

EUROPEAN DATA PROTECTION SUPERVISOR

ANNUAL REPORT | 2015

Executive Summary



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Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union, 2016

Print	ISBN 978-92-9242-096-3	ISSN 1831-0494	doi:10.2804/72702	QT-AB-16-001-EN-C
PDF	ISBN 978-92-9242-134-2	ISSN 1977-8333	doi:10.2804/320357	QT-AB-16-001-EN-N
EPUB	ISBN 978-92-9242-102-1	ISSN 1977-8333	doi:10.2804/229947	QT-AB-16-001-EN-E

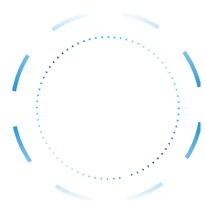
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Printed in Italy

PRINTED ON ELEMENTAL CHLORINE-FREE BLEACHED PAPER (ECF)



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| Introduction

2015 will be remembered as the year the EU seized an historic opportunity. The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) is one of the EU's greatest achievements in recent years. It is a set of data protection rules for the digital age, an ambitious and forward-thinking agreement of which the EU can be proud.

The exponential rise in the amount of personal data generated, analysed and monetised with minimal human intervention or knowledge has put major strains on the data protection principles enshrined in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU. It was therefore essential to update and reinforce the foundations and structure of data protection law.

In our Strategy 2015-2019 we outlined our intention to open a new chapter on data protection, through adopting and implementing up-to-date data protection rules. In the first year of our mandate we have been fully engaged in encouraging and advising the Parliament, Council and Commission in this endeavour, providing article-by-article recommendations on the texts of the GDPR. We did so in the form of an app - an unprecedented exercise in digital transparency, used by negotiators as a reference guide.

However, agreement on the GDPR is only the first step in the modernisation process. Our focus now turns to its implementation. This will involve ensuring the accountability of controllers, increasing cooperation with independent data protection authorities (DPAs) and empowering their activities through the establishment of the European Data Protection Board (EDPB) and effectively responding to the *Schrems* judgment by implementing sustainable rules on data transfers. The principles of the GDPR also need to be fully integrated into a modernised framework for the privacy of all electronic communications, with the review of Directive 2002/58/EC.

We have also taken steps to actively confront the challenges of technological change, through the launch of an Ethics Advisory Group. The Group will consider the ramifications of data-driven technologies for human dignity and freedom. Their work will take place in full public view and will be debated in an international forum in 2017. We are confident that this project will have a lasting and positive impact.

In 2015, we invested new energy in our core tasks as a supervisor. The 2015 Survey of data protection officers in EU institutions and bodies demonstrates that they are now better equipped than ever to lead by example in the responsible processing of personal data.

Finally we would like to express our gratitude to our members of staff. This first year of our mandate has been very demanding, and we pay tribute to the energy, creativity and commitment of our colleagues, which has enabled this first year to be so successful. With their support, the EDPS will remain a bold and unapologetic champion of EU values with a global vision for sustainable data processing. This includes strengthening cooperation with privacy regulators and with global partners, but also building new partnerships, as we continue to ensure that the EU leads by example in the global dialogue on data protection and privacy in the digital age.



Giovanni Buttarelli
European Data Protection Supervisor



Wojciech Wiewiórowski
Assistant Supervisor

| 2015 - An Overview

Data Protection and the EDPS in 2015



In March 2015 we launched our [Strategy 2015-2019, Leading by Example](#). Our aim was to seize the historic opportunity to develop data protection over the period of our new mandate. The Strategy sets out our objectives for the coming five years and the actions necessary to achieve them. The Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) outlined in this report have been developed to ensure that we are fully accountable and transparent on how we achieve our objectives.

First and foremost we outlined our commitment to open a new chapter for European data protection through supporting the negotiation and adoption of innovative and future-oriented data protection rules. We provided the EU legislators with detailed recommendations on the proposed data protection reform and made them widely available in a user-friendly mobile app, which allowed users to compare the proposed texts from the Commission, the Parliament and the Council alongside the EDPS recommendations. This required a huge effort but it made the legislative process more transparent for the public and the legislators themselves. It has ensured that the three legislative bodies and their data protection authority can be held accountable for their contributions to the process. In December 2015, final agreement on the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) was reached. This hugely significant reform undoubtedly marks one of the EU's greatest achievements in recent years.

Second, we stressed the role of the EU institutions themselves in setting the standard and leading by example in implementing the reform. Over the course of 2015 we worked closely with [Data Protection Officers](#) (DPOs), carried out detailed inspections and provided the EU institutions with support and advice, notably in the form of the Guidelines on [eCommunications](#) and [mobile devices](#). As the data protection authority of the EU institutions and bodies we will continue to support them in preparing for the changes to come over the course of 2016.

At international level the EDPS was at the forefront of both the EU and the global debate on privacy and data protection throughout 2015. There are now 109 countries which have data protection laws in place, and many look to the EU as an example. As an ambassador for EU data protection, in 2015 the EDPS both visited and welcomed visits from data protection authorities around the world. We increased our contribution at international level through our continued participation in international fora and cooperation with international organisations, as well as through new initiatives, such as the preparations for an [Ethics Advisory Group](#).

As technology continues to develop and to transform our lives it is essential that data protection *goes digital*. We have to promote technological solutions which both support innovation and enhance privacy and data protection, in particular by increasing transparency, user control and accountability in big data processing. Our work in 2015 put the EDPS at the centre of these discussions. Our Opinions on [big data](#), [mobile health](#) (mHealth) and [intrusive surveillance](#) all called for specific actions to maximise the benefits of new technology without compromising the fundamental rights to data protection and privacy.

Our mandate and our Strategy are designed to address the current period of unprecedented change and political importance for data protection and privacy, both in the EU and globally, and the EDPS intends to ensure that the EU remains at the forefront of the debate. Our Strategy of leading by example will be pursued further in 2016, as we look to build on the achievements of 2015 and develop innovative solutions to the data protection challenges which face us.

Data protection reform

After almost four years of intense negotiation and public debate, political agreement on the General Data Protection Regulation was reached in December 2015. The EDPS was active as an advisor throughout this process, including [meeting with civil society organisations](#) in May.



Our final message to the legislators was in July, when we provided them with our first set of comprehensive, article-by-article recommendations for enhancing safeguards, cutting bureaucracy and ensuring the relevance of the reform during the next generation of technological change. We launched this [Opinion](#) in the form of a free-to-download mobile app, which allowed users to compare the Commission proposal, the Parliament and Council texts for negotiation and the EDPS recommendations, all on one screen.

In October, we added our [detailed recommendations](#) on the proposed Directive for the sectors of police and justice to this app, urging the legislators to be consistent in the standards required of all controllers, with only limited deviations to account for the special circumstances of law enforcement data processing.

Our focus in 2016 will turn to advising the legislators on the completion of the reform, firstly through the effective implementation and application of these principles to EU institutions and bodies, through the reform of [Regulation 45/2001](#), and secondly, to the confidentiality of all communications, with the reform of the ePrivacy Directive.

Leading by example

In September we called for a new digital ethics; one which puts human dignity at the heart of personal, data-driven technological development. This [Opinion](#) provided the basis for our discussions with companies, regulators and academics in the US (in San Francisco and Silicon Valley) that same month, and at the International Conference in Amsterdam in October. It also announced our intention to set up an Ethics Advisory Group, to be appointed in January 2016, which will look into the longer term implications of big data, the internet of things and artificial intelligence.

Additionally, in 2015 we initiated a project to develop a framework for greater accountability in data processing. This was applied first to the EDPS, as an institution, a manager of people and financial resources and a controller, informing our development of internal rules, as well as institution-wide guidance on whistleblowing and a code of conduct for the Supervisors.

In the course of 2015, we also organised two meetings with [Data Protection Officers](#) (DPOs) in which we discussed topics such as accountability, IT security and data protection impact assessments. We also involved DPOs in the preparation of our contribution to the reform of [Regulation 45/2001](#). Throughout the year we issued 70 Opinions on notifications of processing operations, many on recruitment and staff appraisal, and dealt with 143 complaints, 30% more than in 2014. We visited five EU agencies, in addition to conducting our bi-annual compliance survey, the results of which will be published in January 2016.



Data protection on the ground

In 2015, we undertook five important inspections. These included an inspection of recruitment activities at the European Commission's Directorate General for Human Resources (DG HR) and an inspection at the European Investment Bank (EIB), concerning its handling of sensitive data in fraud investigations and anti-harassment procedures. We also issued two Opinions on data processing as part of due diligence controls for combating money-laundering and terrorism financing at the European Investment Fund (EIF).

Through carrying out inspections and responding to consultations and notifications, we ensure that the EU's large-scale IT systems –Eurodac (for processing asylum requests), Visa Information System (VIS), Schengen Information System (SIS), Customs Information System (CIS) and the Internal Market Information System (IMI)- comply with data protection rules. In 2015, we inspected SIS and VIS. We also issued an Opinion on plans by the EU Agency for the Operational Management of Large-scale IT systems in the area of freedom, security and justice (eu-LISA) to consider the use of Multi-Spectrum Imaging devices to scan fingerprints as part of the asylum procedure and the storage of this data in a database maintained by the agency. In 2016 we will urge the EU institutions and bodies to consolidate existing platforms for the law enforcement sector in the interest of more coherent and effective supervisory arrangements.

In 2015 we dealt with five requests under the 2001 Public Access to Documents Regulation. Two important rulings by the EU Court of Justice in 2015 also helped to clarify the relationship between transparency and data protection. In [Dennekamp v. European Parliament](#), the Court held that uncovering conflicts of interest was sufficient justification for granting access to information about MEPs affiliated to a now defunct pension scheme. In [ClientEarth and Pesticide Action Network Europe \(PAN Europe\) v European Food Safety Authority \(EFSA\)](#), the Court held that transparency regarding the identity of external experts involved in an EFSA guidance document was necessary to demonstrate their impartiality and ensure accountability. The EDPS intervened in both cases.

In its judgment on 3 December, the Court also followed our legal reasoning on the question of the information to be provided to a petitioner when requesting consent for the publication of his personal data, which included sensitive health data.

Cooperation with data protection authorities in the EU

We have continued to be an active member of the Article 29 Working Party (WP29), focusing our efforts where we can add most value. This has included work on the Opinion on applicable law, on the Commission's proposed Data Protection Code of Conduct for Cloud Service Providers and liaison with the Council of Europe's Cybercrime Committee. At the annual Spring Conference we encouraged our partner authorities to speak with one authoritative voice to present credible solutions for global digital challenges.

For budget purposes, we began a preliminary analysis in cooperation with the WP29, of the logistical arrangements for providing the Secretariat for the European Data Protection Board (EDPB), which will come into force with the new data protection reform. In close liaison with the WP29 we have set up an internal task force which will facilitate the transition, so that the Secretariat and the Board can be fully operational from day one. We are also contributing to another preparatory task force, established with national colleagues at the last WP29 plenary meeting of 2015.

Similarly, we have been preparing for the expansion of our coordinated supervision role, which will likely encompass Europol, Smart Borders, Eurojust and the European Public Prosecutor's Office.

Separate from our supervision responsibilities, we have continued to serve as secretariat to the supervision coordination groups for [CIS](#), [EURODAC](#), [VIS](#), [SIS II](#) and the [IMI](#). We aim to support the launch of a new website as a resource for these groups in 2016.

Identifying policy solutions

The vigorous debate on big data has continued following the publication of our [Opinion](#) on the subject. In addition to numerous speaking engagements, in September 2015 we hosted *Competition Rebooted* in collaboration with the Academy of European Law, a workshop aimed at deepening understanding in this area. We announced that a second Opinion on competition would be published in 2016 and, over the next year, we intend to encourage a Europe-wide dialogue among regulators, academics, industry, the IT community and consumer protection organisations on big data, the internet of things and on fundamental rights in the public and private sectors.



@EU_EDPS

#EDPS supports EU legislator on #security but recommends re-thinking on #EUPNR

We also advised the institutions on new legislation, such as the proposed EU Passenger Name Record (PNR) Directive. This Directive would potentially allow for the collection of personal data from all airline passengers in the EU. In September 2015 we issued an [Opinion](#) on PNR, highlighting the lack of evidence to justify such a sweeping measure.

We have closely followed developments on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP). EDPS Giovanni Buttarelli delivered a speech before the European Parliament calling on the EU to ensure that TTIP, as well as any other new agreement, fully respects EU data protection standards.

The management of the EU's external borders in the face of unprecedented migration flows was perhaps one of the biggest political concerns for the EU in 2015. Border management involves processing the personal information of millions of individuals.

During 2015 we provided advice to Frontex, the EU border agency, on the *PeDRA* project, which aims to enable the agency to act as a hub for information collected by Member States on suspected smugglers or traffickers. We were involved at several stages in the development of this project and issued a prior checking [Opinion](#) in July, to ensure data quality and security and to prevent discriminatory profiling.

The EDPS has also been working with the European Medicines Agency (EMA) on the anonymisation of clinical reports for the purpose of publication. In our first policy [Opinion](#) of the new mandate we tackled the opportunities and risks of mobile health apps and services, and provided recommendations on how to build trust through transparency, user control and data protection safeguards.

In our July [Opinion](#) on the EU-Switzerland agreement on the automatic exchange of tax information, we aimed to set down principles in an area of proliferating international accords in the OECD campaign against banking secrecy in tax matters. We have also provided advice to the Commission and the European Central Bank (ECB) on the reform of securities markets, the prevention of market abuse and collection of detailed credit information.

In 2016 we will continue to develop a comprehensive toolkit which will enable EU bodies to take informed decisions on data protection, depending on where the need is greatest.

Technology



@EU_EDPS

Need to find new ways for applying data protection principles to the latest technologies #bigdata #IoT #cloudcomputing #eudatap

With data security a growing concern for all organisations, in 2015 we issued Guidelines on the use of [electronic communications](#) and [mobile devices](#) in the workplace. We also worked with EU institutions and their [Data Protection Officers](#) (DPOs) to ensure the implementation of effective security measures, such as encryption, and participated in an inter-institutional project for encrypting emails. Guidelines on web services, mobile apps and cloud computing will be concluded in 2016, complemented by guidance on specific areas such as accountability in IT management and risk management.

Through our Newsletters and our Opinions on big data and mobile health we have continued to monitor and report on the data protection implications of new technologies. Meanwhile, the [Internet Privacy Engineering Network](#) (IPEN) has continued to grow, focusing its work on standardisation initiatives on privacy, online tracking and privacy engineering.

As cloud computing will soon become the standard way of computing, we increased our engagement with legislators, the industry and the EU institutions and bodies in 2015, focusing on how to exploit the potential of this technology whilst also remaining in control of personal data. We encouraged EU institutions and bodies to establish a common IT strategy, and supported the first inter-institutional Call for Tender for the provision of cloud-based services- Cloud I.

The Hacking Team affair revealed the capabilities of software for infiltrating IT systems and covert surveillance. In our December [Opinion](#) on the subject we therefore called for more monitoring and regulation of the market for spyware, especially with the growth of the internet of things.

We will continue to develop our expertise in the area of IT security throughout 2016 and, through our inspection and auditing activities, ensure that the relevant rules are applied. This includes acting as a partner to all members of the IT security community, with a particular focus on the EU institutions and bodies.

International interaction

In 2015 we continued to promote international standards for data protection and enforcement cooperation among [data protection authorities](#) (DPAs).

The preliminary ruling of the EU Court of Justice (CJEU) in October [declared](#) the EU-US [Safe Harbour](#) decision invalid. With our partners in the Article 29 Working Party (WP29), we called on the EU and the US to put in place a more sustainable legal instrument which respects the independence of DPAs. We also worked with [Data Protection Officers](#) (DPOs) to draw up a map of transfers taking place in the EU institutions and bodies under the Safe Harbour scheme.

Data protection reform is also on the agenda of the Council of Europe, and in 2015 we continued to contribute to the work of the committees responsible for modernising Convention 108. We have also been involved in the OECD's Working Party on Security and Privacy in the Digital Economy, preparing proposals for a risk-based approach to data protection, to be discussed at the ministerial conference on the digital economy in Cancun in June 2016.

We continued to deepen our engagement with APEC, GPEN, the French-speaking association of personal data protection authorities (AFAPDP), the Ibero-American data protection network, the Berlin Group and the international conference of data protection and privacy commissioners and will look to keep expanding our international partnerships in 2016.

Communicating our message

In May, we launched a new EDPS logo. At the end of the year we completed the first phase of updates to the EDPS website. These projects mark a new era for the EDPS and for data protection.



There was a dramatic increase in engagement with our social media platforms, especially on Twitter where both our followers and number of tweets increased significantly, but also on LinkedIn and YouTube, for which we increased our efforts.

In addition to three editions of the EDPS newsletter, we issued 13 press releases and answered 31 written media enquiries, while the EDPS and Assistant EDPS gave 39 direct interviews to European and international journalists. Our heightened visibility was reflected in the appearance of the EDPS in over 400 articles, radio broadcasts, videos or other media in 2015.

Our outreach activities also expanded in 2015. We welcomed a record number of visitors to our stand at the annual EU Open Day on 9 May and organised seven study visits for groups from European universities and youth organisations. In addition to the open meeting with civil society on the data protection reform, both the Supervisors and EDPS staff are increasingly active as ambassadors of the EU approach to privacy, as was evident in our sponsorship of the annual Computers, Privacy & Data Protection conference.

Internal administration

Amid the challenges of a new mandate and the changing data protection landscape, we have pursued ambitious goals with a small team of dynamic, talented and highly motivated EU officials.

In 2015 we received a clean report from the Court of Auditors for the fourth consecutive year and have continued to improve the implementation rate of our budget. We established new policies on learning and development, career guidance and equal opportunities and, with EPSO, held a specialist competition for data protection experts. This resulted in a reserve list of 21 exceptional candidates which will cover the forthcoming recruitment needs of the EDPS and the future EDPB.

In 2015, the EDPS was allocated a budget of EUR 8 760 417, an increase of 1.09% compared to the 2014 budget. We improved the implementation of our budget to around 94% in 2015, compared with 85% in 2011, whilst also complying with Commission austerity guidelines and budget consolidation. We also met twice with the finance team of the European Ombudsman in 2015 to identify common needs, as a basis for closer collaboration in 2016.

Key Performance Indicators 2015-2019

Further to the adoption of the [Strategy 2015-2019](#), in March 2015, the existing key performance indicators (KPIs) were re-evaluated to take into account the objectives and priorities of the new Strategy. As a result, a new set of KPIs were established, to help us to monitor and adjust, if needed, the impact of our work and the efficiency of our use of resources.

The table on the following page shows the performance of our activities in 2015 in accordance with the strategic objectives and action plan defined in the Strategy 2015-2019.

The KPI scoreboard contains a brief description of each KPI, the results on 31 December 2015 and the target set.

In most cases, the indicators are measured against initial targets. For three indicators, the results of 2015 will be used as a benchmark. Two KPIs will be calculated starting in 2016. The results show that the implementation of the Strategy is largely on track and no corrective measures are needed at this stage.

One key performance indicator (KPI 7) did not meet the initial target. This was mainly due to changes in planning at the European Commission, which resulted in initiatives being postponed to 2016. Additionally, on one occasion the EDPS was not consulted by the Commission.

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS		RESULTS AT 31.12.2015	TARGET 2015
Objective 1 - Data Protection goes digital			
KPI 1	Number of initiatives promoting technologies to enhance privacy and data protection organised or co-organised by EDPS	9	2015 as benchmark
KPI 2	Number of activities focused on cross-disciplinary policy solutions (internal & external)	9	8
Objective 2 - Forging global partnerships			
KPI 3	Number of initiatives taken regarding international agreements	3	2015 as benchmark
KPI 4	Number of cases dealt with at international level (WP29, CoE, OECD, GPEN, International Conferences) for which EDPS has provided a substantial written contribution	13	13
Objective 3 - Opening a new chapter for EU Data Protection			
KPI 5	Analysis of impact of the input of EDPS to the GDPR		To be calculated starting 2016
KPI 6	Level of satisfaction of DPOs/DPCs/controllers on cooperation with EDPS and guidance, including satisfaction of data subjects as to training	79.5%	60%
KPI 7	Rate of implementation of cases in the EDPS priority list (as regularly updated) in form of informal comments and formal opinions	83%	90%
Enablers - Communication and management of resources			
KPI 8	Number of visits to the EDPS website	195 715	2015 as benchmark
(composite indicator)	Number of followers on the EDPS Twitter account	3631	2015 as benchmark
KPI 9	Level of Staff satisfaction		To be calculated starting 2016

| Main Objectives for 2016

The following objectives have been selected for 2016 within the overall [Strategy for 2015-2019](#). The results will be reported in 2017.

Data protection goes digital

The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) will create an obligation for controllers to implement data protection principles and safeguards in the development and operation of data processing systems. With this legal obligation, the importance of [data protection by design and by default](#) will increase. Providing guidance on the technical implementation of data protection will become an increasingly important task for all supervisory authorities, including the EDPS.

Increasing transparency, user control and accountability in big data processing

There is a need for the EU to develop a model for information-handling policies for online services provided by EU institutions and bodies. Using clear and simple language, such policies should explain how business processes could affect individuals' rights to privacy and data protection. Citizens should also be told about whether they risk being re-identified from anonymous, pseudonymous or aggregated data. To this end, the EDPS will work with a special focus on data vaults and personal data stores.

Mainstreaming data protection into international policies

Part of the mission of the EDPS is to provide advice to the EU institutions and bodies on aspects of globalisation where privacy and data protection are becoming increasingly important. In cooperation with [data protection authorities](#) (DPAs), we will provide advice on how established EU data protection principles can be applied coherently and consistently whenever EU representatives are negotiating trade agreements, or international agreements linked to law enforcement, taking care to highlight the positive effects of EU data protection principles in facilitating global trade and law enforcement cooperation. We therefore plan to closely follow agreements such as the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) and the Trade in Services Agreement (TISA). We also

plan to issue our own Opinion on international transfers in the wake of the invalidation of the Safe Harbour rules by the Court of Justice, to be coordinated with the Opinion of the Article 29 Working Party (WP29), of which we are a member, and to provide an assessment of the EU-US Umbrella Agreement in the area of law enforcement cooperation.

Speaking with a single EU voice in the international arena

The EDPS is determined to contribute to the emergence of a global alliance with data protection and privacy authorities worldwide. In collaboration with the WP29, our aim is to identify technical and regulatory responses to key challenges to data protection, such as big data, the internet of things and mass surveillance.

Revision of Regulation 45/2001

Now that the GDPR has been finalised, [Regulation 45/2001](#) must be adapted to ensure that the data protection laws applicable to the EU institutions and bodies remain in line with those applicable to the Member States. The EDPS plans to issue informal advice and an Opinion on the revision of the Regulation. We will also help EU institutions and bodies to adapt to the new rules, through continuing to train [Data Protection Officers](#) (DPOs) and controllers on the new requirements.

Accountability project

The EDPS has embraced and supported the concept of [accountability](#), which is central to the data protection reform. We will continue asking EU administrations to be proactive in ensuring compliance and to properly document the measures taken so as to demonstrate compliance if necessary. In our efforts to lead by example, we will cooperate internally with the EDPS DPO to ensure that the accountability principle is effectively implemented within our own institution. DPOs and DPCs (Data Protection Coordinators/Contacts) are integral to achieving this and we will therefore develop further training and guidance for them, encourage close contacts with and within the DPO Network and brief them on how the EDPS has implemented the accountability principle.

Preparing for Europol

A new data protection framework for Europol will enter into force in early 2017. This will require the EDPS to develop supervision activities, in cooperation, to a certain extent, with national authorities. The EDPS is currently preparing for this new role at organisational and human resources level and will continue to do so throughout 2016. Specific training and cooperation activities will be set up to help determine how best to conduct the supervision and coordination activities required by the regulation.

We will also continue to participate actively in international and regional data protection networks, in the Council of Europe and the OECD as well as the annual Computers, Privacy & Data Protection (CPDP) conference. Workshops with international organisations will be held on an ad-hoc basis, whenever international organisations are interested in sharing knowledge with the EDPS and in developing good practice together.

Preparing for the EDPB

Since the EDPS will provide the Secretariat for the European Data Protection Board (EDPB), we need to ensure that this body will be ready on day one. This preparatory work will be done in close cooperation with national authorities, through the WP29 and the WP29-EDPB taskforce and according to the plan adopted by the WP29. In this way we will ensure that proper transitional arrangements are in place for a seamless handover from the WP29. This work will include ensuring that we have an appropriate IT infrastructure, establishing working methods and rules of procedure and ensuring adequate human and financial resources. This will be achieved through close cooperation between the Policy unit, the Human Resources, Budget and Administration (HRBA) unit and the IT Policy sector.

Coordinated supervision

There is a need to ensure more effective and coordinated supervision of large-scale IT systems in the field of law enforcement, both at EU and national levels. We should also encourage legislators to harmonise the existing platforms, which are rather diverse. As Secretariat of the Coordinated Supervision Groups for several large-scale IT systems, we will continue to organise and support group and subgroup meetings on these systems throughout 2016. We also plan to launch a new website for the Groups which will help in achieving our aims.

Advising and supervising large scale IT systems

In response to current challenges in areas such as public security and border control, legislators have advocated the creation of new IT systems or the enhancement and functional extension of existing ones. We will provide policy makers and legislators with advice on the technological elements of these systems and develop our monitoring and supervision activities to ensure that the operations performed by these systems remain in line with data protection rules.

Promoting a mature conversation on security and privacy

For terms such as *national security*, *public security* and *serious crime* to be meaningful, and to therefore ensure that data protection principles are respected, the EU needs an informed discussion on their definition and scope. We intend to foster such a discussion in 2016, including a special focus on Smart Borders.

IT security

The importance of IT security continues to increase. We will further develop our expertise in this area in 2016 and, through our inspection and auditing activities, ensure that the relevant rules are applied. We will continue to act as a partner to all members of the IT security community with a particular focus on the EU institutions and bodies.

Guidance on technology and data protection

In addition to the 2015 [Guidelines on the use of mobile devices](#), further Guidelines on web services, mobile apps and cloud computing will be concluded in 2016. These will be complemented by guidance on specific areas such as accountability in IT management and risk management.

Internet Privacy Engineering Network (IPEN)

This network of technology and privacy experts from DPAs, industry, academia and civil society will be required to play an important role in translating new data protection obligations into engineering requirements, supporting data protection by design. We will support the network as it intensifies its efforts to produce tangible results.

Identifying cross-disciplinary policy solutions

In 2016 we intend to encourage a Europe-wide dialogue on big data, the internet of things and on fundamental rights in the public and private sector. To achieve this, we will reach out to EU institutions, regulators, academics, industry, the IT community, consumer protection organisations and others as we organise a big data workshop and prepare and publish a paper on data protection and the Digital Single Market.

Technology monitoring

Our technology monitoring activities will become more visible and be made accessible to other stakeholders, making them more influential. A report will be made available to the public in addition to DPAs and technology-oriented expert groups at EU-level.

Facilitating responsible and informed policymaking

The EDPS plans to develop a comprehensive toolkit which will enable EU institutions and bodies to take informed decisions on data protection. We will also prepare written guidance, workshops and training events with the support of an external network. Additionally, each year, the EDPS will identify the EU policy issues with the most impact on privacy and data protection. We will then provide appropriate legal analysis and guidance on these issues.

The EDPS will continue to work towards establishing efficient working methods with the Parliament, Council and Commission and will actively seek feedback on the value of our advice. We are also committed to developing our dialogue with the Court of Justice of the EU on fundamental rights and to assisting the Court in all relevant cases, whether as a party or an expert.



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