

GDPR enforcement



May 2023

Since the entry into application of the **GDPR**, enforcement has played a key role in ensuring data protection compliance.



Each year, hundreds of smaller and larger fines have been levied against organisations that do not handle personal data correctly. In 2022 alone, over **1400 fines** were issued by DPAs, for a grand total of €1.277.701.725.¹



These totals concern both national and cross-border cases. For cross-border cases, DPAs work together through the one-stop-shop mechanism. The majority of these cases are resolved via consensus between the DPAs: so far, **711 Final one-stop-shop** decisions have been taken.



When DPAs cannot reach an agreement, the case is escalated to the EDPB level and the dispute resolution procedure enshrined in the GDPR is triggered. These are usually cases raising complex legal questions and/or cases related to big international companies. So far, the EDPB has had to intervene in **8 such cases** and adopted binding decisions to settle the dispute.



While the EDPB addresses several aspects related to the dispute, most notably the EDPB weighs in on the fines and on key legal questions. Following EDPB binding decisions, fines issued by DPAs to important tech players, such as **Facebook, Instagram and Twitter increased by 600% on average**. In 2022, the cumulative amount of the fines handed out following a binding decision was approximately €800.000.000.

1. Based on a survey from March 2023: 33 DPAs took part, including 4 German Länder DPAs.