

General Data Protection Regulation

Selected GDPR Myths

Laura De Boel

Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati, LLP

June 28, 2018



Background

- Most important piece of EU data protection legislation for next decades.
- From Directive 1995/46 to the GDPR.
 - Long review: started in 2010.
 - Directly applicable in all EU countries, but expect **local deviations**:
 - Cultural differences impacting regulators' approaches will most likely remain.
 - Some areas can be further specified by local law (e.g., Human Resources).
 - Need to modify local data protection laws.
- Very detailed legislation based on *same core principles* with :
 - Stricter rules and new concepts.
 - Enhanced individuals' rights.
 - Obligation to demonstrate compliance with GDPR (accountability principle).
 - Increased enforcement and fines (up to 4% of annual worldwide turnover).
- Enforceable as of May 25, 2018
- Significant buzz around GDPR; created a number of myths.



Background

Data Controller	Data Processor
The entity that, alone or jointly with others, determines:	The entity that processes personal data:
- the purposes ("why")	- on behalf of
and - the means ("how")	and - under the instructions of the controller.
of the data processing. Joint controllers vs. separate controllers?	Sub-processors?





Myth 1: We don't need to comply with the GDPR as we don't have any affiliate, subsidiary, or branch in the EU.

EU companies

- Controllers and processors
 "established" in the EU.
- "Establishment" implies the effective and real exercise of activity through stable arrangements, regardless of its legal form (e.g., branch, subsidiary).

Non-EU companies

- Controllers and processors:
 - Offering of goods / services to individuals in the EU, even free of charge.
 - Monitoring the behavior of individuals located in the EU.
- "Targeting" of EU individuals?
- The GDPR does not apply in all situations.
- Incentive often comes from EU or global customers.



Myth 2: Consent is always required to process personal data





Myth 3: We must send an e-mail to our users to gather their opt-in consent for marketing

- Electronic marketing is regulated by the E-Privacy Directive (which is currently under review)
- Opt-in is required unless companies can rely on the opt-out exception:
 - Data must be collected in the context of a sale
 - Opportunity to opt-out at the time of collection and in each marketing communication
 - About similar products or services by the same legal entity
- GDPR regulates what constitutes a valid consent
- Sending an e-mail to gather consent is inappropriate in most cases



Myth 4: We must e-mail our users about the update of our privacy policy

- Privacy notice must be concise, transparent, intelligible, easily accessible, and the language should be clear and plain, especially when addressed to a child.
- GDPR significantly increases the amount of information that controller must provide to individuals (e.g., legal grounds, data retention, data transfers, disclosure).
- Layered privacy notice
- Not required to send an e-mail to individuals.
 - Material changes vs. non-material changes
 - Other means (e.g., pop-up, "new" bubble)
- Not clear template yet
- Option to use standardized icons
- Trade-off between U.S. and EU requirements



Myth 5: Data subjects rights are absolute; after all data protection is a fundamental right





Myth 6: All companies must appoint a DPO

General rule	 Companies (controllers and processors) <i>may</i> appoint a DPO. But consider appointing a DPO as a <i>best practice</i>, but then must comply with GDPR requirements.
Mandatory appointment	 Large-scale, regular and systematic monitoring of individuals. Processing of sensitive data and data relating to criminal convictions and offences (if company's core data processing activities). National laws may require companies to appoint a DPO in other cases (e.g., Germany).
Tasks	 Advises company and its staff on GDPR obligations. Monitors compliance with GDPR and internal privacy policies (e.g., assignment of responsibilities; awareness-raising; trainings; audits). Provides advice on PIA and monitors its performance. Cooperates with DPA and acts as its contact point (e.g., in case of DPA consultation).



Qualifications	 Expert knowledge in data protection law and practices. Ability to fulfill his / her tasks. 	
Companies obligations	 Publish the DPO contact details in privacy notices and notify them to DPA. Involve DPO in all data protection issues. Provide DPO with resources necessary to: (1) perform his or her tasks; (2) access personal data and data processing activities; and (3) maintain his or her expert knowledge. 	
Position of DPO	 Strict requirement of DPO independence. May be a member of staff or a contractor but should be able to perform tasks independently. Can fulfil other tasks as long as there is no conflict of interest. Cannot receive instructions, and cannot be dismissed or penalized for performing tasks. Must directly report to the company's highest management level. Is bound by confidentiality / secrecy obligation. A group of companies may appoint a single DPO if easily accessible from each establishment. 	

Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati, LLP

200

120

-



Myth 7: All data breaches must be notified to Data Protection Authorities and individuals.



WGR Myth 8: As a data processor, we don't have to conclude DPAs; our clients must

- Data processing agreements must be more detailed and include details on the processing (i.e., subject-matter, duration, nature, purposes, type of data, categories of individuals).
- Additional contractual provisions requiring the processor to:
 - Only act on the controller's documented instructions (including data transfers).
 - Ensure that persons authorized to process data are bound by confidentiality obligation.
 - Implement appropriate security measures.
 - Only sub-process personal data with the prior specific or general authorization of the controller, and bind the sub-processor with similar obligations via a written agreement.
 - Make available to the controller information necessary to demonstrate compliance.
 - Assist the controller regarding individuals' requests, security measures, breach notification, PIA, prior consultation.
 - Allow for and contribute to audits (including inspections) conducted by the controller.
 - Return or delete data after processing (at the controller's choice).
- Possibility to use template agreements adopted by the EU Commission (not available yet).
- Joint-controllers vs. separate controllers



Myth 9: Data transfers outside of Europe are prohibited; we must store data in the EU

• Maintains existing restrictions and confirms / creates data transfer mechanisms:

Adequacy decisions	 Existing decisions valid until repealed by the EU Commission. New set of criteria for new adequacy decisions.
Binding Corporate Rules (BCRs)	Explicit recognition for both controllers and processors.
Standard contractual clauses (SCC)	No DPA authorization.
Derogations	Legitimate interests of a controller (with limitations).
New data transfer mechanisms	Codes of conduct and certification mechanisms with binding commitments (unclear).
Conflict of laws	Any disclosure must be based on an international treaty such as a MLAT.

An area still in turmoil:

- Ongoing controversy over EU-U.S. Privacy Shield (replacing EU-U.S. Safe Harbor).
- Question of validity of SCC raised before the CJEU.
- BCRs are and will be seen very favorably in the EU. Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati, LLP



Myth 10: Data Protection Authorities will automatically fine companies

Increased judicial remedies for Individuals	 Right to lodge a complaint before a DPA. Right to an effective judicial remedy against a DPA. Right to an effective judicial remedy against a controller or a processor. Right to seek compensation for damages against a controller or a processor. Data protection associations with right to sue companies.
DPAs' investigative powers	 Conduct investigation (e.g., audit). Notify companies in case of infringement. Dawn raid.
DPAs' corrective powers	 Issue warnings or reprimands. Order companies to comply with individuals' rights. Order to bring the processing activities in compliance with the GDPR. Impose a limitation on processing. Suspend data transfers. Impose massive fines (up to 10 / 20 million, or 2% / 4% of global turnover).
DPAs' authorization and advisory powers	 Prior consultation. Advice on draft codes of conduct. Accreditation of certification bodies. Adoption of SCC or authorization of ad hoc contract clauses. Approval of BCRs.



Questions?



Thank you!

Laura De Boel Of Counsel Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati Ideboel@wsgr.com