Exploring the Privacy and Data Protection connection

International Workshop
on the Legal Notions of Privacy and Data Protection in EU law
in a Rapidly Changing World

14 May 2019, U-Residence, Brussels

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For already almost 20 years, the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union (EU) has distinguished the rights to privacy and data protection as two fundamental rights – one established by its Article 7, and the second by Article 8. This approach represented a clear innovation compared to the Council of Europe, where both notions are covered by Article 8 of the European Convention of Human Rights (ECHR).

The rights to privacy and the right to data protection play a crucial role in EU policy-making, as well as in the case law of the CJEU, and have acquired an increasingly significant importance. There is, however, a persistent lack of clarity on what these fundamental rights actually entail, or should entail, in particular in a rapidly changing digital environment. Even if both articles of the Charter are unquestionably closely related, there are different views on their specific nature and the nature of their relationship, and on their roles in a developing data-driven world. To what extent are these roles convergent or different?

The Law, Science, Technology and Society (LSTS) Research Group and the Brussels Privacy Hub will hold an International Workshop on the Legal Notions of Privacy and Data Protection in EU law in a Rapidly Changing World to take stock of current academic thinking and the developments in the case law and in policy making in the area, and to discuss the significance of these rights in the future.

The interactive open one-day Workshop on ‘Legal Notions of Privacy and Data Protection in EU law in a Rapidly Changing World’ on 14 May 2019 in Brussels will discuss the EU rights to privacy and data protection – their nature, scope and limitations, but also their practical legal and policy implications. For this purpose, the one-day workshop will bring together the leading academic experts, policy makers and practitioners in Europe to discuss different aspects of the complex relationship between privacy and data protection.

Call for Papers for PhD students and early career researchers

The Workshop will give the opportunity to PhD students and early career researchers to present their research on the relationship between the EU fundamental rights to privacy and data protection. Subjects of interest include, but are not limited to:

- the foundations, conceptualisation and operationalisation of the rights to privacy and data protection in EU law, including the essence of these rights and current challenges;
- comparative constitutional approaches, in particularly exploring convergence and divergence in the approaches of European and national courts;
- the roles of privacy and data protection in the EU legal framework, also in relation to other rights such as the confidentiality of communications (cf. e-Privacy) and other areas of EU law (cf. anti-discrimination);
- the EU privacy/data protection framework in an international perspective (cf. the reach of ‘the right to be forgotten’, intersections with international legal instruments);
- forward-looking: which role(s) for privacy and data protection in a data-driven world (cf. fundamental rights & algorithmic decision-making), practical implications for EU policy and societal and technological developments.

Interested researchers should send an abstract (max. 500 words) by 28 February 2019 at the latest. Selected authors will then be notified by 14 March 2019 and have until 26 April 2019 to submit their final paper (between 5000 and 10000 words). Accepted authors are expected to present and discuss their paper at the Workshop; publication avenues are being explored. Please send your abstract to info@brusselsprivacyhub.eu with your name, affiliation, and short biography.

Limited financial assistance for travel and accommodation costs for accepted paper presenters coming from outside Belgium shall be available. Please notify the organising committee as soon as possible should you wish to receive such financial assistance for travel and accommodation costs to receive more details on amounts and procedure.

See the Brussels Privacy Hub Website for more information and updates on the workshop.