



Issue 4 - October 2022

# NEWSLETTER

The advent of the GDPR has created several challenges; among others, the need of SMEs for guidance and tools so that their compliance is facilitated, and the need for appropriately educated ICT professionals to implement Data Protection by Design.

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The byDesign project's duration is 24 months, starting November 1, 2020 and it is coordinated by the Hellenic DPA.

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# The Partners

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The byDesign consortium is compiled by three partners that represent three areas: regulatory, academic and software industry. The coordinator of the project is the Hellenic Data Protection Authority and the other two partners are the University of Piraeus Research Center and ICT Abovo PC.



## In brief

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The Hellenic Data Protection Authority launched, in 2020, the project “**Facilitating compliance of small and medium-sized enterprises with the GDPR and promoting data protection from design to ICT products and services (byDesign)**”, following a successful proposal to the European Commission (the project website: <https://bydesign-project.eu/>).

The project is implemented under the coordination of the Authority and in cooperation with the University of Piraeus and the Greek IT company “ICT Abovo”, and is co-financed 80 % by the European Commission.

The byDesign project had two general goals: the first one was **to assist SMEs with regard to GDPR compliance**; and the second to promote the **development of by design compliant products and services**, by raising the awareness of the producers of such solutions.



# Reaching the end of the project

By October 2022, due date for the completion of the project, the following core activities were accomplished:

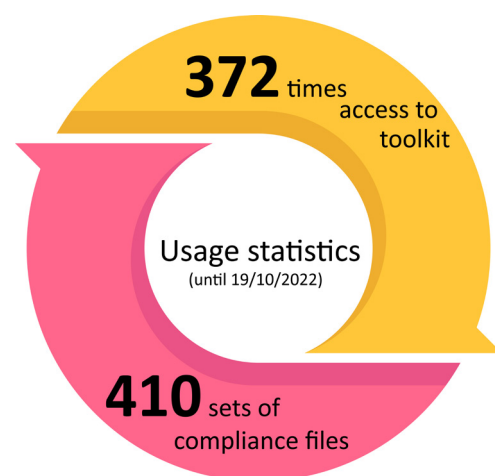
- **Online toolkit**

The byDesign project was expected to provide practical assistance and guidance to the large community of SMEs in Greece towards facilitating GDPR compliance.

The development of a web application (**online toolkit**), particularly tailored to SMEs, which would assist them in performing the necessary actions in order to achieve compliance, along with a set of context-aware templates of essential documents, was one of its main objectives.

For the development of the online toolkit, assessment of needs was based on different activities and information sources: i) the inherent experience of HDPa; ii) the international practice; iii) the questionnaires that were collected from the stakeholders following the respective campaign; iv) workshops that were organised in cooperation with relevant professional chambers, that attracted an adequate number of SMEs.

The production operation which began after a three-month pilot operation (April-June 2022) was completed. Since 28/7/2022 the toolkit is offered, as a web application, implementing state-of-the-art web technologies and software (see <https://www.dpa.gr/en/enimerwtiko/press-releases/full-production-phase-online-toolkit-bydesign-project>). It guides, through a few simple steps, an SME to generate fundamental documents, with regard to data protection.



- **Training material - guidance documentation**

The second main objective of byDesign project was to develop a **comprehensive training programme** on data protection by Design, targeting developers and other stakeholders of the ICT products and services creation chain. byDesign aimed essentially at training a critical mass of professionals, as well as University students, thereby introducing a data protection culture to the ICT community in Greece.

The data protection by design training began with a phase where the engagement of stakeholders and needs evaluation thereof was the main focus. Apart from the collection of questionnaires, four virtual workshops took place, providing a clear overview of the current situation; to this end, professional associations have been involved. Based on the findings, the training strategy was designed and the necessary material was prepared. The training involved various seminars for professionals and two seminars at the university; overall, it was expected to train at least 400 ICT professionals and 200 undergraduate and post-graduate students. Finally, the training programme was evaluated, and a guide on data protection by design was created.

The training material, mainly presentations, which had already been used in the seminars that took place throughout the project, was enriched with explanations and references and appropriately structured in the form of a guidance documentation in order to constitute a useful tool for those involved in the development of data-friendly products and services by design.

- **International Conference - findings and results of the project**

An **international conference** took place on September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2022 with the aim to present the overall findings and outcomes of the project and foster sustainability of results, know-how and expertise acquired. Representatives of SMEs, professional associations, chambers and software suppliers were invited so that the approach and achievements of the project would be presented to directly affected entities.



During this event there was interaction with stakeholders that were interested in and could benefit from the project results or be the leverage for their sustainability and contribute to maximising their impact.

This was a transnational networking event, with all partners presenting the results of the work carried out within the project. It was a means for an overall formal presentation of the project outcomes as well as sharing of ideas and experience at national and EU level.

The **agenda** of the event is available [here](#).

The **presentations** are available [here](#).

- **Final training seminars**

The training seminars were completed with a final technical seminar, which took place on October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022. In this seminar case studies and examples of the thematic modules covered in the seminars held in June 2022 were presented.

More specifically:

- Case studies/examples on risk rating on data protection and information security
- Case studies/examples on analysis and implementation of data protection requirements by design, relation to processing authorities, data subjects' rights and data retention time
- Case studies/examples on management of data breach incidents
- Case studies/examples on techniques of encryption, pseudonymisation and anonymisation for data protection.

One such seminar was held virtually (via the epresence.gov.gr platform), with a total of 70 participants. The seminar lasted 3 hours.





## To sum up

Both the GDPR compliance toolkit and the Data Protection by Design Guide will be offered for some time after completion of the implementation of the byDesign project at the end of October.

The byDesign project has a strong potential for sustainability, which is an issue of vital importance for the project outcomes. It is anticipated that project results (online tool and training material) will continue their life for a long period after the end of the project. In order to promote sustainability of the project's results the following tools will be employed, namely the online toolkit (available at <https://bydesign-project.eu/news-events/> and <https://bydesign.dpa.gr/questionnaires/fe630b8d-6dae-4537-b865-e8e924ebf344/en>), the documentation guidance (available at <https://bydesign-project.eu/news-events/>), training activities in academic environments, networking at national and international level, the project's website and social media accounts.

Furthermore, it should be noted that the project's goal is to reach out to an audience beyond the Greek society and its main target groups, such as SMEs, ICT professionals and University students adding therefore more value to its results in the long-term.

In the meantime, the Hellenic Data Protection Authority, in collaboration with the University of Piraeus Research Center and ICT Abovo, started in September 2022 the implementation of a second project, under the distinctive title 'byDefault', aiming mainly to create educational material in data protection for primary and secondary school students and to create a platform for cooperation and information of DPOs and data protection professionals in general.





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