

From the Editor-in-Chief

Dear Reader,

We are pleased to present the combined first and second editions of the Journal of Personal Data Protection Law for the current year, dedicated to the 33rd European Conference of Data Protection Authorities – the Spring Conference and the 75th meeting of the International Working Group on Data Protection in Technology (“Berlin Working Group”, “IWGDPT”). Notably, in the current year, the Personal Data Protection Service served as the host institution for both international events.

The 33rd European Spring Conference of Personal Data Protection Supervisory Authorities — the highest-level international event in the field of personal data protection was hosted by the Personal Data Protection Service in the city of Batumi. The Spring Conference has been held since 1991 and plays a significant role in shaping new trends in privacy and data protection. Its main objective is to foster dialogue between European data protection supervisory authorities and practitioners, thereby creating a strong forum for discussing challenges and opportunities in the field. The conference serves as a key platform for the discussion of European standards in personal data protection and the exchange of best practices.

Although personal data protection law is a relatively new field, the protection of personal space and private life has a centuries-old history. The words of Ilia Chavchavadze “A person’s greatest treasure is their identity” — which served as the tagline of the conference, aptly reflect our shared values concerning personal identity and private life. Over the course of three days, participants had the opportunity to discuss with European colleagues a wide range of important issues in the field of personal data protection, including the regulation of Artificial Intelligence; legislative frameworks for data protection at the regional, European and global levels; modern technological developments and the impact of Artificial Intelligence on privacy; children’s privacy; contemporary challenges related to the protection of health-related personal data and the role of personal data protection officers and privacy practitioners, among others.

The 75th meeting of the International Working Group on Data Protection in Technology, established in 1983, was hosted by the Personal Data Protection Service in Tbilisi at Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University. The meeting addressed current challenges and topical issues at the intersection of personal data protection law and technology, including neurodata, 6G technology, digital identity, and related subjects. The event was attended by twenty-five representatives from fourteen countries, as well as by the European Data Protection Supervisor (“EDPS”) and the Electronic Privacy Information Center (“EPIC”).

This edition of the Journal of Personal Data Protection Law brings together interventions presented within the framework of the above-mentioned international events, as well as scholarly contributions by practitioners and researchers in the field of personal data protection law. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all participants for the submitted articles, which offer readers a unique opportunity to engage with the issues discussed at the conferences. We hope that the works published in this edition will be both of scholarly interest and of practical value, serving as a useful resource for those interested in the activities of the Personal Data Protection Service and for legal practitioners working in this field.

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