

### **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 <a href="mailto:secretariat@globalprivacyassembly.org">secretariat@globalprivacyassembly.org</a> 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 6.2<sup>1</sup> applies.

1. CONTACT DETAILS FOR THIS ENTRY			
Privacy/Data Protection Authority:	Hellenic Data Protection Authority		
Person completing this form:	Dr Elias	Athanasiadis	
	First name	Last name	
	Head of Comm	unications Department	
Job title:			
	eathan@dpa.g	r	
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			
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. CAT	EGORIES	
Please indicate which category you wish to enter.			
Please tick <b>one;</b> please use a separate form for each category you wish to enter:			
☐ Education and Public Av	Education and Public Awareness		
☐ Accountability	Accountability		
□ Dispute Resolution and	Dispute Resolution and Enforcement		
☐ People's Choice			

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.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> GPA Rules and Procedures, Rule 6.2 'Assembly documents':

#### 4. DESCRIPTION OF THE INITIATIVE

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

The Hellenic DPA (HDPA) created in 2023 a collaboration and exchange of knowledge online platform open to all DPOs and privacy professionals, which also includes a publicly available electronic document library. The strategic goal was to provide Data Protection Officers (DPOs) and privacy professionals with continuous support in their activities, beyond a basic level, and specialized guidance on selected key sectors.

The creation, monitoring and assessment of the aforementioned collaboration space was implemented in the context of the <u>byDefault project</u>, which received funding from the European Union's Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme (CERV).

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

The initial version of the <u>Platform</u> became operational in **September 2023** with:

- a space for discussion and exchange of views (for registered users data protection professionals). See here <a href="https://collab.dpa.gr/community/">https://collab.dpa.gr/community/</a>
- and a digital library with supporting material (open to all). See here <a href="https://collab.dpa.gr/%cf%88%ce%b7%cf%86%ce%b9%ce%b1%ce%b8%ce%ba%ce%ba%ce%be">https://collab.dpa.gr/%cf%88%ce%b7%cf%86%ce%b9%ce%b1%ce%b3%ce%ba%ce%ae-%ce%b3%ce%b9%ce%bb%ce%b9%ce%bb%ce

It operates under the guidance and supervision of the Hellenic DPA's staff, but is not intended to provide specific advice or answers in individual cases or to replace DPOs.

The aim of the platform is to share specialised knowledge by topic, in order to facilitate the practical application of data protection principles by data protection professionals (DPOs, specialists with a relevant background, IT professionals involved in/implementing relevant projects, etc.).

The discussions and the information available on the platform are categorized into 10 thematic areas (topics). Professionals can browse the library without any need for registration, while, if they wish to ask a question or raise an issue of interest among their peers, they have the opportunity to register (using just an email) to the platform and post their question under the appropriate thematic area. Staff from the HDPA is also participating in the discussions. The HDPA is also able to receive feedback from the platform, to be considered during its prioritization process.

The platform aims to bring a solution to the need of DPOs and Data Protection Professionals for specialised guidance and the limited HDPA resources, mobilizing its participants to share knowledge and ideas.

For the creation of an e-platform for the cooperation and exchange of views of DPOs and data protection professionals it was necessary to carry out a **survey**, **among privacy professionals**, first of all to identify those professionals and furthermore to point out as accurately as possible their needs and concerns on data protection related matters and to specify the main thematic areas on which the platform should focus on during its initial operation.

After the submission and evaluation of the questionnaires **two workshops** were organized in the second quarter of 2023 in order to discuss the findings of the survey, to present basic functionalities of the platform and to determine precisely its content and how it works.

The **first seminar** took place on Monday 29 May 2023 at the University of Piraeus and the **second** one (with the same content) was held on-line on June 1<sup>st</sup> (2023). During the seminars the participants became acquainted with the e-platform. They also had the opportunity to raise questions on the platform operation and make constructive comments in relation to its use.

360 DPOs and professionals that had already expressed their interest to participate in the events were invited and most of them accepted and registered to the events. In the end, 59 DPOs and privacy professionals participated in the F2F event and 82 participated in the remote event.

Following the **identification of the needs of privacy professionals** and the results of the survey carried out for this purpose, the collaboration platform was developed.

Up to now, more than 300 DPOs and Data Protection Professionals have registered to the platform (which is available in Greek).

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

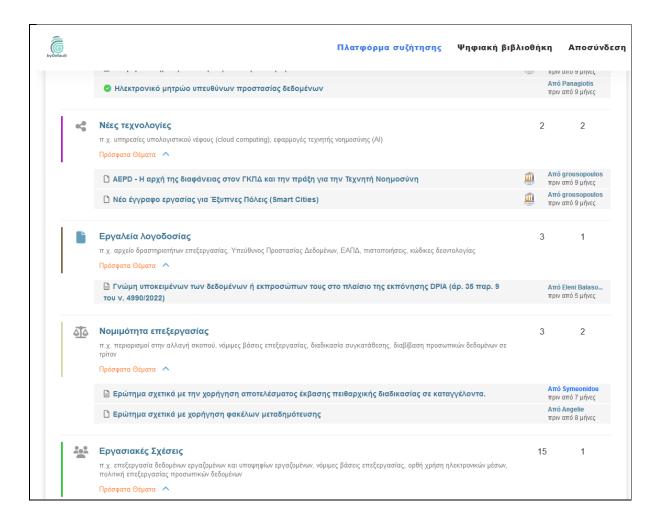
The platform (named collab.dpa.gr) introduces a new approach to the guidance of DPOs and Data Protection Professionals. The HDPA, recognized the need to provide specialized guidance, beyond a basic level (e.g. beyond a general knowledge of the GDPR and relevant legislation and the official guidance offered by the EDPB). At the same time, the HDPA (as most DPAs) suffers from limited resources and a large number of cases to be handled.

In order to find a proper balance, the HDPA decided to bring the principles of "crowdsourcing" to the field of Data Protection. Thus, the platform is used as a "safe" space for the exchange of knowledge of professionals of the field. The HDPA expects that in the future, as more items are discussed on the platform, DPOs and Data Protection Professionals will be able to use a valuable space of specialized resources.

At the same time, the electronic library acts as a repository of guidance texts that are recognized by the HDPA as of importance for the specific item. These texts include open resources, like court judgments, official authority guidance, and technical guidance by recognized organizations or international standards. Each participant can propose a text, thus contributing to the improvement of the platform.

Operation of the platform is governed by a flexible regulation, issued by the HDPA and drafted in cooperation with its participants.

**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)

https://collab.dpa.gr/community/ (the platform)
and

https://collab.dpa.gr/%cf%88%ce%b7%cf%86%ce%b9%ce%b1%ce%ba%ce%ae-%ce%b2%ce%b9%ce%b2%ce%bb%ce%b9%ce%bf%ce%b8%ce%ae%ce%ba%ce%b7/ (the platform's library)

# 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):

https://bydefault-project.eu/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/D2.1.pdf (Stakeholder's workshop & 2 seminars)

https://bydefault-project.eu/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/D2.2.pdf (Platform structure and initial content)

https://bydefault-project.eu/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/D2.3.pdf (Platform prototype and supporting material)

https://bydefault-project.eu/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/D2.4.pdf (Platform regulation)

https://bydefault-project.eu/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Newsletter v1.pdf

https://bydefault-project.eu/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/Newsletter v2.pdf

https://bydefault-project.eu/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/Newsletter v3.pdf

https://www.lawspot.gr/nomika-nea/collabdpa-enarxi-pilotikis-leitoyrgias-tis-ilektronikis-platformas-tis-apdph