



## 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](mailto: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 6.2<sup>1</sup> applies.

#### 1. CONTACT DETAILS FOR THIS ENTRY

Privacy/Data Protection

Authority:

The Catalan Data Protection Authority (APDCAT)

Person completing this form:

Olga

Rierola

*First name*

*Last name*

Job title:

Responsible for the DPO's Register in the APDCAT as well for Cooperation and Training Programmes

Email address:

olga.rierola@gencat.cat

#### 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

<sup>1</sup> [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)**

The Catalan Data Protection Authority (APDCAT) has created 'DPD en Xarxa', the first learning and collaboration community aimed at DPOs in Catalonia.

The aim of the Network is to provide a platform that promotes both training and the exchange of ideas and experiences between the people who ensure compliance with data protection regulations in Catalan organisations, and protect the right of citizens.

It is a new platform that hosts training spaces, documentation, working groups, forums, news, etc. Access requires prior registration.

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

The APDCAT has created 'DPD en Xarxa', a learning and collaboration community aimed at the DPOs in Catalonia. The aim of the Network is to provide a platform to promote training, expertise and the exchange of ideas and experiences between the people who ensure compliance with data protection regulations in Catalan organisations.

Courses and workshops, specialized documentation, working groups and forums are offered to provide knowledge and raise concerns or suggestions on relevant topics, such as privacy with the use of new technologies (AI), sensitive data or vulnerable groups (health sector, social...).

In this way, we want to enhance the figure of the DPO as a key part of compliance, consolidating their knowledge while identifying and promoting best practices. Thus, a model of relationship and cooperation is created and disseminated, helping to prevent non-compliance in all organizations and to protect the rights of citizens.

Despite being created by the APDCAT, it is expected that, in the medium term, the Network will be promoted by the DPOs themselves.

Both DPOs from the public sector of Catalonia (for example: the Government of Catalonia, City councils or Universities) can be part of it, as well as their data processors or other DPOs working at companies based in Catalan territory. Likewise, professionals or university professors who are experts in the field can collaborate.

'DPD en Xarxa' was publicly introduced in July 2023, and since then more than 200 DPOs have signed up. In this time, dozens of debates and 8 webinars have been held on topics as diverse as the new European legislation on artificial intelligence, data governance or eIDAS, transparency, security breaches or data management projects for Catalan universities. Likewise, the working group on "Methodological guidelines for the preparation of impact assessments on fundamental rights and freedoms in the field of Artificial Intelligence" is also in operation, which will embody its results in a code of good practices that will be shared with all DPOs in the Network. In addition, the platform offers

all its members not only the possibility of participating in new training, debates and working groups but also the chance to propose improvements.

In October, the first face-to-face DPO meeting will be held, which will be repeated over the years as a new forum for relations and work between the DPOs of Catalonia.

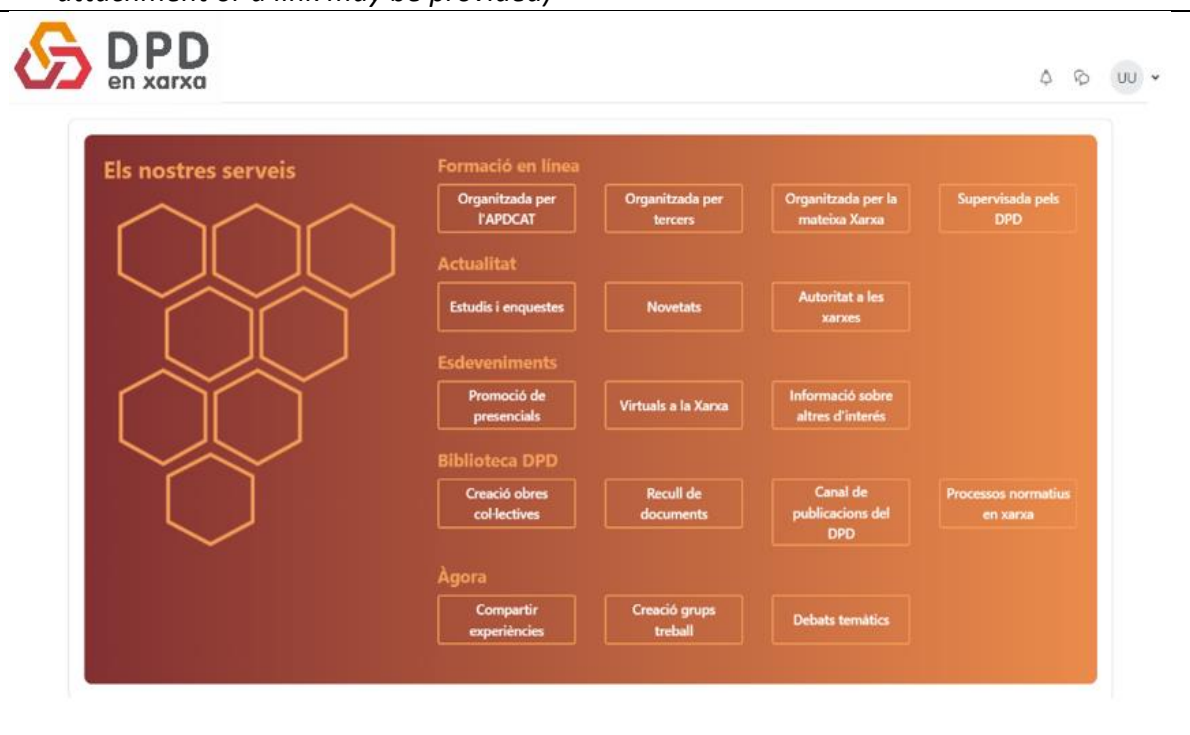
**c. Please explain why you think the initiative deserves to be recognised by an award**  
*(no more than 200 words)*

The DPO is, often, a misunderstood figure within organizations, since they do not have sufficient resources to do their job and are also not effectively incorporated into the decision-making processes. At the same time, they are also a solitary figure, with no surrounding team to discuss the best solutions.

'DPD en Xarxa' wants to address this in a twofold manner: by strengthening their position in their organization, providing training and practical resources, and also breaking their isolation by encouraging the exchange of experiences and knowledge between all of them.

From the APDCAT we believe that this is an effective way to improve regulatory compliance and protect citizens' rights: supporting the most relevant figure in the chain, the DPOs. And with this network, which can be replicated in other countries, we promote best practices and the immediate resolution of problems with the collaboration of the professionals themselves.

**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://dpdenxarxa.cat/>

- 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://apdcat.gencat.cat/ca/sala de premsa/agenda/activitatagenda/LAPDCAT-presenta-la-xarxa-de-delegats-i-delegades-de-proteccio-de-dades-de-Catalunya](https://apdcat.gencat.cat/ca/sala_de_prensa/agenda/activitatagenda/LAPDCAT-presenta-la-xarxa-de-delegats-i-delegades-de-proteccio-de-dades-de-Catalunya)  
[https://apdcat.gencat.cat/ca/sala de premsa/notes premsa/noticia/Presentacio-Xarxa-DPD](https://apdcat.gencat.cat/ca/sala_de_prensa/notes_prensa/noticia/Presentacio-Xarxa-DPD)  
[https://apdcat.gencat.cat/ca/sala de premsa/notes premsa/noticia/XDPD-inici-webinars](https://apdcat.gencat.cat/ca/sala_de_prensa/notes_prensa/noticia/XDPD-inici-webinars)  
[https://apdcat.gencat.cat/ca/sala de premsa/notes premsa/noticia/Aplicacio-XDPD](https://apdcat.gencat.cat/ca/sala_de_prensa/notes_prensa/noticia/Aplicacio-XDPD)  
<https://www.metadata.cat/noticia/3428/apdcat-impulsa-xarxa-collaborativa-delegats-proteccio-dades>  
<https://www.larepublica.cat/minut-a-minut/lapdcat-posa-en-marxa-una-xarxa-de-delegats-de-proteccio-de-dades-a-catalunya/>  
<https://www.eljurista.cat/2023/07/14/lapdcat-posa-en-marxa-la-xarxa-de-delegats-i-delegades-de-proteccio-de-dades-a-catalunya/>  
<https://privacydriver.com/es/la-apdcat-promueve-una-red-delegados-delegadas-proteccion-datos-cataluna-c578>