

GPA Global Privacy and Data Protection Awards 2025

Entry Form

To submit an entry to the GPA Global Privacy and Data Protection Awards, please complete and email this form to <u>secretariat@globalprivacyassembly.org</u> no later than 16 June 2025.

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:	Albanian Information and Data Protection Commissioner	
Person completing this form:	Denada	Hysi
	First name	Last name
Job title:	Head of Projects and Integration Sector	
Email address:	info@idp.al	

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 before 16 June 2025.
- 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 <u>GPA Rules and Procedures</u>, 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)

Cooperation with Eurojust – First Annual Monitoring Report

The Information and Data Protection Commissioner of the Republic of Albania (IDP), conducted a monitoring process to enforce data protection standards under the Eurojust Agreement. Targeting several prosecutor's offices, the initiative evaluated personal data processing practices and compliance with legal obligations. The resulting reports, including an annual submission to Eurojust, outlined concrete enforcement recommendations. These measures aim to strengthen institutional accountability and improve the prosecution system's adherence to national and international data protection frameworks through active regulatory oversight.

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

The Cooperation Agreement between the Republic of Albania and Eurojust was ratified by Law no. 113/2018.

IDP has a specific role in the implementation and enforcement of this Agreement, as defined in Article 19 thereof. Specifically, this article designates the IDP as the competent authority responsible for monitoring the actual implementation of the Agreement, as well as developments in the field of data protection and data security.

Reporting is carried out annually to the Data Protection Officer of Eurojust. In accordance with Article 19 of the Agreement, the IDP is expected to benefit from best practices in the context of reporting to Eurojust. As the authority responsible for oversight in the field of personal data protection, IDP bears the obligation to engage in regular exchanges of views with Eurojust.

In fulfillment of this obligation, in September 2023, representatives of the General Directorate for the Protection of Personal Data in the IDP conducted a study visit to The Hague, in cooperation with representatives from Eurojust and the Dutch Data Protection Authority. The Liaison Prosecutor of the Republic of Albania to Eurojust also participated in this meeting.

The objective of the study visit was to provide appropriate technical assistance and expertise to the Albanian delegation for the creation and development of a structured methodology for monitoring, reporting, and enforcing compliance with the Agreement with Eurojust, particularly regarding the implementation of personal data protection legislation.

Subsequently, the IDP conducted a monitoring process at the General Prosecutor's Office, the Prosecutor's Offices of General Jurisdiction, and the Special Structure Against Corruption and Organized Crime (SPAK), focusing on the processing of personal data, the exchange of operational information, the assessment of compliance with data protection obligations, and the identification of preventive measures to address shortcomings, in line with the obligations of the Agreement with Eurojust.

Upon completion of this monitoring process, in July 2024, the IDP prepared the Annual Monitoring Report addressed to Eurojust, titled: *"On the Cooperation Agreement between the Republic of Albania and Eurojust regarding the implementation of obligations related to the protection of personal data"*.

This report was prepared in the framework of implementing the Agreement with Eurojust, reflecting the current situation regarding the protection and security of personal data, the measures taken, and the strategies applied in support of data protection legislation. Its aim is to ensure the security, protection, and privacy of data processed by the prosecution system during the international transfer of operational data and the exchange of information with Eurojust.

In addition, the IDP drafted five monitoring reports addressed to various prosecutor's offices. These reports outlined the relevant conclusions and recommendations regarding the adoption of concrete measures in compliance with the Law on Personal Data Protection and its secondary legislation, with the purpose of improving the functioning of the prosecution system within the framework of the Agreement with Eurojust.

It is important to emphasize that this report was drafted for the first time by the IDP and submitted to Eurojust, positioning Albania as the first country among the Western Balkans and Eastern Partnership regions to carry out such reporting within the framework of cooperation with Eurojust.

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

This initiative serves as a strategic approach to promote the enforcement of personal data protection legislation and to familiarize with best practices identified during the process by the IDP. Its aim is to ensure that a field as sensitive as the competent authorities remains vigilant in safeguarding the protection and security of personal data, particularly sensitive criminal data processed during the activities of the prosecution system.

Furthermore, the Annual Monitoring Report has been well received and positively evaluated by Eurojust, ranking Albania as the third country among non-EU third countries in terms of the highest number of cooperations with Eurojust in 2024.

This successfully carried out initiative by the IDP also serves as a best practice, due to its structured approach and the training of staff regarding specific obligations within the framework of cooperation between countries and international organizations.

It is worth emphasizing that the study visit of IDP to the Eurojust in The Hague, which also included the Liaison Prosecutor of the Republic of Albania, provided the Albanian delegation the necessary technical expertise for the creation and development of a structured methodology related to monitoring and reporting on the Agreement with Eurojust, particularly regarding the implementation of personal data protection legislation. In September 2024, the Data Protection Academy in Brussels, a project established by the European Commission, the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC), EDPS, DG JUST, SIGMA, ReSPA, and GIZ, recognized the Annual Monitoring Report of the IDP, as a positive model of inter-institutional cooperation and as one of the best practices reflecting the work carried out by the Republic of Albania.

- **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://idp.al/2024/11/04/garantimi-i-mbrojtjes-se-te-dhenave-personale-ne-veprimtarine-e-prokurorise-dhe-bashkepunimi-me-eurojust/

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://idp.al/2024/09/16/akademia-e-mbrojtjes-se-te-dhenave-ne-bruksel/

https://www.eurojust.europa.eu/sites/default/files/assets/files/eurojust-annual-report-2024-en.pdf