest updates;
- have in-depth exchanges with Data Protection Authorities from EU Member States in the context of the European Data Protection Board that is meeting in the same week, to target specific legal, policy, institutional and methodological issues;
- exchange with and learn from other economies in the Western Balkans and Eastern Partnership Regions on common challenges and approaches.

The sessions will be conducted by experts in the field of data protection, including presentations, case studies, and interactive discussions to ensure that participants have a thorough understanding on the impacts in their respective economy. In addition to the in-depth sessions, participants will have the opportunity to network with their peers and attend meetings with relevant EU institutions and

## Target audience

This initiative is specifically designed for officials from Data Protection Oversight Bodies from economies of the Western Balkans and Eastern Partnership Region of the EU, who are interested in learning about the data protection laws and policies in the EU, and how they impact their respective economies.

## About the organisers

Because of the key challenges for both the Western Balkans and Eastern Partnership Region on the one hand and the true willingness from the EU side on the other hand to support the data-protection dynamic, several institutions take the initiative to join forces:

- ❖ The [SIGMA](#) Programme
- ❖ The “Eastern Partnership Regional Fund for Public Administration Reforms” by [GIZ](#)
- ❖ The Regional Cooperation Council ([RCC](#))
- ❖ The Regional School of Public Administration ([ReSPA](#))

## Draft Programme

### Sunday 17 September 2023

---

Arrival of participants to Brussels

### Monday 18 September 2023

---

09.30 **Arrival and registration** (*location TBD*)

10.00 **Opening and welcome**

- *Gregor Virant*, Head of the OECD SIGMA Programme
- *Maja Handjiska-Trendafilova*, Director ReSPA
- *Pranvera Kastrati*, Acting Head of Programme Department, Regional Cooperation Council
- *Hrach Yarmaloyan*, Regional Project Manager "GIZ"

11.00 **Opening remarks**

*Mathieu Bousquet*, acting director thematic support, coordination of policy and financial instruments Or Alan Jones, HoU (DGNEAR)

11.30 Coffee break

11.00 **Balancing between advantages and rights, the power of data and need for protection.**

*Bruno Gencarelli*, deputy director/acting director for fundamental rights and rule of law and is head of international data flows and protection unit at the European Commission (DGJUST)

12.00 **The work of the European Data Protection Supervisor (EDPS)**

*Wojciech Wiewiórowski*, European Data Protection Supervisor

12.30 Lunch

13.30 **The work of the European Data Protection Board (EDPB)**

*Anu Talus*, Chair of the EDPB

14.00 **Presentation of selected recommendations/opinions work by the EDPB**

*EDPB secretariat*

15.00 **Meeting with DPAs from selected countries**

FR, EE, SE, NL, IT, NO (*depending on availability*)

17.00 end of the day

### Tuesday 19 September 2023

---

09.00 **Arrival and registration at EDPS** (*Rue Montoyer 30, Brussels*)

09.30 **Opening and welcome**

*Leonardo Cervera Navas*, Director EDPS

10.00 **Policy and Legislative consultation and the place of data protection**

11.30 Coffee break

12.00 **Supervision and enforcement**

- Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)
- investigation methodology

13.00 Lunch

14.30 **Transfer to the Albert Borschette Congress Center** (*Rue Froissart 36, Brussels*)

15.00 **Participation at the plenary session of the EDPB**

For the occasion a dedicated session of the EDPB is organised welcoming the 11 participating delegations, presenting and discussing with the EDPB members

17.30 End of the EDPB Meeting

18.00 **Invitation to informal cocktail reception and network moment** (*Sofitel - Pl. Jourdan 1, Brussels*)

### Wednesday 20 September 2023

---

9.00 **Visit to the European Parliament** (*Rue Wiertz 60, Brussels*)

**Meeting with Juan Fernando López Aguilar, chair of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs** (LIBE Committee)

12.30 Lunch

13.30 **Country presentations** (*location TBD*)

by the delegations with the aim to exchange and learn

17.00 end of the day

### Thursday 21 September 2023

---

09.00 **Arrival and registration** (*location TBD*)

09.30 **Bringing data protection issues closer to the public, awareness raising and bridging between digital transformation and data-protection**

- Mathieu Michel, State Secretary for Digital and Privacy
- Belgian Data Protection Authority
- Belgian Federal Public Service of Policy and Support (BOSA) on Mydata.belgium.be, authentic sources, registers on use of data,...

12.00 Lunch

13.00 **Hands-on roundtables with the countries on selected topics**  
 Introduced and moderated by Prof. Dr. Norbert Bernsdorff, university of Marburg - Germany

17.00 End of the day

### Friday 22 September 2023

---

09.00 **Arrival and registration** (*location TBD*)

09.30 **Sessions on the challenges and needs of protecting personal data in the digital age**

- The relationship between data protection and the digitization of public and private services.
- The impact of emerging technologies on data protection, such as artificial intelligence and the Internet of Things
- Promoting and using innovative digital solutions which comply with EU data protection laws and standards, using open source applications and platforms

12.00 Lunch

13.00 end of learning week