DataPro

UPGRADING THE EU DATA PROTECTION SECTOR WITH NEW SKILLS

Newsletter #3

January – August 2020

Executive Summary

CIT Radio interview on DataPRO preliminary results

27/01/2020

The DataPRO Project is now starting the crucial phase of implementation: after completion of the field research, the project partners are now developing the training materials in the field of data protection.

Our colleague **Theresa Kahle** from **CIT (DE)**, gave a radio interview to Radio Cottbus on 23rd January 2020 talking about the main objectives of the project and all the relevant achievements already reached. The interview is aimed at informing as many small and medium-sized enterprises as possible about the project and the upcoming offer of an online course as well as an awareness raising course for employees.

Interview in German: https://www.cit-wfg.de/images/DataPro/20200207%20Mitschnitt%20Beitrag%20ERASMUS%20Projekt%20Data%20Pro.mp3

EU toolbox for mobile applications for contact tracing and warning

30/04/2020

The EU Member States have created a common EU-toolbox, developed collaboratively by the e-Health Network with the support of the European Commission on mobile applications to support contact tracing in the EU's **fight against COVID-19**. The common approach aims to exploit the latest privacy-enhancing technological solutions that enable at-risk individuals to be contacted and, if necessary, to be tested as quickly as possible, regardless of their location.

The tool is accompanied by the publication of the Commission Recommendation on a common EU approach for the use of mobile applications and mobile data. The guidance is focusing on application that addressing:

- accurate information for users on the coronavirus pandemic;

- questionnaires for self-assessment and guidance for individuals (symptom checker functionality);

- alerts for people who have been in proximity of an infected person to get tested or to self-isolate (contact tracing and warning functionality); and

- a communication forum between patients in self-isolation and doctors including where further diagnosis and treatment advice is provided (telemedicine).

Vice-President for Values and Transparency, Věra Jourová, said: *"This is the first global crisis where we can deploy the full power of technology to offer efficient solutions and support the exit strategies from the pandemic. Trust of Europeans will be key to success of the tracing mobile apps. Respecting the EU data protection rules will help ensure that our privacy and fundamental rights will be upheld and that the European approach will be transparent and proportional."*

https://audiovisual.ec.europa.eu/en/video/I-189464?&lg=OR

The DataPRO Project is resuming its activities

08/06/2020

On June 5th the DataPRO Partners met virtually to discuss the current status of the project and share relevant findings and results achieved so far. Despite COVID-19 pandemic, the Partnership maintained active the implementation with a constant internal communication that allowed partners to take stock of each activities and define the foreseen results.

The DataPro Project started in 2018 with the aim to establish a common European framework on technical skills, knowledge and competences in data protection sector narrowing at the same time the differences emerging at business levels in terms of data protection and certification systems.

Following the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) 2016/679, DataPro's Partners recognised the need for a specific occupation profile in the domain of data protection and GDPR compliance and decided to exploit the Regulation as a new and unexplored employability opportunity.

During the meeting and after an in-depth briefing on the current status of the project, Partners had the opportunity to discuss the strong implications that COVID-19 official tracking tools might have regarding the objectives and general contents of the project.

The latest news coming from EU official sources and portals highlight IT tools and digital technologies as a unique mean to support public health authorities at national and EU level in monitoring COVID-19 current spreading. A growing number of countries within the EU territory as worldwide, is adopting and implementing mobile apps that provide direct guidance to citizens or local authorities to track in real time the infection status in their areas allowing them to take the right prevention measures.

On the 16th of April, the EU commission gave a significant boost to such approach encouraging among EU citizens the exploitation of a "Toolbox" – coordinated at EU level – to use mobile apps to further limit the propagation of the COVID-19 virus.

Just few days after the publishing of the EU Commission's guidance on mobile apps as a key mean to fight COVID-19, during a plenary debate the EU Parliament stressed the need for a full compliance of these innovative measures with data protection and policy legislation.

Even if totally legitimate, these digital tracking measures might still face the risk to be exploited for different purposes from the ones originally intended, that is why MEPs urged to avoid any geolocation-based app preferring contact-tracing apps based on short-range technologies (i.e. Bluetooth).

The guidelines and toolbox for developing any Covid-19 related apps, prepared by the Commission in

cooperation with member states, European Data Protection Supervisor, and European Data Protection Board aim at guaranteeing sufficient protection of data and limiting intrusiveness guarding EU citizens from both perspectives.

DataPRO is led by the Union of Hellenic Chambers of Commerce of Greece and

is implemented by a Consortium of 10 partners from 4 European countries (Greece, Belgium, Cyprus and Germany) and it is cofounded by the Erasmus+ Programme.

For further information about the project, please visit the official website at https://datapro-project.eu/site/

Data Protection, EU citizens and Digital Transition: A Communication from the European Commission

26/06/2020

On the 24th of June 2020, the EU Commission transmitted to the Council and the EU Parliament the first extensive report on the evaluation of the GDPR evaluation. Since 2018, the General Data Protection Regulation assures for all EU citizens the right to data safeguard providing for each individual safer conditions within the digital ecosystems. The GDPR represents also a very strong and incisive person-centric paradigm to innovation, technologies and IT development, sustaining the transition from analogic to digital societies while empowering at the same time regular citizens with concrete and tangible opportunities to protect their digital identities.

So far, the GDPR implementation proved to be highly efficient: significant results have been achieved also from the SMEs and entrepreneurial perspective – the most impacted target from the Regulation itself. In fact, at inception, one of GDPR's priorities was also the dissemination and mainstreaming among SMEs, companies and firms of the guidelines and "to DOs" to comply with the new protection mechanisms and the overall codes of conduct.

At page 9, the report highlights also the great contribution played by several EU level initiatives implemented by EU funding beneficiaries. In other words, the EU Commission has indirectly acknowledged the work carried on so far by the DataPRO Consortium.

DataPRO is a project co-funded by the Erasmus Plus Programme of the European Commission: since 2018, the partners (ten organisations from four EU countries), committed their expertise and energies in the design of a toolbox that aims to harmonise the certification system in the field, a specific priority still on-going and under development as clearly addressed by the mentioned report.

To date, the DataPRO consortium produced:

- A Joint Occupational Profile for DPOs
- A Joint DPO VET Curriculum accompanied by a detailed WBL Scheme
- An Awareness raising Curriculum on Data Protection for current and future employees
- Data Protection and GDPR Learning Resources for learners and wider audiences and WBL Employer Manual
- On line web platform for "Data Protection Ready" Employees
- A new Certification Scheme for Data Protection

- Concrete Methodology for Quality Assurance and Licencing of DPO VET Curricula

For further information on DataPRO: www.datapro-project.eu .

DataPRO Online Transnational Meeting: COVID-19 Challenges in the Data Protection Sector

08/07/2020

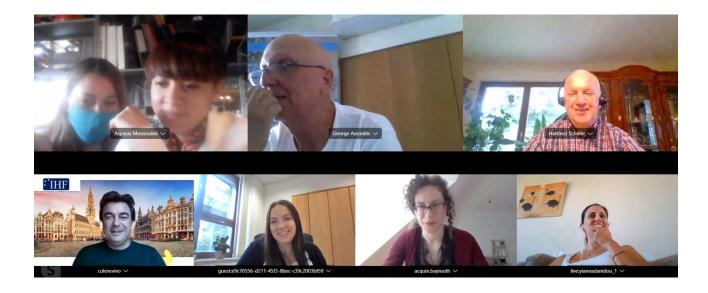On 6th July 2020, the DataPRO Partnership met online for the fourth Transnational Meeting.

Despite the current circumstances and the difficulties that arose from lockdown measures, the Consortium shown great resilience and has been able to comply with the original schedules as foreseen during project proposal – such commitment allowed a regular implementation of all activities and assured for the expected results in time.

In particular, Partners decided to enrich the contents of the training modules under development by including some lessons learned and experiences from the data protection field in times of pandemic.

The challenges arising from tracing apps have further increased the need for clear and homogeneous regulation and the need for uniform professional training across Europe.

In the following months, Partners will finalise training contents and will organize activities and dissemination events to spread the word about DataPRO.

Learn more on DataPRO: www.datapro-project.eu

Next Steps…

At current state of implementation (August 2020), the partnership is finalising the educational materials which are now being translated in all national languages represented in the Consortium (e.g. English, German and Greek) for the first part of the piloting. The materials will be integrated into our online platform, in a so called "e-portfolio", which will include self-assessment tests and additional resources for the learners to broaden their knowledge on the field of data protection. The platform will be open and accessible for all the interested parties in the participating Countries, all around Europe and beyond. For more information:

www.datapro-project.eu

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