



Course Syllabus

Course Code	Course Title	ECTS Credits
LAW-389	Personal Data Protection Law	6
Prerequisites	Department	Semester
None	Law	Spring
Type of Course	Field	Language of Instruction
Elective	Law	English
Level of Course	Lecturer	Year of Study
1 st Cycle	Irini Stamatoudi	3 rd
Mode of Delivery	Work Placement	Corequisites
Face-to-Face	N/A	None

Course Objectives:

The main objective of the course is to explain the European Union legal framework of the protection of personal data. The emphasis is placed on the General Data Protection Regulation (*Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC*) (GDPR) <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1528874672298&uri=CELEX%3A32016R0679>. In fact, this course aims to cover the origins of data protection in the EU and explain the latest developments in the area such as the general principles and basic concepts of the GDPR, the key actors under it and their role, the rights of data subjects, the obligations of data controllers and processors and the law compliance measures, the enforcement and compliance mechanisms and the liabilities and sanctions provided in it. Special issues pertaining to data protection in relation to e-communications (such as the proposed e-privacy regulation) as well as modern challenges in personal data protection will also be covered.

Learning Outcomes:

After completion of the course students are expected to be able to:

- Describe the notion of personal data and special categories of data

- Have a good grasp of the two goals of GDPR, i.e. the protection of personal data and the free movement of personal data
- Describe the notion of data processing (automated and non-automated)
- Explain the rules on lawful processing, on security of processing, on accountability and explain how to promote compliance
- Understand who the users of personal data are (controllers, processors, recipients and third parties)
- Describe the notion of consent
- Explain the key principles of European data protection law (lawfulness, fairness, transparency, the principle of purpose limitation, the principle of data minimization, the data accuracy principle, the storage limitation principle, the data security principle and the accountability principle)
- Explain what data protection by design and by default are
- Understand how independent supervision takes place, what the European Data Protection Board (EDPB) is, and what the GDPR Consistency Mechanism
- Describe the data subjects' rights (right to be informed, right to rectification, right to erasure (right to be forgotten), right to restriction of processing, right to data portability and right to object, and what automated individual decision making and profiling are)
- List and enumerate the remedies, liabilities, penalties and compensation provided by EU data protection laws
- Identify and explain key issues of data protection in electronic communications
- Identify and describe modern challenges in personal data protection
- Know the limits of Member-States' legislation on specific fields of personal data protection
- Provide examples and apply data protection rules in real situations

Course Content:

Introduction to EU data protection law (context and background)
Basic principles of data protection (personal data, data processing, users of personal data, consent)
Key principles of European data protection law (lawfulness, fairness, transparency, the principle of purpose limitation, the principle of data minimization, the data accuracy principle, the storage limitation principle, the data security principle and the accountability principle)
Rules of European data protection law
Independent supervision
Data subjects' rights
Enforcement (Remedies, Liabilities, Penalties and Compensation)
Key issues concerning personal data and electronic communications
Modern challenges in personal data protection

Learning Activities and Teaching Methods:

Interactive lectures, discussion based on analysis of case-law, case studies, mid-term exam, final exam

Assessment Methods:

Final Exam, Mid-term Exam, Attendance and participation

Basic Reading

Handbook on European Data Protection Law, 2018 Edition,
https://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra_uploads/fra-coe-edps-2018-handbook-data-protection_en.pdf

Further Readings

E. Kosta, R. Leenes and I. Kamara (eds), Research Handbook on EU Data Protection Law, Edward Elgar Publishing, 2022

G. González, R. Van Brakel, P. De Hert (eds), Research Handbook on Privacy and Data Protection Law, Edward Elgar Publishing, 2022

B. Van Alsenoy, Data Protection Law in the EU: Roles, Responsibilities and Liability, Intersentia, 2019

P. Voigt and A. von dem Bussche (2018), The EU Data Protection Regulation (GDPR): A Practical Guide, Springer.

A. Linder (ed.) (2016), European Data Protection Law (General Data Protection Regulation 2016), European Union Publication.

H. Hijmans (2016), The European Union as Guardian of Internet Privacy – the Story of Art 16 TFEU, Springer.

P. Hustinx (2016), ‘EU Data Protection Law: the review of Directive 95/46/EC and the Proposed General Data Protection Regulation’.

O. Lynskey (2015), *The Foundations of EU Data Protection Law*, Oxford, Oxford University Press.

K. El Emam, and C. Álvarez (2015), ‘A critical appraisal of the Article 29 Working Party Opinion 05/2014 on data anonymization techniques’, *International Data Privacy Law*, Vol. 5, No. 1, pp. 73–87.

H. Kranenborg, (2015), ‘Google and the Right to be Forgotten’, *European Data Protection Law Review*, Vol. 1, No. 1, pp. 70–79.

G. González Fuster (2014), *The Emergence of Personal Data Protection as a Fundamental Right in the EU*, Springer.

J. Kokott, and C. Sobotta (2013), ‘The distinction between privacy and data protection in the case law of the CJEU and the ECtHR’, *International Data Privacy Law*, Vol. 3, No. 4, pp. 222–228.

V. Mayer-Schönberger, and F. Cate, (2013), ‘Notice and consent in a world of Big Data’, *International Data Privacy Law*, Vol. 3, No. 2, pp. 67–73.

I. Rubinstein (2013), ‘Big Data: The End of Privacy or a New Beginning?’, *International Data Privacy Law*, Vol. 3, No. 2, pp. 74–87.

P. De Hert, and V. Papakonstantinou, (2012), ‘The Police and Criminal Justice Data Protection Directive: Comment and Analysis’, *Computers & Law Magazine of SCL*, Vol. 22, No. 6, pp. 1–5.

P. De Hert, and V. Papakonstantinou (2012), ‘The proposed data protection Regulation replacing Directive 95/46/EC: A sound system for the protection of individuals’, *Computer Law & Security Review*, Vol. 28, No. 2, pp. 130–142.

F. Feretti (2012), ‘A European perspective on data processing consent through the reconceptualization of European data protection’s looking glass after the Lisbon treaty: Taking rights seriously’, *European Review of Private Law*, Vol. 20, No. 2, pp. 473–506.