



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 secretariat@globalprivacyassembly.org **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:	PERSONAL DATA PROTECTION AUTHORITY OF MALI (APDP-MALI)	
	MAMOUDOU	SAMASSEKOU
Person completing this form:		
	<i>First name</i>	<i>Last name</i>
	PRESIDENT	
Job title:		
	contact@apdp.ml mamoudousamassekou@apdp.ml	
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 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 [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 first of its kind in Mali and second in West Africa, **The Master's in Digital Law** goes beyond academic progress. It aims to train legal experts to support key sectors like telecommunications and digital startups, boosting the national tech ecosystem. It marks a crucial step in building national capacity to regulate, protect, and promote a digital environment that fosters sustainable development and respects human rights.

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

This Master's program, developed through a partnership between the Authority for the Protection of Personal Data (APDP) and the Kurukanfuga University of Bamako (UKB), aims to equip students with three key competencies:

- Supporting technological development while ensuring the ethical and responsible use of new technologies. These skills will be developed through a combination of theoretical coursework, practical exercises, and internships in companies or institutions specialized in digital affairs.
- Training specialized legal professionals capable of regulating the digital sector and protecting citizens' rights in an increasingly connected world.
- Positioning Mali as a key regional player in the governance and regulation of digital activities.

With modules designed to anticipate both global and local transformations driven by digital technologies, this program offers updated content delivered by national and international experts. Its pragmatic approach blends academic rigor with real-world application, ensuring that graduates are not only well-informed but also ready to act.

The curriculum reflects the evolving challenges of the digital era, including data protection, cybersecurity, digital identity, artificial intelligence, and the legal frameworks needed to govern these domains. It responds to the urgent need for professionals who can navigate the complex intersection of law, technology, and public policy.

By combining legal expertise with a deep understanding of digital innovation, this Master's program prepares students to address regulatory challenges, support digital entrepreneurs, and contribute to inclusive and sustainable digital transformation in Mali and beyond.

In doing so, it contributes to building a future where technology serves development, human rights, and the public interest.

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

The Master's in Digital Law in Mali deserves an award for its pioneering role and strategic impact. As the first of its kind in Mali and only the second in West Africa, it addresses urgent challenges linked to the rise of digital technologies, including cybersecurity, data protection, and digital regulation.

The program exemplifies effective collaboration between academia and public institutions. This model is essential for training legal professionals capable of navigating the complex digital landscape.

By equipping a new generation of experts, the program reinforces the rule of law in digital spaces, supports national digital sovereignty, and promotes ethical, inclusive development. Its curriculum combines theoretical and practical approaches, guided by national and international experts, to prepare students for real-world challenges.

Innovative, relevant, and impactful, the Master's in Digital Law contributes to Mali's leadership in digital governance and offers a blueprint for other countries in the region. For its originality and transformative potential, it is a strong candidate for recognition through an excellence award.

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)*



Picture from the Launch Ceremony held at Kurukanfuga University of Bamako on January 23, 2025.

From left to right: **M Alhamdou AG ILYENE**, Minister of TICS; **M Bourama KANSAYE**, Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research; **Pr Mamoudou SAMASSEKOU**, President of APDP-Mali.

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://apdp.ml/events/lancement-du-master-en-droit-du-numerique--une-premiere-historique-pour-le-mali/>

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://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rmQwkz3Z1kk>

<https://www.facebook.com/apdpofficiel/posts/lancement-du-master-en-droit-du-num%C3%A9rique-une-premi%C3%A8re-historique-pour-le-mali/922055686772458/>

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=593498640355162>