

# State of data protection and a look into the future

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# Introduction

Who: Raoul Winkens

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- Lawyer interested in technology, education and research with a focus on data protection

What:

- How is GDPR doing in 2023 and what can we expect forwards in the world of data protection?

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# Introduction

**GDPR is about protecting the rights and freedoms of natural persons and the free movement of their personal data with a focus on data protection**

**Data protection is not the same as privacy. GDPR does not mention privacy.**

**See this nice blog for an understandable explanation about the concepts:**

**<https://www.buymeacoffee.com/MissIGGeek/happy-data-protection-day>**



# Where are we at?

- **Almost 5 years GDPR in effect**  
**(and 11 year after its first draft)**
- **Behavioral changes are visible**
- **Enforcement in all sectors**

Country	Sum of Fines
IRELAND	€ 1,303,515,900 (at 19 fines)
LUXEMBOURG	€ 746,273,600 (at 23 fines)
FRANCE	€ 293,419,300 (at 33 fines)
ITALY	€ 142,166,096 (at 206 fines)
UNITED KINGDOM	€ 60,632,800 (at 12 fines)
SPAIN	€ 57,541,090 (at 556 fines)
GERMANY	€ 54,741,853 (at 115 fines)
GREECE	€ 30,464,000 (at 52 fines)
AUSTRIA	€ 24,750,150 (at 19 fines)
SWEDEN	€ 16,232,230 (at 27 fines)

Sector	Sum of Fines
Media, Telecoms and Broadcasting	€ 1,688,555,541 (at 213 fines)
Industry and Commerce	€ 854,298,297 (at 324 fines)
Transportation and Energy	€ 86,459,214 (at 69 fines)
Employment	€ 48,109,677 (at 97 fines)
Finance, Insurance and Consulting	€ 34,426,108 (at 149 fines)
Public Sector and Education	€ 23,798,763 (at 172 fines)
Accommodation and Hospitality	€ 22,340,057 (at 50 fines)
Health Care	€ 15,015,009 (at 130 fines)
Real Estate	€ 2,578,490 (at 46 fines)
Individuals and Private Associations	€ 1,598,596 (at 155 fines)
Not assigned	€ 750,308 (at 56 fines)
Unknown	€ 51,040 (at 7 fines)
Property Owners Association	€ 2,000 (at 1 fines)

# Where are we at?

- **Still a lot of organizations are in compliance limbo**
- **Good: It is on the board agenda, management takes it seriously, policies and support are present, enforcement takes place**
- **Not so good: Basic topics are sometimes still not implemented, support is insufficient, GDPR is ignored, enforcement is lacking (One-Stop-Shop under fire)**



# What can we expect?

ePrivacy Regulation entering into force? Maybe this year, do not wager on it

AI ACT (legal framework on AI: <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/regulatory-framework-ai>) Adoption by European Parliament possible end of 2023

And also: Digital Services Act, Digital Markets Act, Digital Governance Act, Data Act, EHDS, NIS2 Directive\*

The EDPB will advise on the position of the DPO for its [second coordinated enforcement action](#)

\*

- [https://iapp.org/media/pdf/resource\\_center/recent\\_eu\\_data\\_initiatives\\_in\\_context\\_infographic.pdf](https://iapp.org/media/pdf/resource_center/recent_eu_data_initiatives_in_context_infographic.pdf)
- [https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/cros/system/files/03\\_data\\_governance\\_act.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/cros/system/files/03_data_governance_act.pdf)



# What can we expect?

## European data strategy

- GDPR
- ePrivacy
- AI Act
- Digital Services Act
- Digital Markets Act
- Digital Governance Act
- Data Act
- EHDS
- NIS2 Directive

## Projected figures 2025



**530%**

increase of global  
data volume

From 33 zettabytes  
in 2018 to 175  
zettabytes



**€829  
billion**

value of data  
economy in the  
EU27

From €301 billion  
(2.4% of EU GDP)  
in 2018



**10.9  
million**

data  
professionals in  
the EU27

From 5.7 million in  
2018



**65%**

Percentage of EU  
population with  
basic digital skills

From 57% in 2018

# Conclusion?

**Does GDPR and other legislation hinder innovation and development?**

**No! They are necessary to guide and steer (just like labor law, health and safety law, medical research ethics and professional standards)**

**Data protection is about the rights and freedoms of living human beings**

**GDPR lays down rules to enable the free movement of personal data and protects the rights and freedoms of people**



# Conclusion?

Data protection is very much alive and connected with almost everything; cooperation remains of key importance and 'responsible research' takes this seriously.

The future landscape is full of interaction and new legislation (and uncertainty...)

General maturity is a key driver in GDPR compliance as it will be for other legislation

Enforcement is hard to predict, there will always be enforcement. Maybe more centralized

2023 will continue with exiting new developments and possibilities.  
Such an overflow of information and developments requires proper guidance!

**Thank you!**