



Summary of Annual Report 2023



Athens 2025

SUMMARY OF ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT 2023



HELLENIC DATA
PROTECTION AUTHORITY

ATHENS 2025

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Foreword

The executive summary of the 2023 Annual Activity Report provides an overview of the key activities of the Hellenic Data Protection Authority in the context of the mission assigned by the State.

In 2023, the Hellenic DPA faced once again the long-standing problems arising from understaffing and lack of sufficient resources. Despite that, it has delivered on its responsibilities and tasks, assigned to it by the GDPR and other EU legislation as well as the corresponding national legislation, to the fullest extent possible.

Among its many activities in 2023, the Authority addressed important issues and adopted 43 decisions. A total of 1,414 complaints were lodged and fines of EUR 637,000 were imposed by 13 decisions. However, it should be clarified that the Authority, acting in accordance with the general spirit of the legislation on the protection of personal data, does not aim to impose sanctions, which are applied as a repressive measure with a deterrent purpose. A general conclusion that can be drawn from the 5 years of application of the GDPR is that compliance with its rules and, above all, the embracing of the spirit that governs data protection principles is a continuous exercise for organizations and businesses, but that, in any case, despite the existence of certain challenges, the GDPR has brought significant results for individuals and businesses.

Highlights of 2023 include also the Authority's participation in the second European Data Protection Board (EDPB) coordinated enforcement action by supervisory authorities on the role of Data Protection Officers launched on 15 March. Throughout 2023, 25 supervisory authorities, including the European Data Protection Supervisor

(EDPS), participated in this coordinated action on the designation and role of Data Protection Officers (DPOs).

In the crucial field of awareness-raising and information, the Authority continued to enrich its website.¹ It is noted that the Authority is constantly making systematic efforts to raise awareness about the protection of personal data and to provide appropriate tools to facilitate compliance with the relevant protection rules. Given the limited financial resources, the Authority makes use of funding opportunities provided by the European Commission through relevant programmes to develop information actions on the protection of personal data and to provide appropriate tools to facilitate compliance with the relevant protection rules. In this context, an important moment for us in 2023 was that the Hellenic DPA was given the People's Choice Award of the 45th Global Privacy Assembly held in Bermuda from 15 to 20 October 2023. The prize was awarded to the Authority for its GDPR Compliance Toolbox developed under the "byDesign" project. The project aimed to facilitate compliance of small and medium-sized enterprises by providing specialized guidance in the form of a compliance toolkit and specialized information to those involved in the development of IT applications and services on data protection by design and by default.

Following the successful completion of the "byDesign" project implemented by the Authority in collaboration with the University of Piraeus and ABOVO, a new project is being implemented, launched in September 2022, under the distinctive title "byDefault", which provides for the creation of a platform with specialized information to data protection officers (DPOs) and data protection professionals and the creation of educational material on data protection issues for primary and secondary school students.²

Notable awareness actions in 2023 include the Information Day on "Current issues of personal data protection - recent developments" held by the Authority on the occasion of the celebration of the 17th Data Protection Day, on Monday 30/1/2023 at the National Hellenic Research Foundation in Athens. In addition, in the context of joint information actions with other Independent Authorities, the Hellenic Data DPA, the Supreme Council for Civil Personnel Selection (ASEP), the Greek National Council for Radio and Television (ESR), the Hellenic Authority for Communication Security and Privacy (ADAE) and the Greek Ombudsman successfully organized a two-day conference entitled "Constitutionally enshrined Independent Authorities: Their contribution to a European democratic rule of law" on Wednesday 1/11 and Thursday 2/11 at the American School of Classical Studies in Athens.

In another field of action, in 2023, the Authority signed Memoranda of Understanding with the Law School of the University of Athens and the National Transparency Authority, with the aim of effectively cooperating in the examination of

¹ In January 2024, the Hellenic DPA presented the new microsite for children and adolescents as well as two systems to assist citizens and institutions in the exercise of their rights and obligations.

² It is noted that on December 10, 2024, this educational material and the Augmented Reality game that was created were presented to the Minister of Education, who announced their inclusion in schools, from the current year, and their further exploitation from the next year.

issues that fall within their competences.

In addition, the Hellenic DPA was actively present in the EDPB, as well as in the working groups, networks and committees operating under European data protection legislation and, in general, met all its European and international obligations.

All in all, the Authority continued in 2023 its multidimensional action and intensive efforts to meet the high expectations of society and citizens. However, it should be noted once again that the competent state bodies must ensure the necessary conditions and means for its smooth and effective operation, as required by the GDPR.



Konstantinos Menoudakos

President of the Hellenic Data Protection Authority

Overview



ROLE, MISSION AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Hellenic DPA is a constitutionally consolidated independent public Authority (Article 9A of the Constitution) established by [Law 2472/1997](#) transposing European Directive 95/46/EC into Greek law on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data. The Authority is assisted by a Secretariat that operates at a Directorate level and has its own budget.

Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council (General Data Protection Regulation - GDPR), which entered into force on 25 May 2018 in all EU countries, repealed Directive 95/45/EC. As of August 29th, 2019, [Law 4624/2019](#) ("Hellenic Data Protection Authority, measures for implementing 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 transposition of Directive (EU) 2016/680 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016, and other provisions") has been in force. Articles 9 - 20 of the above law are dedicated to the Hellenic Data Protection Authority.

As for Law 2472/1997, it has been repealed, except for certain provisions explicitly mentioned in Article 84 of Law 4624/2019. Law 4624/2019 also transposed Directive (EU) 2016/680 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 by competent authorities for the purposes of the prevention, investigation, detection or prosecution of criminal offences or the execution of criminal penalties, and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Council Framework Decision 2008/977/JHA.

Furthermore, as regards the protection of personal data in electronic communications, the Authority applies [Law 3471/2006](#) which transposes European Directive 2002/58/EC into national law.

The Authority is responsible for monitoring the application of the provisions of the GDPR (Article 51(1), Recital 123), Law 4624/2019 and other regulations relating to the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of their personal data (Article 9 of Law 4624/2019). It also contributes to the consistent application of the GDPR throughout the European Union and, to this end, it cooperates with the supervisory authorities of EU Member States and the European Commission (Article 51(2), Recital 123 GDPR; Article 10 of Law 4624/2019).

Additionally, the Hellenic DPA represents Greece to the European Data Protection Board (EDPB) and other committees or bodies tasked with data protection, and it cooperates with respective third-country authorities and international bodies (Article 50 GDPR, Article 10 of Law 4624/2019). The Authority is competent for performing its tasks (Article 57 GDPR and Article 13 of Law 4624/2019) and exercising the powers conferred on it (Article 58 GDPR and Article 15 of Law 4624/2019) on its territory (Article 55(1), Recitals 122, 129 GDPR; Article 9 of Law 4624/2019) acting with complete independence (Article 52, Recitals 117-118, 121 GDPR; Article 11 of Law 4624/2019).

OPERATIONAL ISSUES

In 2023, as in previous years, the Authority faced serious problems, some of which have persisted since its establishment. These include the urgent need to strengthen the Authority's human and financial resources, the related exemption of the Authority from Supreme Council for Civil Personnel Selection (ASEP) procedures, the ongoing pending approval of the new Organisational Structure of its Secretariat during that year¹ and the institutional strengthening of the Authority by amending the provisions of national Law 4624/2019. During that year, the housing problem continued to exist, and with greater intensity.

It is noted that in March 2023, the Authority had to evacuate one of the two floors on which it was housed, as a result of a provisionally enforceable court decision on an exotic action brought by the owner of that floor, with the consequent inability to accommodate a large part of its services. There is also an immediate risk for the office spaces of the floor to which the Authority has confined itself, since the owner of that floor requested an increase in the rent, which the Ministry of Finance doesn't accept on the basis of the legislation in force, and has already brought an eviction action before the Athens Single-Member Court of First Instance.

Finally, it is necessary to seek drastic measures to solve the problem, possibly by taking appropriate legislative or other measures, such as making available to the Authority a suitable building of the State in the broader sense for its housing or

¹ The new Organisational structure was finally approved on 13 June 2024 by Presidential Decree 30 (Government Gazette, Series I, No. 89).

allocating the necessary funds at a level that reflects the real market conditions.

As noted in its annual reports, the Hellenic DPA is understaffed. It has never been possible to align its staffing with its broad set of responsibilities stemming from European and national legislation and the amount of work they entail. The ever-increasing volume of incoming cases is an essential constraint on the Authority's efforts to fully fulfil its mission. The negative impact of understaffing, combined with the Authority's low budget, is greater on the development of preventive work, such as systematic checks, and information-awareness raising of data subjects, controllers and processors. The current active force of the staff of the Secretariat of the Authority is approximately 50, out of the 75 statutory posts now foreseen,² distributed among special scientific staff (legal, IT and communication), as well as administrative and financial sector employees. The staffing of the Authority falls significantly short of that of equivalent supervisory authorities in other Member States. According to a relevant study, the work to be carried out by the Authority requires a minimum total of 135 establishment plan posts, which, according to its assessment, was necessary to meet its basic obligations. For this reason, the Authority's initial plan provided for a corresponding number of posts, but this number was reduced to 91, following a recommendation from the Ministry of the Interior. The adoption of the new Organizational structure remained pending in 2023.³

From its establishment until the first years of the financial crisis, the Authority was excluded from ASEP's procedures for the recruitment of its staff, which was in line with its independence, since, despite the fact that ASEP is also an independent authority, its partnership deprives the Authority of the ability to determine precisely the time of the vacancy notice, the duration of the procedure and the final selection of staff, thus violating its independence. Given the urgent need to strengthen the Authority in terms of human resources, it is absolutely necessary to provide for full management of its staff (with regard to recruitment) by the Authority itself, including the filling of approved vacancies, as required by the GDPR.

At the same time, it is necessary to increase the financial resources allocated to the Authority for its operational costs, in addition to the funds earmarked for staff salaries.

It should also be noted that Article 52(4) of the GDPR lays down an obligation for each Member State to make available to the national supervisory authority "*...the necessary human, technical and financial resources and premises and infrastructure for the effective performance of its tasks and exercise of its powers, including those carried out in the context of mutual assistance, cooperation and participation in the Board*". The country's response to this obligation is still pending.

Another issue related to ensuring adequate staffing of the Authority is the provision of incentives for the retention of its staff. As mentioned above, especially in the years

² With the new structure, the number of authorised posts now stands at 91.

³ The new Organizational structure was approved in June 2024 (see footnote 1).

of the financial crisis, a large proportion of special scientific staff left, mainly in search of better working conditions. Also, as was also found during the selection procedure of the 13 auditors mentioned above, most of the initially selected ones did not accept due to excessively low remuneration for their qualifications. Maintaining the Authority's staff, in particular special scientific staff (legal, IT and communication), which amounts to approximately two thirds of the total, requires a significant improvement in their remuneration, in line with their contribution to the Authority's work. Furthermore, the need for a special salary scale or other provisions (such as special additional remuneration) should be investigated, in addition to the above-mentioned incentive and reward system, so that the remuneration of the Authority's staff is commensurate with their qualifications, as in other public authorities or bodies.

For the proper and effective functioning of the Authority, in addition to strengthening human and adequate financial resources, it is necessary to establish advanced computing and network infrastructures, including electronic services for use by controllers and processors and data subjects. To this end, following the upgrades of the Authority's Internal Information System and web portal in previous years, the project to extend the Authority's IIS with new, to a greater extent, automated electronic services, such as data breach management, (self-) assessment of security and data protection and control management, as well as the creation of information content to raise children's awareness of data protection issues, was completed in 2023. It is recalled that this project has been included in the Operational Programme "Public Sector Reform" of the National Strategic Reference Framework and makes use of financial instruments of the European Union. Furthermore, the implementation of the European Commission funded project "byDefault" continued in 2023, with the main objectives of creating appropriate educational material for primary and secondary school pupils in the field of data protection and a training programme for teachers of the same levels, as well as the creation of a collaborative electronic space (platform) for use by data protection officers and data protection professionals in general.

In terms of financial data, the appropriations available for the year 2023 decreased again, compared to the previous year, by around 15%. The appropriations available for operational expenditure remained stable, despite continued requests for a significant increase. Thus, the necessary appropriations for the continuous upgrading of the technological infrastructure, including the development and provision of data protection tools to stakeholders, are sought in other sources of funding, such as in relation to the extension of the Authority's IIS in 2023 and the "byDefault" project.

Key statistics



In 2023, the number of incoming complaints amounted to 1,414, an increase of around 13% compared to 2022 (up from 1,250), while 883 complaints were handled, showing a slight increase of around 1% compared to the previous year (up from 876). The number of data breach incidents notified to the Authority under the GDPR amounted to 177, increased by approximately 2% compared to the previous year (from 174 in 2022), while 31 data breach notifications were submitted by providers of electronic communications services, based on Law 3471/2006, showing a decrease of approximately 11% (from 35 in 2021), as well as 2 incidents under Article 63 of Law 4624/2019, i.e. the total breach incidents amounted to 210, exactly as in 2022. In 43 cases, the examination of the cases was completed with the adoption of a decision by the Plenary or the Chamber.

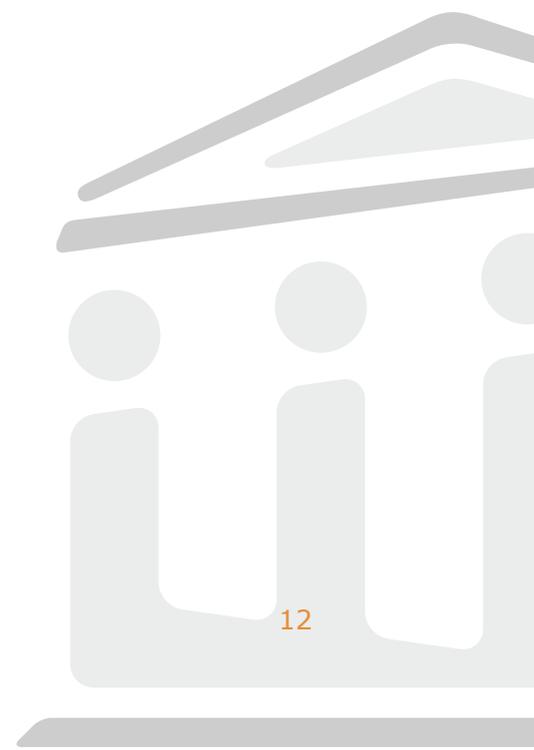
With regard to the above-mentioned notifications of data breaches provided for in the GDPR, of the 177 cases, 12 concerned cross-border processing and in 56 cases data subjects were informed, while of the cases relating to electronic communications, all concerned non-cross-border processing and in 7 cases data subjects were informed.

In 27 of the Authority's decisions, sanctions are imposed on controllers. In 13 cases the penalty of a reprimand - warning for compliance was imposed or a compliance order was given after a complaint and hearing and in 13 cases a fine was imposed, the amount of which ranged from 500 to 100,000 euros. It is clarified that in 9 of these 13 decisions of the Authority, the penalty of the reprimand was imposed in addition to the financial fine, while a relevant order for compliance and recommendation was given. In total, fines of 637,000 euros were imposed. In 1 decision, an interim injunction

was given.

The above decisions of the Authority are categorised into the main thematic areas as follows: 1 in the field of Health, 1 in the field of Education and Research, 2 in the field of Private Economy, 3 in the field of Finance, 4 in the field of Promotion of products and services (advertising, spam, telephone nuisances), 1 Prosecution Authorities - Security, 2 in the field of Industrial Relations, 1 in the field of Closed Circuits Television, 4 in the field of Public Administration 1 in Internet services, 4 in Electronic communication services and 3 in Others.

It should be noted that in 2023, the Authority was informed of the submission of 17 applications for annulment to the Council of State, of which 7 concerned decisions of the Authority of 2023 and 10 decisions of the Authority of 2022. Seven applications for annulment against decisions of the Authority of previous years were discussed, while in two cases the applicant withdrew from the application for annulment and 3 decisions of the Council of State were issued on applications for annulment of previous years, rejecting the applications for annulment submitted.



Complaints

Number of complaints resolved: **883**.
Number of complaints submitted: **1,414**.

Fines

Amount of fines imposed: **637,000** euros
(in **27** decisions)



Decisions – Opinions

43 decisions were issued

Data Breach Notifications

Number of Data Breach Notifications
received:

177 for **GDPR** and

31 for **Law 3471/2006** (it incorporates
the European Directive 2002/58/EC into
national law).



Enforcement

SELECTION OF DECISIONS ON COMPLAINTS

Decision 2

Company fined for failing to cooperate with Hellenic DPA's request for information

Summary: The Hellenic DPA imposed a fine on Intellexa S.A., a company providing computer systems design and related services, for failing to cooperate with its request for information after the DPA had carried out an administrative inspection at the company's premises. The inspection was conducted with the intention of investigating instances of installation of spyware on mobile terminal equipment. It was determined that the company was using the spyware to monitor their users, without their knowledge, and subsequently collecting and processing their personal data. As the company was excessively late in answering the Hellenic DPA's questions and failed to provide any of the specific information requested, the Authority imposed a fine of €50,000. It also ordered the company to deliver the specific information immediately.

Decision 4

Bank fined for unlawful transmission of data and non-disclosure of a data breach incident

Summary: The Authority examined a complaint by a customer of Piraeus Bank concerning the unlawful disclosure to an heir of a deceased relative of transaction data and balances of two bank accounts of which he was a joint beneficiary, which

were subsequently used in the context of an action against the complainant. After investigating the incident, the Bank found that the information had indeed been disclosed to the complainant's adversary due to an error by its employee who, contrary to the instructions given to him, did not notice that the accounts were joint accounts and did not ask for an opinion from the Bank's legal department. However, the Bank did not notify the Authority and the subject of the incident, considering that it was under no obligation to do so because it had taken adequate technical and organisational measures, which, however, cannot prevent individual human error.

The Authority found a breach of the principle of lawfulness of processing and confidentiality of data (art. 5(1)(a) and (f) of the GDPR) and a breach of the Bank's obligations to notify the Authority and the subject of the incident (Articles 33 and 34 of the GDPR) for which a fine of EUR 30,000 was imposed.

Decision 7

Fine on a telecommunications provider for failure to notify a personal data breach incident

Summary: The Authority has examined a complaint from a Vodafone subscriber who, following a request for access to her recorded conversations with the Vodafone call centre, received, via a processor, a CD containing conversations of another subscriber. However, although Vodafone was immediately notified by the complainant, it did not take any steps to investigate whether or not the incident was confirmed, but was initially satisfied with the processor's reply that it had not found the complainant on the phone, and then invited her in writing through the Consumer's Ombudsman to return the CD, thus transferring the responsibility for investigating the possible incident to the subject.

Vodafone was ordered to satisfy the right by sending the correct file and was fined €40,000 for violating the complainant's right of access under Article 15 of the GDPR and the obligation to disclose the incident under Article 33 of the GDPR.

Decision 20

Compliance order and fine against a telecommunications provider for violation of access and objection rights

Summary: The Authority examined complaints from a subscriber of WIND (now NOVA) who complained about the repeated receipt of e-mails for promotional purposes despite his opposition and repeated complaints, and about the failure to respond to requests to exercise his right of access.

The Authority imposed a fine of (a) €60,000 for infringement of Article 21(3) of the GDPR for sending five promotional messages despite the complainant's objection and for removing the complainant's telephone number from the Register referred to in Article 11 of Law 3471/2004 for a period of three months without having requested it, (b) €60,000 for failure to fulfill a right of access, failure to provide a reply, even

a negative one, and difficulty in exercising a right of access, and (c) €30,000 for infringement of Article 25(1) of the GDPR for failing to have in place, because it did not have in practice, the necessary procedures to ensure the right to object and the interruption of data processing for promotional purposes.

Decision 25

Imposition of a fine for unlawful processing of personal data and violation of the right of access

Summary: The Hellenic DPA imposed a €210,000 fine on Piraeus Bank. The bank was fined for processing its customers' personal data in breach of the principle of lawfulness and for failing to implement appropriate technical and organisational measures to process only the data necessary for specific purposes. Additionally, the bank violated the complainant's right to be informed and right of access in relation to the transfer of their personal data to the Company for the Management of Claims from Loans and Credits, given that there was no longer any claim against them.

Decision 30

Fine on controller for processing data in the framework of the electronic ticket

Summary: The Hellenic DPA dealt with a case relating to the protection of personal data processed in the framework of the Automatic Fee Collection System, also known as the "electronic ticket". According to the DPA's inspection, the data processing activities of the Athens Urban Transport Organisation violated Art. 5(1) (e) GDPR. As a result, the controller was fined €50,000 and received a reprimand for the breaches of Arts. 25(1) and 35(1) GDPR. Furthermore, the Hellenic DPA issued a compliance order to determine the data retention periods for the various purposes of processing and to revise the impact assessment on personal data.



The Authority examined a draft Joint Ministerial Decision submitted by the Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance regarding the “Social Security Register Nr” for the Authority’s opinion, in accordance with Article 13(1)(c) of Law 4624/2019. After examining the draft law in question, the Authority commented on specific provisions that need to be improved and/or clarified with regard to the inventory data of the Social Security Nr register and its interconnection with other public sector systems, and pointed out the obligation to carry out an impact assessment in accordance with Article 35 of the GDPR before signing the Joint Ministerial Decision (DPA ref. no. 2870/14-11-2023).

In addition, in reply to letter with Hellenic DPA ref. no. 290/16-01-2023, from the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs providing the Authority with an opinion on the draft legislative regulation of the Ministry on the prevention and treatment of school violence and bullying and the development and operation of the relevant Digital Platform, the Authority highlighted a number of issues relating, first of all, to the specific reference of the controller (Ministry of Education), the processor (‘Institute for Computer Technology and Publications), as well as the type of personal data to be entered and kept in the system and the time for which they will be kept. In particular, the Authority noted the need to identify the type of personal data to be included in branded reports of bullying incidents in schools, as well as to predict whether and who will have access to this information. Those elements may be laid down in the Joint Ministerial Decision, the adoption of which is provided for in the enabling provision of paragraph 10(b), which must be reworded so that it is clear that

all the above elements and arrangements are included in the authorisation, and in any case, it must be ensured that those elements, due to their particular nature, are not accessible to third parties. Security measures should also be envisaged for the operation of this digital website (e.g. server certificate, use of encryption, etc.). It should also be clarified whether the reports provided for by the experts, containing their observations and conclusions on the type and manner of dealing with incidents that have occurred in the schools under their jurisdiction, include personal data.

Guidelines

In 2023, the Authority adopted Guidelines on the processing of personal data for the purpose of political communication. More specifically, the Hellenic DPA adopted Decision no. 9/2023, to which the Guidelines no. 1/2023 relating to the processing of personal data for the purpose of communication of a political nature are attached as an annex. This text attempts to update the Authority's Guidelines 1/2019, taking into account the recent case-law of the Fourth Chamber of the Council of State (see Judgments 1343-5/2022 of the Court of Justice).

This document specifies the rules for the lawful processing of personal data for the purpose of the communication policy, which is carried out in various ways and at any time, including pre-election, by political parties, parliamentarians, MEPs, factions and holders of elected positions in local government or candidates in parliamentary elections, elections to the European Parliament and elections to local self-government.





Promoting the awareness of data subjects about their understanding of the risks, rules, safeguards and rights related to the processing of personal data, as well as controllers' and processors' awareness of their obligations, has over time been one of the main pillars of the Authority's mission, which is explicitly provided for in the GDPR.

This section outlines the communication activities carried out during 2023:

Data Protection Day, 28 January 2023

On the occasion of the **celebration of the 17th Data Protection Day**, the Authority organised, on 30 January 2023, at the National Hellenic Research Foundation, an Information Day on "**Current data protection issues – recent developments**".

The President of the Authority, Honorary President of the Council of State, Konstantinos Menoudakos, gave a welcome address and coordinated the first part of the conference.

Part one began with a presentation by Dr Konstantinos Limniotis, IT Auditor, entitled "Certification of processing of personal data – overview of the current situation". Dr Maria Alikakou, auditor-lawyer of the Authority, then took the floor with a speech entitled "EU-US agreement on transatlantic data flows: Real data protection or simple political agreement?". This was followed by Fay Karvela, auditor-lawyer of the Authority, with the presentation "Certification as a tool for international transfers".

The **second part** was coordinated by the Deputy President of the Authority, Honorary Judge of the Supreme Court of Civil and Penal Law, Georgios Batzalexis. Dr

Efrosini Siougle, IT auditor of the Authority, presented the topic “Cloud computing services and data protection issues”. Christos Kalloniatis, professor of the Department of Cultural Technology and Communication of the University of the Aegean, member of the Authority, and Konstantinos Lambrinoudakis, professor of the Department of Digital Systems of the University of Piraeus, member of the Authority, took the floor with a presentation on “General Regulation and Protection of Personal Data: From Formal Compliance to Substantial Application”. Finally, Georgia Panagopoulou, IT auditor of the Authority, delivered a speech entitled “Internet of behaviour and personal data protection issues”.

Joint Conference of Constitutionally Established Independent Authorities, 1-2 November 2023

The first joint scientific conference of constitutionally established Independent Authorities entitled “**Constitutionally Established Independent Authorities: Their contribution to a European democratic rule of law**” took place on 1 and 2 November 2023, at Cotsen Hall Amphitheatre of the American School of Classical Studies.

The conference was co-organised by the Hellenic Data Protection Authority, the National Council for Radio and Television, the Supreme Council for Personnel Selection, the Greek Ombudsman and the Hellenic Authority for Communication Security and Privacy. Its aim was to investigate the contribution of the constitutionally established Independent Authorities to the consolidation of the principle of legality.¹

The opening of the Conference was declared by the President of the Republic Katerina Sakellaropoulou. On behalf of the President of the Hellenic Parliament, Konstantinos Tasoulas, the Vice-President of the Hellenic Parliament, Georgios Georgantas, gave a welcome address. Video greetings were then shown by European Commission Vice-President for Values and Transparency Věra Jourová and European Union Justice Commissioner Didier Reynders.²

45th Global Privacy Assembly Awards 2023

The Hellenic DPA was awarded for the first time the **People’s Choice Award of the 45th Global Privacy Assembly** held in Bermuda from 15 to 20 October 2023. The prize was awarded for the GDPR Compliance Toolkit developed by the Authority as part of the byDesign project, funded by the European Union’s Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme. The aim of the toolkit is to facilitate compliance by small and medium-sized enterprises with the General Data Protection Regulation.³

1 The relevant press release is available at https://www.dpa.gr/en/enimerwtiko/ta_nea/oloklirothikan-me-epityhia-oi-ergasies-toy-koinoy-synedrioy-ton-syntagmatika.

2 The conference programme is available at https://www.asep.gr/Synedrio.Syntagm.Arxon/index.php?option=com_sppagebuilder&view=page&id=11&Itemid=216&lang=en.

3 See <https://www.dpa.gr/en/enimerwtiko/deltia/brabeysi-tis-arhis-apo-tin-45i-pagkosmia-syneleysi-idiotikotitas-global-privacy>.

Hellenic DPA's contribution to the implementation of EU-funded research and other projects

As part of its responsibilities to raise awareness of personal data protection legislation among the public, controllers and processors, the Authority continued in 2023 the implementation of the project entitled '**Informed by default: promoting awareness among critical social and professional groups (children and data protection professionals) – byDefault**',⁴ which started on 1 September 2022. The implementation was carried out jointly with the University of Piraeus and the Greek IT company ICT-ABOVO with co-funding by the European Commission.

There were two main objectives of the project: on the one hand, the creation of an electronic platform for cooperation and exchange of views of data protection professionals. The platform, which will operate under the guidance and supervision of the Data Protection Authority, aims to share specialised knowledge in thematic areas to facilitate the practical application of data protection principles.

On the other hand, the second main objective is to create a comprehensive training programme to raise awareness of the protection of personal data from an early age. The program will be addressed to primary and secondary school students, while ensuring corresponding education and support to teachers so that they are able to use it in the context of their work.

Participation in training seminars

Throughout 2023, the training seminars at the National Centre for Public Administration and Local Government (EKDDA) continued on "**The General Data Protection Regulation: the obligations of the Public Administration**", with experts from the Authority's audit department acting as rapporteurs.

Participation in workshops and conferences

During 2023, the President, members and scientific staff of the Authority participated as speakers or coordinators in scientific conferences and workshops.

On **January 27-28**, the President of the Authority K. Menoudakos participated in the scientific two-day conference of the Panhellenic Theological Association "KAIROS" for the course of Religious Studies entitled "Identity and otherness in public school. The lesson of Religion today" that took place at the Cultural Center of the Municipality of Athens.

On **March 29**, the publishing company "Nomiki Bibliothiki" in collaboration with the scientific journal "Technology & Communication Law" organized the 9th Conference on Technology & Communication Law on "The String of Digital Europe". The President of the Authority addressed the conference.

⁴ See <https://bydefault-project.eu/>.

On **27 April**, President Menoudakos gave a welcome address the South EU Google Data Governance Chair online conference entitled "DGA v GDPR: Harmony or Antagonism" with the participation of Professor Aikaterini Iliadou, member, and Dr George Kontis, alternate member of the Authority.

Other speeches by Authority members and scientific staff are listed below:

On **January 28**, Aikaterini Iliadou, a member of the Authority and associate Professor, participated as a keynote speaker in a conference celebrating the Day of Personal Data Protection and in the presentation of ERASMUS + SECURE Health at IASO Hospital

On **January 30**, the special scientist of the Authority Dr K. Limniotis participated with a presentation entitled "How to protect our personal data - The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)" in the webinar entitled "Cybersecurity, GDPR & my presence online", organized by the Sistech Organization and addressed to refugee women, in order to support them for their professional rehabilitation.

On **February 8**, Professor Spyros Vlachopoulos, a member of the Authority, taught the course on Personal Data Protection Law to students at the National School of Judicial Officers.

On **February 14**, Professor K. Lambrinouidakis, a member of the Authority, participated in a workshop organized by the Ministry of Digital Governance at the Concert Hall to celebrate the three years of operation of gov.gr, in the section entitled "Justice and gov.gr".

On **2 March**, the HDPAs scientific staff Dr Elena Maragou, Dr Konstantinos Limniotis and Dr George Rousopoulos participated in an educational workshop entitled 'Processing of personal data by public authorities responsible for the prevention, investigation, detection or prosecution of criminal offences or the execution of criminal penalties – The case of Presidential Decree 75/2020'. The workshop concerned the use of a portable surveillance system, as well as the relevant legislation governing the installation and operation of such systems, and was addressed to the staff of the Attica Police Operations Directorate.

On **6 March**, as part of an educational programme implemented for high school students by the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Cultural Center (SNFCC) in collaboration with the Data Protection Authority and the Institute of Computer Science - Foundation for Research and Technology-Hellas (ICS-FORTH), the Authority's special scientist K. Limniotis gave a presentation entitled "Think more... personally about your data".

On **13 March**, Professor K. Lambrinouidakis, member of the Authority, participated in the Innovation Talks (podcast) on cybersecurity and personal data.

On **April 1st**, the expert special scientist G. Rousopoulos participated with a speech entitled "The Cookie Monster" at an event in the framework of the CSI-COP project - Citizen Scientists Investigating Cookies and App GDPR compliance.

On **8 April**, Professor K. Lambrinouidakis, member of the Authority, participated in the 13th Career Panorama entitled "New Technologies - Big Data. Need for Training

and Information Programs on Security and Personal Data Protection”.

On **4 May**, the experts E. Maragou and G. Rousopoulos participated in an educational workshop entitled ‘Processing of personal data by public authorities responsible for the prevention, investigation, detection or prosecution of criminal offences or the execution of criminal penalties – The case of Presidential Decree 75/2020’. The workshop, which was repeated on **5 May**, concerned the use of a portable surveillance system, as well as the relevant legislation governing the installation and operation of such systems, and was addressed to the staff of the Attica Security Directorate (OPKE – ACTION).

On **29 May**, as part of the “byDefault” project, implemented jointly with the University of Piraeus and ICT-ABOVO with co-funding from the European Commission, a face-to-face seminar was held to present the online platform for cooperation and exchange of views of data protection professionals. At the beginning of the seminar, the President of the Authority, Mr. Menoudakos, addressed the audience. The speakers of the seminar were the experts of the Authority G. Rousopoulos, E. Maragou, K. Karveli, L. Roussos, C. Symeonidou. From Abovo the presentation was made by Dr G. Dellas.

On **27 June**, Professor K. Lambrinoudakis participated also in a closed debate on "Digital Transformation of Europe: Artificial Intelligence, the next bet for Greece's growth and competitiveness", with a presentation entitled "Regulating Generative AI", organized by the American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce in collaboration with Microsoft.

On **13 July**, the Greek KnowledgeNet Chapter of IAPP organised an event on "Data Subject Rights Management" (DSR Handling). The special scientist-lawyer of the Authority, Kalli Karveli, participated with a speech.

On **September 7**, the member of the Authority Professor C. Kalloniatis participated as a speaker in a workshop organized by Lidl Hellas, in collaboration with the A. K. Laskaridis Charitable Foundation, under the auspices of the Ministry of Development and Investments, with the organizational support of the Greek innovation and technology company CrowdPolicy. The theme of his speech was "GDPR and Personal Data".

On **22 September**, Authority member C. Kalloniatis participated as a speaker in the workshop entitled “City Innovation Talks” on digital innovation in cities. His speech was entitled "Smart Cities – Security and Protection of Personal Data".

The online information event for the online platform of data protection professionals in the framework of the byDefault project took place on **4 October**. The event presented the pilot form of the platform for cooperation and exchange of views of data protection professionals Collab.dpa.gr as well as scenarios for its use. In the afternoon of the same day, the second informative event for teachers took place at the University of Piraeus.⁵

⁵ The relevant press release is available at <https://www.dpa.gr/en/enimerwtiko/deltia/ergo-bydefault->

On **October 20-21**, Gregory Tsolias, PhD, member of the Authority, participated as rapporteur at the 9th Conference of the Association of Greek Criminal Lawyers in Thessaloniki, "Proof Issues in Criminal Proceedings", on "The Processing of Genetic Data (DNA) for the Verification of Crimes under EU Law (on the occasion of the CJEU C-205/21)".

On **November 22nd**, the member of the Authority Aikaterini Iliadou participated in the 6th Healthcare Transformation Conference - "Challenges in a constantly shifting environment", in the section entitled "New Era for Medical Technology".

On **December 1st**, the member of the Authority C. Kalloniatis participated as a speaker in the conference "AI regulation and applications in Greece: Challenge accepted" organized by the National Institute of Artificial Intelligence Law, Personal Data and Digital Governance (Rythmisis) and "Nomiki Bibliothiki". His presentation was entitled "Privacy by Design in Artificial Intelligence Environments".

On **7-8 December**, Dr G. Tsolias, member of the Authority, participated as rapporteur at the 5th Thessaloniki Forum for Human Rights of the Centre for European Legal Culture (Cenop), "Privacy in the digital age", on "Processing of personal data from the use of surveillance systems in public spaces in accordance with Presidential Decree 75/2020". On December 19, he participated in the Postgraduate Program "Digital Culture. Smart Cities, IoT & Advanced Technologies" of the Department of Informatics of the University of Piraeus, entitled "The confidentiality of communications".

Electronic Newsletter

During 2023, the Hellenic DPA published four new issues of its e-Newsletter (No 39 – 42 – available at www.dpa.gr ⇒ Information ⇒ e-Newsletter), which aims to provide brief but comprehensive information on its work, useful statistics, current developments on the protection of personal data at national, European and international level, news on recent or upcoming events and, finally, bibliographical news.

Interviews, publication of articles and responses to media queries

- On 11 January 2023 and 18 October 2023, the President of the Authority, K. Menoudakos, gave a radio interview to journalist Aris Portosalte (SKAI RADIO) on the **installation and use of cameras in public and private spaces**.
- On 18 January 2023, the President of the Authority responded to questions from journalist Dimitra Triantafyllou (Kathimerini): "**GDPR seven years later: The tricks of companies and the defense of citizens**".⁶
- The article by the member of the Authority, Professor C. Anthopoulos, entitled "**Three-fifths 'not worth something' - The new method for selecting the members of the Independent Authorities**" was published on the website

enimerotikes-draseis.

⁶ The interview is available at <https://www.kathimerini.gr/society/562200904/gdpr-epta-chronia-meta-ta-technasmata-ton-etaireion-kai-i-amyna-ton-politon/>.

ieidiseis.gr on 2-10-2023.⁷

- Article by the Director of the Authority Dr Vasilis Zorkadis, in the framework of the "byDefault" project, entitled "**Informed by default: Promoting information and awareness of critical social and professional groups on data protection**" was published on the epixeiro.gr website on 11-10-2023.⁸

Finally, the Hellenic DPA responded to a series of journalistic questions from the following media: ERT, KATHIMERINI, Balkan Insight, Banking News, Data Journalists, Global Data Review, Handelsblatt, Inside Story, megafono.gr, Netzpolitik, New York Times, News24/7, Reporters United, Solomon etc.

Press releases and announcements

The Hellenic DPA issued 12 press releases and 4 announcements in 2023, which are available at www.dpa.gr (section "Information", subsections "Press releases and announcements" and "news").

The issues related to the protection of personal data and the Authority that in 2023 concerned mainly Greek but also, in some cases, international media were, in chronological order, the following:

- The imposition of a fine on Intellexa S.A. for non-cooperation with the Authority. See press release of 16/1.
- The Authority's Information Day entitled "Current issues of personal data protection - recent developments" for the 17th Data Protection Day. See press release of 10/2.
- The submission of the annual report of the Hellenic DPA to the President of the Hellenic Parliament. See news item of 23/3.
- The submission of the annual report to the President of the Hellenic Republic. See news item of 24/3.
- The announcement on the Authority's Guidelines on the lawful processing of personal data for the purpose of political communication. See announcement of 3/4.
- The initiation of a procedure to examine a possible violation of the legislation on the protection of the personal data of an alleged victim of crime. See press release of 20/4.
- The EDPB coordinated enforcement action on the role of Data Protection Officers. See press release of 3/5.
- The guide for SMEs by the European Data Protection Board. See press release of 8/5.⁹

⁷ The article is available at <https://www.ieidiseis.gr/opinions/216671/xaralampos-anthopoulos-tria-pempta-para-kati>.

⁸ The article is available at <https://www.epixeiro.gr/article/438951>.

⁹ The press release is available in English here <https://www.dpa.gr/en/enimerwtiko/press-releases/edpb-launches-data-protection-guide-smes>.

- The Memorandum of Cooperation between the Data Protection Authority and the National Transparency Authority. See press release of 23/5.
- The statement of the President of the Authority Konstantinos Menoudakos for the 5 years of GDPR. See press release of 25/5.
- The memorandum of cooperation between the Data Protection Authority and the Law School of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens. See press release of 7/7.
- The Authority's actions in relation to activities related to the installation and use of spyware in Greece. See press release of 20/7.
- The announcement of the Authority on the "byDefault" project and the launch of the pilot operation of the Collab.dpa.gr electronic platform.
- The information actions of the byDefault project. See press release of 17/10.¹⁰
- The awarding of the Authority by the 45th Global Privacy Assembly Awards 2023. See press release of 23/10.¹¹
- The Joint Conference of constitutionally established Independent Authorities. See debriefing press release of 7/11.
- The Information Day of the Authority entitled "Current issues of personal data protection - recent developments" on the occasion of the 18th Data Protection Day. See press release of 19/12.
- The Authority's announcement refuting a claim that, according to media reports, was allegedly made by Hellenic Railways Organisation's (OSE) CEO. See announcement of 19/12.

Publication of articles

- May 2023 issue of Hellenic Federation of Enterprises (SEV) Monthly Newsletter "Regulatory Environment and Businesses" hosted an article by the President of the Authority Mr. Menoudakos entitled "5 years after its implementation, the GDPR constitutes an institutional framework that constitutes a global standard and ensures the safe flow of data, for the benefit of citizens and businesses".¹²
- The member of the Authority, lawyer, Dr. G. Tsolias, published the following articles in 2023:
 - "Brief presentation and evaluation of the criminal provisions of Law 5002/2022 on the lifting of confidentiality of electronic communications", DITE magazine 2022, p. 494 et seq.
 - "The legal framework for lifting the confidentiality of electronic communications"

¹⁰ The press release is available in English here <https://www.dpa.gr/en/enimerwtiko/press-releases/bydefault-project-awareness-events>.

¹¹ The press release is available in English here in English here <https://www.dpa.gr/en/enimerwtiko/press-releases/award-iellenic-dpa-45th-global-privacy-assembly>.

¹² The article is available at https://www.sev.org.gr/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/May_Regulatory-Affairs-Bulletin.pdf.

for the detection of crimes in accordance with the provisions of Law 5002/2022 and the missed opportunity to modernise it”, Criminal Justice 2023, p. 242 et seq.

¹³

“Probative use in an administrative procedure of material lifting the confidentiality of electronic communications obtained in the context of criminal proceedings before the Grand Chamber of the EctHR” (lawspot.gr).¹⁴

“Secondary use in disciplinary proceedings of confidential communication data obtained in criminal proceedings, observations in CJEU judgment C-162/22”, DITE magazine 2023, 436 et seq.

- Kyriaki Karakasi, legal auditor of the Authority, published the following article: “Issues concerning the application of the GDPR to the use of big data in the energy sector”, DITE magazine, vol. 1/2023, p. 24.
- Dr. K. Limniotis, IT auditor of the Authority, was a coauthor participated in the the following article:
G. Achilleos, K. Limniotis and N. Kolokotronis, "Exploring personal data processing in video conferencing apps", Electronics (Special issue: Next Generation Networks and Systems Security), vol. 12, no. 5:1247, 2023.¹⁵

¹³ The article is available at https://www.dpa.gr/sites/default/files/2023-07/Tsolias_legal%20framework%20to%20protect%20electronic%20communications_%CE%9D.5002_22.pdf.

¹⁴ The article is available at https://www.lawspot.gr/nomika-nea/i-apodeiktiki-axiopoisi-se-dioikitiki-diadikasia-ylikoy-arsis-toy-aporritoy-ilektronikon?Ispt_destination=upgrade

¹⁵ The article is available at <https://www.mdpi.com/2079-9292/12/5/1247>.

The background features a complex network of blue and red lines forming various geometric shapes like hexagons and rectangles. Scattered throughout are several 3D isometric boxes in blue and red, along with red padlock icons and dark blue cloud shapes. The overall aesthetic is technical and digital.

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Kifisias 1-3, 11523, Athens – Greece
Website: www.dpa.gr
E-mail: contact@dpa.gr