

# SHAPING A SAFER DIGITAL FUTURE

An Introduction to the  
European Data Protection Supervisor

[edps.europa.eu](https://edps.europa.eu)



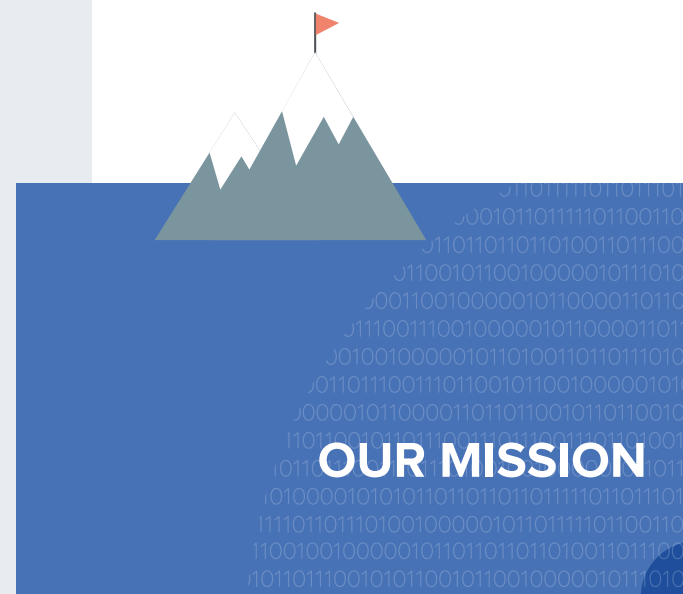


## WHO WE ARE

The European Data Protection Supervisor (EDPS) is the European Union's independent data protection authority responsible for supervising the processing of personal data by the European institutions, bodies and agencies.

We advise European institutions, bodies and agencies on new legislative proposals and initiatives related to the protection of personal data.

We monitor the impact of new technologies on data protection and cooperate with supervisory authorities to ensure the consistent enforcement of EU data protection rules.



## OUR MISSION

Data protection is a fundamental right, protected by European law. The EDPS defends and promotes the privacy of individuals and data protection in our day-to-day work.

## OUR VALUES & PRINCIPLES

### Impartiality

working within the legislative and policy framework given to us, being independent and objective, finding the right balance between the interests at stake.

### Integrity

upholding the highest standards of behaviour and to always do what is right.

### Transparency

explaining what we are doing and why, in clear language that is accessible to all.

### Pragmatism

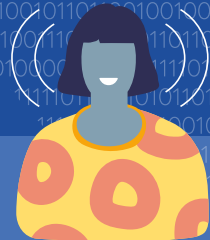
understanding our stakeholders' needs and seeking solutions that work in a practical way.

## WHAT WE DO

The EDPS has four main fields of work:

- **Supervision and Enforcement:** we monitor the processing of personal data by European institutions, bodies and agencies to ensure that they comply with data protection rules.
- **Policy and Consultation:** we advise the European Commission, the European Parliament and the Council on legislative proposals and initiatives related to data protection.
- **Technology and Privacy:** we monitor and assess technological developments impacting the protection of personal data.
- **Cooperation:** we work with supervisory authorities to promote consistent data protection across the EU. Our main platform for cooperation with data protection authorities is the [European Data Protection Board](#).

Other examples of European bodies and agencies that we supervise are Europol under [Regulation 2016/794](#), Eurojust under [Regulation 2018/1727](#) and EPPO under [Regulation \(EU\) 2017/1939](#).



OUR MISSION IS ALSO TO RAISE AWARENESS ON RISKS, AND PROTECT PEOPLE'S RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS WHEN THEIR PERSONAL DATA IS PROCESSED. WE RESPOND TO DATA PROTECTION BREACHES, COMPLAINTS FROM INDIVIDUALS AND ALSO ORGANISE TRAINING SESSIONS FOR EU INSTITUTIONS, BODIES AND AGENCIES.

## OUR POWERS



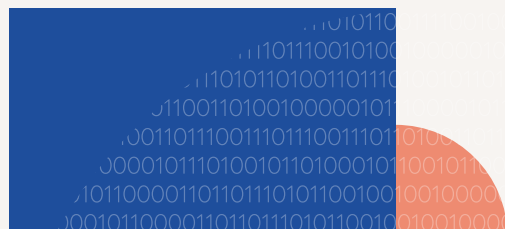
European institutions, bodies and agencies consult the EDPS for specific advice, which we provide by writing opinions, comments, decisions, letters and papers. We also give general advice on topics relevant for all EU institutions, bodies and agencies in our regular guidelines.

Furthermore, we carry out inquiries and data protection audits to verify compliance with data protection law in practice.

When EU institutions, bodies and agencies do not comply with data protection rules, the EDPS can use the following enforcement powers granted by [Regulation \(EU\) 2018/1725](#):

- warn or admonish the EU institution which is unlawfully or unfairly processing your personal information;
- order the EU institution to comply with requests to exercise your rights (e.g. access to your own data);
- impose a temporary or definitive ban on a particular data processing operation;
- impose an administrative fine on EU institutions;
- refer a case to the Court of Justice of the European Union.





## OUR PEOPLE



The EDPS strives to bring together a diverse team of legal and technical experts, as well as other specialists in their field from all across the European Union, working to shape the world of data protection and our organisation.

This multifaceted background and different perspectives allow us to respond creatively to data protection challenges and find solutions that benefit society as a whole, especially the most vulnerable.

Together, our goal is to protect people's data.

## LOOKING AHEAD

In a connected world, where data flows across borders, solidarity within Europe, and internationally, will help to strengthen the right to data protection and make data work for people across the EU and beyond.

The [EDPS Strategy for 2020-2024](#) focuses on three pillars: **Foresight**, **Action** and **Solidarity** to shape a safer, fairer and more sustainable digital future.

- **Foresight:** our commitment to being a smart institution that takes the long-term view of trends in data protection and the legal, societal and technological context.
- **Action:** proactively develop tools for European institutions, bodies and agencies to be world leaders in data protection. To promote coherence in the activities of enforcement bodies in the EU with a stronger expression of genuine European solidarity, burden sharing and common approach.
- **Solidarity:** our belief is that justice requires privacy to be safeguarded for everyone, in all EU policies, while sustainability should be the driver for data processing in the public interest.



edps.europa.eu



Twitter:

@EU\_EDPS



LinkedIn:

EDPS



YouTube:

European Data Protection Supervisor

Email address:

edps@edps.europa.eu

*Printed by NPN printers in the Netherlands*

Netherlands: Weber Shandwick, 2021

© Design: GDandP.com, Weber Shandwick,

EDPS & European Union

© European Union, 2021

Reproduction is authorised provided the source  
is acknowledged.

PDF ISBN 978-92-9242-575-3

doi: 10.2804/403620

QT-01-21-006-EN-N



Publications Office  
of the European Union

