

Resolution

on digital education for all



Recalling the main international agreements in force, among which several refer to fundamental human rights, personal data and privacy:

- The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 10th December 1948 – Articles 25 and 26-3;
- The European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, 4th November 1950 – Article 8;
- The Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, 7th December 2000 – Article 241.
- The United Nations International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, 16th December 1966, - Article 17;
- The Convention 108 for the Protection of Individuals with regard to Automatic Processing of Personal Data, Council of Europe 28th of January 1981 and the Additional protocol to Convention 108;
- The OECD Guidelines on the Protection of Privacy;
- The Montevideo Memorandum on digital exclusion of Youth;

Recalling the international agreements directly referring to children’s rights:

- The Geneva Declaration of the Rights of the Child, 26th September 1924;
- The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, 20th November 1989;
- The European Convention on the Exercise of Children's Rights, Council of Europe, n°160, 25th January 1996.

Recalling the following resolutions adopted at the 30th International Conference of Data Protection and Privacy Commissioners in 2008:

- The Resolution on “Privacy Protection in Social Network Services”;
- The Resolution on “Children’s Online Privacy”, encouraging the Commissioners to develop digital education, in particular to the youngest.

Having regard to the resolution on “Privacy by design” adopted at the 32nd International Conference of Data Protection and Privacy Commissioners in 2010;

Having regard to the OECD “Recommendation of the Council on the Protection of Children Online”, 16th February 2012,

Recalling the Council of Europe Recommendation Rec(2006)12 adopted on 27th September 2006 by the Committee of Ministers to the member states on empowering children in the information and communications environment the Committee and the “Declaration of the Committee of Ministers on protecting the dignity, security and privacy of children on the Internet, adopted on 20th February 2008”;

Having regard to the United Nations International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, 16th December 1966, - Article 13 recognizing the right of everyone to education;

Recognising that digital technology is now part of our everyday life and that it is fully integrated in every field of our existence: social relationships, family and friends, professional activity, consumption, cultural activities, recreational activities; that all these facets are now intertwined with the digital universe; that this new digital era affects the whole population regardless of age, experience and location.

Realising that it is challenging to understand the complexities of the digital environment as information technology changes at rapid speed, the actors involved in this ecosystem and the business model on which it is based. Thus, users and policymakers are not in position to understand all the risks and all the opportunities for innovation and economic growth offered by digital technology.

Understanding that digital technology raises various new challenges in terms of data protection and privacy; that the legal framework alone cannot provide all the answers and guarantees required.

The Authorities present at the 35th international conference of data protection and privacy commissioners consider it crucial to:

- **Promote without delay** knowledge about digital technology to enable every citizen, consumer, and entrepreneur to become active, creative and critical actors with the sufficient knowledge and understanding to make an informed decision about using the opportunities offered by digital technology;
- **Act together**, in association with all relevant stakeholders, as it is a shared responsibility issue.

Consequently, the Resolution calls on member authorities, acting together with all relevant stakeholders to:

- **Promote** digital literacy and to play a part in educating all relevant parts of the public, at all ages, to enable them to:
 - o Acquire the essential skills needed to effectively participate in the digital environment;

- Become informed and responsible actors in the digital environment; and
 - Efficiently make use of their rights and be aware of their duties.
- **Adopt** a common programme on digital education, based on 5 main principles and 4 operational objectives.

Main principles:

1. Specific protection should be provided to minors with respect to digital technology;
2. Lifelong training on digital technology should be fostered;
3. Appropriate balance between the opportunities and the risks of digital technology should be looked for;
4. The development of good customs should be fostered and respect for other users should be promoted;
5. Critical thinking regarding the risks and benefits of digital technology should be fostered.

Operational objectives:

1. Promoting privacy education as part of digital literacy programs;
2. Playing a part in training relay persons by organising or contributing towards “training of trainers” on data protection and privacy;
3. Promoting digital technology professions by promoting innovative sectors, especially sectors developing “privacy by design”;
4. Formulating recommendations and good practices on the use of new technologies for the concerned public (children, parents, teachers, companies ...).

A working group will be established to put into effect these operational objectives.

Explanatory note

During the last few years, many data protection authorities representing the main regional areas all over the world have been exchanging their experiences and have taken important initiatives on global awareness of children, young people and the educational community regarding data protection and privacy.

The present resolution is a follow-up of the resolution adopted at the 30th International Conference of Data Protection and Privacy Commissioners and aims at going one step further. These concrete proposals aim at promoting knowledge about digital technology and training all relevant parts of the public, at all ages. This should enable every citizen, to become informed and responsible actors in the digital environment, to efficiently make use of their rights and be aware of their duties in this universe. Therefore it is necessary to engage in a greater action targeting all relevant parts of the public.

Data protection authorities could contact their respective governments in order to take large-scale actions (legislative or in collaboration with any relevant actors, including the civil society) on the international level too.

Data protection authorities undertake to act in the long term and to regularly issue an assessment of the actions taken in order to ensure an effective follow-up of the recommendations provided for in the present resolution.