



GPA COVID-19 Taskforce

Portfolio

Recognising the privacy and data protection challenges posed in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, the GPA Executive Committee convened for an extraordinary meeting on 23 April 2020 during which Committee members agreed to establish the new GPA COVID-19 Taskforce to address the emerging privacy issues posed by the spread of the virus. The Taskforce will be chaired by Executive Committee member Raymund Liboro, National Privacy Commission, Philippines.

The pandemic has intensified the use and role of data, including personal data, in analysing and mapping the origin and spread of the virus, informing governments and the private sector's efforts in sharing data for monitoring, mitigation and response protocols, as well as policymaking. However, the pandemic has also shown that these responses come with associated privacy and data protection challenges and issues which data protection and privacy authorities will need to address.

Against this backdrop, the new GPA COVID-19 Taskforce will help to drive the GPA's practical responses to the privacy issues emerging from the COVID-19 pandemic, seeking to identify the right balance between ensuring data protection and privacy can be leveraged effectively to support governments' responses to the current health crisis whilst safeguarding individuals' personal data and information rights.

Given the fast-paced nature of the COVID-19 pandemic responses, the Taskforce will need to show an **agile attitude** and **progress work quickly** in order to be able to react swiftly to

emerging issues. It will also need to focus on the **most strategic** and **pressing issues** whilst taking a **forward-looking approach** towards the examination of the data protection and privacy implications of the pandemic once the crisis has abated.

Recognising the need for the above, and following up on the discussion which took place during the OECD – GPA workshop on 15 April 2020, it is proposed to focus the Taskforce portfolio initially on the following two strategic issues:

1. Contact tracing applications, by focussing specifically on:

- Privacy by design and proportionality and transparency requirements;
- Audit framework for contact tracing;
- De-anonymisation and security risks;
- Built-in decommissioning strategies;
- Decentralised vs centralised data solutions;
- Location tracking and the pitfalls of surveillance – case studies of good practice
- Involvement of DPAs in their development and deployment.

This workstream envisages also the organisation of a **technical workshop** with app developers to ensure the work of the Taskforce – and of the GPA privacy community in general – is not disconnected from the practical issues at stake with contact tracing apps development.

2. Data Protection and Privacy in a post-crisis landscape, by focussing specifically on:

- Data sharing in public health, law enforcement and charity sector;
- Privacy implications of new employee COVID-19 screening technologies (e.g. biometric-based temperature screening, physical distancing wristband, virus-screening questionnaire);
- Data protection and privacy concerns in handling children’s data associated with the use of e-learning and online schooling technologies.
- Scams and other actors which frustrate appropriate responses (fake contact tracing, testing, relief services, etc..).

This workstream envisages the organisation of a follow-up workshop to the April OECD – GPA workshop to be focussed on fostering a debate on how data can be

leveraged effectively and securely to deal with the post-crisis responses to the pandemic (e.g. safe return to work).

Taskforce members are welcome to propose new themes for consideration of the Taskforce. They will need to put forward for the attention of the Taskforce Chair – in writing and ahead of the Taskforce’s first meeting – a compelling case explaining the strategic importance of the proposed theme and its relevance for the GPA privacy community as a whole.