



GPA Global Privacy and Data Protection Awards 2023

Entry Form

To submit an entry to the GPA Global Privacy and Data Protection Awards please complete and email this form to secretariat@globalprivacyassembly.org **no later than 9 June 2023**.

Note: GPA member authorities can submit as many entries as they wish, but a separate form should be used for each different entry, submitted by the deadline above.

Languages: The GPA documentation Rule 6.2¹ applies.

1. CONTACT DETAILS FOR THIS ENTRY

Privacy/Data Protection Authority:	European Data Protection Supervisor
Person completing this form:	_____
	<i>First name</i> <i>Last name</i>
Job title:	_____
Email address:	_____

2. ELIGIBILITY

By submitting this entry, I confirm that (*please tick all boxes to confirm*):

- The Authority is a member of the Global Privacy Assembly
- The initiative described in this entry was undertaken since January 2022.
- I am aware that the information in the entry (other than the contact details in 1(a) above) will be publicised by the GPA Secretariat.

3. CATEGORIES

Please indicate which category you wish to enter.

*Please tick **one**; please use a separate form for each category you wish to enter:*

- Education and Public Awareness
- Accountability
- Dispute Resolution and Enforcement
- Innovation
- People's Choice

¹ [GPA Rules and Procedures](#), Rule 6.2 'Assembly documents':

Without prejudice to section 4.2, Assembly documents, including accreditation and observer applications may be submitted in English or in another language. In the latter case, the documents shall be accompanied by an English version. Members with the ability and the resources to do so are encouraged to translate proposed resolutions and other Assembly documents such as the Assembly Rules and Procedures.

4. DESCRIPTION OF THE INITIATIVE

a. Please provide a brief summary of the initiative *(no more than 75 words)*

TechSonar project answers to the following question: which technologies are worth monitoring today in order to be prepared for a more sustainable digital future? To this, the EDPS designed a shared public methodology. On a yearly base, our analysts put together data and internal collective intelligence to gather “weak signals” and trends that will unfold in the near future, with a preliminary analysis in terms of positive and negative impacts on data protection.

b. Please provide a full description of the initiative *(no more than 350 words)*

TechSonar, an initiative by the European Data Protection Supervisor (EDPS), aims to analyze the horizon of new technologies and understand which ones will be the most significant and privacy-risky in the coming years.

The project's primary objective is to ensure do make public aware of the main technological changes with an impact on the privacy of individuals. At the same time, this allows the EDPS to be prepared to carry out its policy and supervision work when these technological changes come into place.

Our Techsonar Methodology

In order to carry out this assessment, a part of the initiative has consisted in the creation of a "Data Protection Technology Sonar methodology" which utilizes a data layer for comprehensive analysis.

The EDPS collaborated with the Competence Center on Text Mining and Analysis of the European Commission's Joint Research Center, specifically the JRC Tim Analytics Team. This collaboration facilitated the creation of dashboards for each trend by consolidating data from scientific publications, patents, and funded projects.

The project comprises several phases:

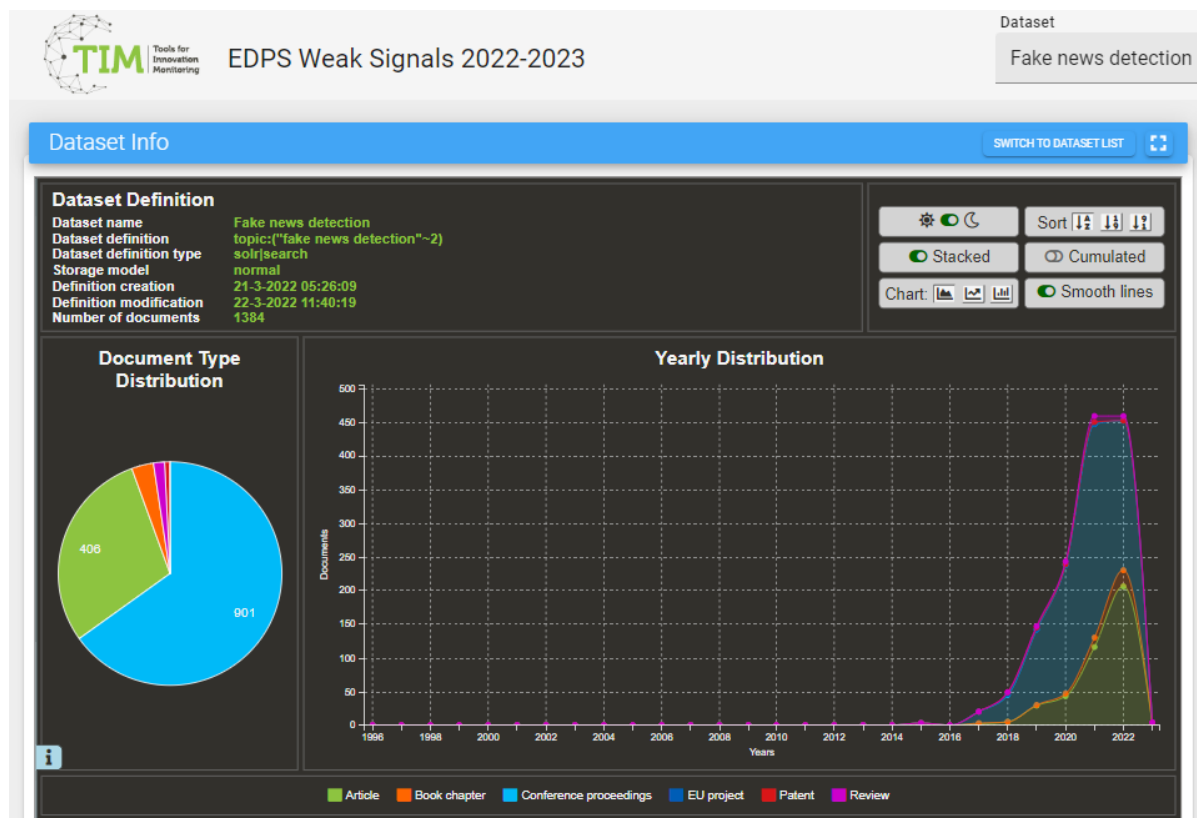
- In an initial scouting phase, the Trend Coordinator monitors the broader technological landscape to gather relevant data. This information is then presented to the dedicated Taskforce during the collective brainstorming phase, consisting of technology, legal, and policy experts from various units of the EDPS. This diverse composition helps generate a wide range of ideas and minimize internal bias. The five selected technologies are assigned to individual Tech Champions who possess technical expertise and closely monitor the developments in their respective areas. These Tech Champions produce dedicated reports before the final outcome of TechSonar is published.

- In a collective review phase, each Tech Champion collaborates with another technology expert to enhance outcomes and address any potential problems or biases that may arise during the process.
- Finally, the Trend Coordinator conducts a thorough review of the contents, publishes the output on the EDPS website, and initiates internal and external promotional and advocacy activities.

Overall, the TechSonar project empowers the EDPS to proactively address emerging technologies' privacy implications by utilizing a systematic and collaborative approach, while also ensuring transparency through the dissemination of its findings.

Our Techsonar Dashboards

The first “Initial scouting” phase is informed by a set of dedicated dashboards developed in collaboration [with Tim Analytics of the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission](#).



https://www.timanalytics.eu/TimTechPublic/dashboard/index.jsp#/space/s_1836?ds=224908

Our Techsonar Publications

Our TechSonar publications delve into various aspects of emerging technologies and their implications for data protection. The TechSonar reports serve as a valuable resource for policymakers, regulators, and stakeholders in the European institutions. They offer insights into the evolving technological landscape and help shape informed discussions on the protection of personal data in the digital age.

- [TechSonar Report 2021-2022](https://edps.europa.eu/data-protection/our-work/publications/reports/techsonar-2021-2022-report_en) (https://edps.europa.eu/data-protection/our-work/publications/reports/techsonar-2021-2022-report_en)
- [TechSonar Report 2022-2023](https://edps.europa.eu/data-protection/our-work/publications/reports/2022-11-10-techsonar-report-2022-2023_en) (https://edps.europa.eu/data-protection/our-work/publications/reports/2022-11-10-techsonar-report-2022-2023_en)

c. Please explain why you think the initiative deserves to be recognised by an award
(no more than 200 words)

TechSonar deserves the award for several reasons.

Firstly, it is the first European initiative that bridges the gap between data protection and strategic forecasting, foresight, and future studies. By combining these fields, it establishes a unique and comprehensive approach to addressing future technological challenges.

Secondly, TechSonar achieves dual outcomes, simultaneously increasing awareness of future technologies and enhancing the efficiency of the authority. By proactively staying informed about emerging trends and potential risks, the project ensures that the authority remains well-prepared and able to adapt swiftly to changing circumstances.

Furthermore, what sets TechSonar apart is its innovative utilization of internal resources within European institutions to tap into vast databases. By harnessing these resources, the project has been able to conduct detailed and comprehensive analyses on a wide range of information, enabling more accurate processing and forecasting of future technological trends. This original approach showcases TechSonar's ability to maximize available resources and achieve high-level results through an efficient and sustainable approach.

Finally, TechSonar fosters an anticipatory mindset within the organization, making processes more agile and future-proof. By encouraging a proactive approach to identifying and analyzing technological developments, the project enables the authority to make well-informed decisions and effectively navigate the rapidly evolving landscape.

d. Please include a photograph or image, if you wish (This will be published with your entry on the GPA website. The image can be pasted into the box below, be sent as an attachment or a link may be provided)



e. Please provide the most relevant link on the authority's website to the initiative, if applicable (*The website content does not need to be in English*)

Results are publicly shared through a dedicated website (https://edps.europa.eu/press-publications/publications/techsonar_en).

A yearly report is published at the end of the methodology deployment:

- For 2021-2022: https://edps.europa.eu/data-protection/our-work/publications/reports/techsonar-2021-2022-report_en
- For 2022-2023: https://edps.europa.eu/data-protection/our-work/publications/reports/2022-11-10-techsonar-report-2022-2023_en

A data mining tool is publically accessible thanks to the collaboration with the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission:

https://www.timanalytics.eu/TimTechPublic/dashboard/index.jsp#/space/s_1836?ds=224908

f. Please provide any other relevant links that help explain the initiative or its impact or success (*e.g. links to news reports or articles*):

TechSonar inspired other authorities in similar activities, as the UK TechHorizons report (<https://ico.org.uk/about-the-ico/research-and-reports/tech-horizons-report/>) and the data protection Spring Conference (<https://springconference2022.hr/agenda>).

Moreover, it stimulated works on the innovative concepts of anticipatory compliance and enforcement at the EU H2020 project PANELFIT closing conference that the EDPS co-organised (<https://www.panelfit.eu/final-dissemination-events-videos/>) as well as a dedicated panel at the biggest privacy event (Computer Privacy and Data Protection

Conference - <https://www.cpdpconferences.org/cdpd-panels/privacy-design-dark-patterns-and-speculative-data-futures>).

TechSonar 2022-2023 report has been selected as a Key Publication of the EU by the Publication Office of the European Union for the upcoming edition of Spring 2023.