

From the Editor-in-Chief

We are pleased to present the latest edition of the *Journal of Personal Data Protection Law*, which reflects the rapidly evolving challenges in the field of privacy and examines current developments in data protection law.

Over the past decade, significant efforts have been made to establish uniform regulation and consistent practice in the protection of the fundamental right to data protection. In Georgia, this right is enshrined in Article 15 of the Constitution, which safeguards the rights to personal and family privacy, personal space and privacy of communication. Any restriction of these rights is permissible only in accordance with the law—either with a court order or, in cases of urgent necessity defined by law, without prior judicial authorization. In such urgent cases, however, the court must be promptly informed and must subsequently confirm the legality of the restriction.

In the digital era, where rapid technological development and transparent data exchange continually raise new legal and ethical challenges, it is essential for public awareness to keep pace with the undeniable need to protect fundamental human rights amidst technological progress. One of the most effective ways to safeguard the right to personal data—and to enhance public understanding of this right—is through legal discourse on current issues related to personal data processing. The scientific Journal of the Personal Data Protection Service of Georgia is dedicated to fulfilling this purpose.

This issue of the Journal offers readers in-depth legal analysis and insights on a range of topical issues in the field of personal data protection. The published works address subjects such as the interpretation and implementation of European data protection standards, the role and activities of supervisory authorities, and the evolving legislative frameworks in response to technological transformation etc.

A particularly notable contribution comes from Professor Norbert Bernsdorf of the Philipp University of Marburg—retired judge of the German Federal Social Court and a member of this Journal’s editorial board—whose article examines personal data protection in the context of electronic commerce. The paper provides a detailed discussion of the EU *Digital Services Act* and its implementation into national legislation. This analysis is especially relevant in light of the new obligations imposed on digital service providers, which have

significant implications for the protection of data subjects' rights. I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to Professor Bernsdorff for his continued scientific contributions to this Journal and for his active collaboration with the Personal Data Protection Service of Georgia.

Another scientific article is co-authored by Professor Thomas Hören, Director of the Institute for Information, Telecommunications and Media Law at the University of Münster; Philipp Mayer, Research Assistant at the same institution; and Gesa Schenke, Research Assistant at an international law firm. Their article explores the essence and scope of the principle *Poena Sine Culpa* in personal data protection law, and provides an analysis of the recent Court of Justice of the European Union (ECJ) ruling in the *Deutsche Wohnen* case—an important decision concerning the lawfulness of data processing and the protection of data subjects' rights.

The scientific article by Dr. Otar Chakhunashvili—Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Law, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, and First Deputy President of the Personal Data Protection Service of Georgia —focuses on the principles governing administrative offense proceedings in the context of evaluating the lawfulness of personal data processing. The work outlines the key legal principles that guide the Service's assessment of data processing practices.

From a practical perspective, a highly engaging contribution comes from practicing lawyer Dr. Sergi Jorbenadze, Associate Professor at the Faculty of Law, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University. His paper addresses personal data processing in the context of lawyers' legal practice and presents recent legislative standards and practices developed by the Personal Data Protection Service of Georgia.

Against the backdrop of modern technological progress, employees of the Personal Data Protection Service of Georgia address several topical issues in their articles, including data processing through cloud systems, video surveillance of employees' workspaces and activities, the legal regulation of artificial intelligence systems and associated data protection challenges, as well as data protection in the context of academic research.

I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation to each author for their invaluable contributions to this publication. The overarching goal of the Journal is to enhance data protection standards and promote public awareness. Each article holds significant value for professional discourse and contributes meaningfully to the public's legal education. We hope that, given the scientific and practical importance of the featured works, this edition will serve as a valuable resource for legal professionals, researchers, and a broader readership interested in the evolving landscape of personal data protection.

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