

ICDPPC ExCo May Meeting: Item 7b

Note from the Secretariat for the Executive Committee meeting 4/5 May 2016

Update on the Privacy and Humanitarian Action Working Group

The Secretariat received the following update from the working group coordinator Floriane Leclercq on the activities of the Privacy and Humanitarian Action Working Group.

April 2016

Coordinators of the WG (Spain, Switzerland, AFAPDP and RIDP) launched a call for participation to ICDPPC members in December 2015.

They also started to work with international humanitarian actors in particular in the framework of the project “Data Protection in Humanitarian Action” of the Brussels Privacy Hub (BPH) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). The objective of the project is to explore “the relationship between data protection laws and humanitarian action”, to understand the impacts of the use of technologies on data protection in the humanitarian sector and to “formulate appropriate guidance” to address these impacts. The BPH and the ICRC initiated the project and associated the WG and two other ICDPPC members: the European Data Protection Supervisor (EDPS) and the Council of Europe. The project consists in a series of 6 thematic workshops organized throughout the year 2016: for example, in February, on big data, and on “humanitarian UAV/drones. Each workshop leads to the writing of recommendations by the participants. At the end, recommendations will be compiled and published in the form of guidelines to the attention of humanitarian actors.

Coordinators of the WG are very interested in the work carried out in the framework of this project. It fully meets the spirit of the resolution adopted by the ICDPPC in October 2015 in Amsterdam (analyse data protection and privacy requirements and meet the demand for cooperation in the development of guidance by humanitarian actors). It enables the WG to meet academics and actors on the ground, to better know their activities and their needs regarding data protection and privacy and legal framework. The WG is associated very closely to the preparation of the workshops and the writing of the recommendations. Indeed, the BPH and the ICRC are interested also by the contribution of the members of the WG to their work, by their expertise and by their point of view as DPAs. Their objective is to propose guidelines protective of personal data and privacy and compliant with DPAs’ expectations worldwide. The WG would like that ICDPPC members get involved to participate to the review of the recommendations and future guidelines and to present their point of view at a national and a regional level (contact Catherine Lennman: catherine.lennman@edoeb.admin.ch).

As the same time as this project, the WG would like to recover the experiences of ICDPPC members to monitor data processing carried out by national or international humanitarian actors. What are the issues at contest? What are the potential obstruction points? The WG would like to prepare soon an online questionnaire.

Finally, the RIPD organises on the 16th and 17th June a meeting on data protection in international humanitarian action in La Antigua, Guatemala. It would like to gather the members of the WG which are interested, actors on the ground, and international organizations active in the field. Participants will be invited to present their experience and their recommendations to ensure that humanitarian actors comply with the main principles of data protection (contact the RIPD: secretaria.ripd@agpd.es).
