



GDPR@6

The EU's General Data Protection Regulation After Six Years of Application: Lessons Learnt & Implications for the Future of Digital Regulation

21 May 2024, 15:00-18:30,
Dachgeschoss im Juridicum, Universität Wien,
Schottenbastei 10–16, 1010 Wien

In May 2016, after almost five years of negotiations between European Parliamentarians, Member States' representatives, Commission experts, and intense interactions with the business community, civil society and international actors, the EU's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) entered into force. In May 2018, the GDPR became applicable in all EU Member States. The GDPR, often criticised for its far-reaching practical implications, is today the common law of data protection in Europe, has inspired the new Council of Europe Convention 108+ and has generated a so-called "Brussels effect" as it triggered a series of data protection laws and regulations in other parts of the world that all draw more or less on provisions and principles of the GDPR.

Now, after 6 years of application, it is time to assess whether the GDPR has stood the test of time. Have the visions of the lawmakers been fulfilled? Are data subjects today efficiently protected in their rights wherever they live in the EU or are there gaps in the system? Have Member States made good use of the GDPR when specifying it in their national legal systems or are they undermining its harmonising effect? Has the EU over- or underregulated the emerging European data space? And does the GDPR serve as a model for or a warning to new EU Digital Acts such as the AI Act? These issues will be at the heart of discussion among policymakers, supervisors, data protection activists, business representatives, attorneys and academics at our conference *GDPR@6* organised at the occasion of the 6th anniversary of the GDPR's applicability by the Department of Innovation and Digitalisation in Law of the University of Vienna.

Programme

15:00: Opening remarks by

Professor Dr. Martin Selmayr,

Department of Innovation and Digitalisation in Law of the University of Vienna
Former Secretary-General of the European Commission,
Academic Director of the Centre for European Law at the University of Passau

Professor Dr. Nikolaus Forgó,

Head of the Department of Innovation and Digitalisation in Law
of the University of Vienna

15:10: Keynote address by

Dr.ⁱⁿ Alma Zadić, LL.M.

Minister for Justice of the Republic of Austria

Have EU Member States Made Good Use of the GDPR in Their National Legal Systems?

15:30-16:15: Part I – The perspective of users

The Level of EU Data Protection: Sufficient, Too Little or Too Much?

Panel moderated by

Univ.-Ass. Hande Özkayagan Prändl,

Department of Innovation and Digitalisation in Law
of the University of Vienna

with contributions from

Dr. Eugen Ehmann,

Regierungspräsident of the region of Unterfranken

Prof. Dr. Hans-Georg Kamann,

Partner at WilmerHale, Frankfurt am Main,
Vice Chair, Antitrust and Competition Practice

Nicole Krug,

Attorney of CARIAD SE Stuttgart/Mönsheim

Paul Nemitz,

European Commission, Principal Adviser

Coffee break

16:30-17:30: Part II – The perspective of policymakers and supervisory authorities

Have We Really Overcome the Fragmentation of 27 Data Protection Laws?

Keynote by

Jan Philipp Albrecht,

President of Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung, former Member of the European Parliament and European Parliament Rapporteur for the General Data Protection Regulation

followed by a panel, moderated by

Univ.-Ass. Mag. Adriana Winkelmeier,

Department of Innovation and Digitalisation in Law
of the University of Vienna

with contributions from

Dr. Horst Heberlein,

Data Protection Expert,
formerly European Commission

Professor Dr. Thomas Hoeren,

University of Münster

Barbara Thiel,

Former State Commissioner of Data Protection of Lower Saxony

MMag. Elisabeth Wagner,

Deputy Head of the Austrian Data Protection Authority

Thomas Zerdick,

Head of Unit for Supervision and Enforcement
at the European Data Protection Supervisor

Coffee break

17:45-18:30: Part III – Perspectives for the Future

The GDPR as a Model for the AI Act?

Panel moderated by

Anke Zimmer-Helfrich,
Editor-in-Chief of ZD (Zeitschrift für Datenschutz)

with contributions from

Dr. Martin Braun,
Partner at WilmerHale Frankfurt am Main

Professor Dr. Nikolaus Forgó,
Head of the Department of Innovation and Digitalisation in Law
of the University of Vienna

Professor Dr. Stephanie Schiedermaier,
Director of the International Law Institute,
University of Leipzig

18:30: Closing remarks by

Professor Dr. Martin Selmayr,
former Secretary-General of the European Commission,
Academic Director of the Centre for European Law at the University of Passau

Is It Time for a Revision of the GDPR?

End of the conference