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# TWINNING PROJECT

## ALBANIA - ITALY - AUSTRIA

“INSTITUTION-BUILDING FOR ALIGNMENT WITH THE EUROPEAN UNION  
ACQUIS ON THE PROTECTION OF PERSONAL DATA”

2020-2021

### TWINNING PROJECT

Privacy and personal data protection is a dynamic, ever-evolving field. On 25 May 2018, entered into force the General Regulation of the European Union (EU) on Personal Data Protection (GDPR), which replaced the Directive of 1995 on personal data protection. The aim of the GDPR is to guarantee the right to personal data protection, at a time when data processing in the framework of technological developments has been multiplied since the adoption of the Directive of the year 1995.

The reform also includes the modernization of the Framework Decision 2008/977/JHA, with regard to the protection of data processed in the framework of police and judicial cooperation in criminal matters, through the adoption of the Police Directive and repeal of the abovementioned Decision.

Due to the importance of this reform and as a country aspiring to EU integration, the Commissioner's Office is the beneficiary institution of the twinning project “*Institution-building for alignment with the European Union acquis on the protection of personal data*”.

This is a Twinning project being implemented between Italy, Austria and Albania, funded by the European Union, amounting around to EUR 400.000, in the framework of the EU Pre-Accession Assistance Programme, IPA 2017.

In this Twinning project, the Commissioner's Office cooperates with the Italian Personal Data Protection Authority (*Garante per la Protezione dei Dati Personali*) and is supported by CSI- Piemonte, Italy and the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Fundamental and Human Rights, Austria.

## OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT

The main objective of the Twinning Project is to strengthen the institutional capacities of the Information and Data Protection Commissioner's Office in Albania, on supervising and monitoring the personal data protection in public and private sector as well.

The specific aim of the project is to support the Commissioner's Office in Albania in aligning the national legislation with that of European Union and further strengthening the administrative capacities of Albanian institutions to implement the *acquis*.

The expected results of the Twinning project are as follows:

- ✓ New legal framework in the field of personal data protection;
- ✓ Strengthening the institutional capacity on monitoring and supervising the new legal framework;
- ✓ Awareness-raising of controllers/processors for fulfilment of these legal obligations.

## PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

The Twinning project consists of **three components**.

### Component 1

Provides support for the alignment of the Albanian legislation applicable on personal data protection with the General Data Protection Regulation (EU GDPR) 2016/679 and the Police Directive 2016/680.

### Component 2

Provides the Commissioner's Office with the knowledge and organizational instruments to handle potential challenges concerning enforcement of the new legal framework on personal data protection in Albania, through trainings, enhancing the IDPC's administrative capacity to cope with the new legal framework on personal data protection and provide the staff with the necessary knowledge and best practices related to the GDPR.

### Component 3

Provides all knowledge and the latest updates with regard to the new Albanian law on personal data protection, by organizing focus groups trainings and various stakeholders from public, private and civil society.

## **"PERSONAL DATA PROTECTION" AS A CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT**

- PRIVACY is one of your fundamental RIGHTS;
- This right is guaranteed in Article 35 of the Constitution of the Republic of Albania;
- Personal data of citizens are processed of their consent/or as per the cases provided by law;
- Privacy is strictly related to basic services of everyday life, such as the access to the bank accounts, e-mail and social media accounts and online services as well. If the privacy is violated, it can impede the use of these services;
- Personal data processing is the vital engine for a data driven society;
- Increasing the privacy culture contributes to exercising the right to personal data protection and protection of individuals in the digital world where we are living;
- The Information and Data Protection Commissioner is the responsible authority who guarantees the application of the Albanian legislation on personal data protection;
- In the event of any breach of personal data, citizens may complain to the IDP Commissioner's Office.

## **Integration into EU**

- Albania is a candidate country to join the European Union.
- Our Twinning project plays a crucial role, as personal data protection is one of the fields which contributes to the integration process of the country into EU.  
By the adoption of the new law on personal data protection, aligned with the EU *acquis*:
  - European standards are guaranteed in the field of personal data protection;
  - Citizens are guaranteed with a higher level of control on their personal data, through the integration of new rights, inter alia, the "right to be forgotten", as a guarantee in the online environment, which offers the possibility to erase the personal data from the search engines;
  - "Responsibility" of controllers and processors is increased in the dynamic process of personal data processing;
  - A better treatment of data protection is guaranteed, in relation to new privacy challenges, resulting from the increasing use of technological tools and increasing circulation of personal data in the digital world;
  - A comprehensive legal framework is established by also guaranteeing the personal data protection related to their processing by the competent authorities, for the purposes of prevention, investigation, detection or criminal prosecution of criminal offenses or execution of criminal convictions and free movement of such data;
  - Trust and culture of citizens on exercising the right to personal data protection is increased.



Who is the institution of **Information and Data Protection Commissioner**?

If you consider that your right to personal data protection is violated or your data have not been properly processed, you may address to this **independent institution**, who guarantees this right.

What is this **institution responsible** for?

It monitors and supervises the legislation through administrative investigations; carries out awareness - raising activities with controllers/processors and citizens; provides advisory approach for controllers, orders the **blocking, erasure, destruction** or **suspension** of the **unlawful processing** of personal data and issues instructions to clarify the processing activities and ensure proper application of the law.

Where can you **find** this **institution**?

Address:  
**Rruga. "Abdi Toptani", Nd. 5,**  
Postal code 1001, **Tirana.**

How **to address** to this **institution**?

The Commissioner's Office can also be contacted in the following addresses:

E-mail: [info@idp.al](mailto:info@idp.al)  
Tel: + 355 4 22 37 200  
Green number: 08002050