



GPA Global Privacy and Data Protection Awards 2024

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 17 June 2024**.

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:	Spanish Data Protection Authority (Agencia Española de Protección de Datos – AEPD)	
Person completing this form:	Luis Antonio	de Salvador Carrasco
	<i>First name</i>	<i>Last name</i>
Job title:	Director of the Innovation and Technology Division	
Email address:	lsalvadorc@aepd.es	

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)

We have introduced a groundbreaking framework to protect children on the Internet. This innovative approach shifts the burden of proof from children to adults, ensuring by default protection of children's rights.

Our framework encompasses a set of principles for age verification systems, along with three proofs of concept running on Android, iPhone, and Windows (providing a technical note, a comprehensive FAQ sheet and demonstrative videos) that have made a significant impact on an international level.

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

Created and launched in 2023, this initiative proves that age verification on the Internet can be executed without endangering children to targeted attacks or infringing on individuals' data protection rights.

Our initiative champions an innovative approach where child protection does not require identifying children or collecting data from them. Instead, the responsibility lies with adults to prove that they have permission to access adult content. This approach automatically safeguards children without requiring any action from them or their devices, ensuring they cannot access harmful content.

By adhering to the set of proposed principles, which are derived from the GDPR, the implementation of this approach would effectively uphold the fundamental rights of citizens on the Internet. It would protect their anonymity and shield them from any unlawful processing of their personal data.

Moreover, this approach leverages existing identity documents, eliminating the need to create new identity infrastructures. This preserves individuals' right to their own identity and allows for universal implementation across different countries.

Summarizing this initiative:

First, provides a risk assessment of the available age verification systems (released as an [infographic](#)) to establish a [Decalogue of principles](#) that particularizes the GDPR principles to this application domain.

Second, implements three different [proofs of concept](#) (PoCs) demonstrating that compliance with this Decalogue is possible and that the proposed approach could already be offered with a clear separation between identity management, content filtering and the age verification itself. [These PoCs](#) show that age verification can be performed on the data subject's device, which has complete control over their identity and age data and allows for fully auditable and transparent solutions. The implemented PoCs can be seen in these videos:

- [PoC on for PCs and consoles \(Windows\)](#)
- [PoC for smartphones \(Android\)](#)

- [PoC for smartphones \(IoS\)](#)

Third, is the key element of an ambitious [Global Strategy on Children, Digital Health and Privacy](#) promoted by the Spanish DPA that includes 35 measures focusing on education, digital health and well-being.

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

This initiative is committed to children's protection, aligning data protection rights and evidence-based innovation to improve online safety standards. Recognizing this initiative with an award highlights the importance of this alignment and encourages further development.

The initiative has been already awarded at a national level, for example:

- [Data Cybersecurity Award Socinfo Digital Awards](#) (February 2024).
- Public project award on [II National Computer Awards](#) (March 2024).
- Public sector award at [@aslan Awards](#) (April 2024).

However, its impact extends beyond national borders, and the initiatives' success resonates globally. This allows the AEPD to contribute to a safer digital environment by collaborating with the ISO (in the elaboration of the [27566 standard](#)), the European Data Protection Board (drafting [a new statement](#)) or the European Commission (participating in the [Task Force on Age Verification under the Digital Services Act](#)), to mention only some significant examples.

Since the initiative focuses on actionable steps, we are also collaborating with both, the Spanish and European pilot projects to provide harmonised solutions for age verification based on our initiative. Furthermore, significant efforts have also been made in dissemination and awareness, actively [sharing knowledge](#) through different [conferences](#) and scientific publications (at the [Annual Privacy Forum 2024](#)).

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)

1 Access request from the web browser installed on the smartphone

2 Content is labeled as inappropriate for minors, the user's age must be verified

3 The digital wallet is used to recover the user's age data and compare it with the content label

4a If the user exceeds the required age, the browser receives the person's condition "authorized to access" and allows access to the content

Infographic information about the risk assessment can be also found at this link: <https://www.aepd.es/infographics/infographic-risks-age-verification-systems.pdf>

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)

General information about the project can be found at this link (in Spanish): <https://www.aepd.es/prensa-y-comunicacion/notas-de-prensa/aepd-presenta-sistema-verificacion-edad-para-proteger-a-menores-de-edad>

Released material is published in this link (in English): <https://www.aepd.es/en/areas/innovation-and-technology#Minors>

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):

- [La AEPD lanza un sistema de verificación de edad para evitar el acceso de menores al porno y contenido violento](#)
- [Spain: AEPD promotes development by EDPB of guidelines for age verification systems on Internet](#)
- [El Gobierno constituye el Grupo de Trabajo para diseñar el sistema de verificación de la edad para el acceso al contenido para adultos en línea.](#)
- UE Parliament event: [Demystifying Age-Assurance to Protect Children Online](#)
- [Global Age Assurance Standards Summit 2024](#)