

Evaluation of the LED under Article 62 – Questions to Data Protection Authorities / European Data Protection Board

Fields marked with * are mandatory.

Background

The Data Protection Law Enforcement Directive (LED)^[1] entered into force on 6 May 2016 and the Member States had to transpose it by 6 May 2018^[2]. It applies to the domestic and cross-border processing of personal data by competent authorities for the purposes of preventing, investigating, detecting or prosecuting criminal offences and executing criminal penalties, including safeguarding against and preventing threats to public security . The LED is the first instrument that takes a comprehensive approach to data protection in the field of law enforcement, including by regulating ‘domestic’ processing. It is therefore a significant development compared with the earlier Framework Decision (which covered only transmission between Member States) that it repealed and replaced.

By harmonising the protection of personal data by law enforcement authorities in EU and Schengen countries, it contributes to increased trust and data exchange between authorities for law enforcement purposes, provided such exchange is based on a law, while at the same time ensuring that the rights of individuals are effectively protected.

As required by the LED^[3], the Commission shall present to the European Parliament and to the Council a first report on the evaluation and review of the Directive by 6 May 2022^[4]. Following the review the Commission shall, if necessary, submit appropriate proposals for amendments, in particular taking account of developments in information technology and in the light of the state of progress in the information society^[5].

The LED stipulates that the Commission shall take into account the positions and findings of the European Parliament, of the Council and of other relevant bodies or sources^[6]. The Commission may also request information from Member States and supervisory authorities. The Commission has already started a dialogue with the Member States through the Council Working party on Data Protection. A dedicated questionnaire has also been sent to civil society organisations by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA).

For the purpose of the evaluation and review the Commission shall in particular examine the application and functioning of the LED provisions on international data transfers^[7]. Besides, this questionnaire seeks to cover other aspects with particular relevance for the supervisory authorities, such as the exercise of their tasks and powers and their cooperation with each other, as well as the consistent application of the LED in the EU.

As this questionnaire intends to contribute to evaluating the LED, in your replies please provide information on your activities (e.g. as regards the decision-making, awareness-raising, training etc.) which fall under the scope of the LED.

We would be grateful to receive the replies to this questionnaire in its online form in English, before **5 November 2021**, so that they can be sent to the European Commission as part of the EDPB contribution to the LED review by 17 December 2021.

Please note that your replies may be made public.

When there are several DPAs in your Member State, please provide a consolidated reply at national level.

When replying, please take into account that the questions below concern the period from the date when the LED was transposed in your Member State to 5 November 2021, unless otherwise specified.

Following the input from other stakeholders, it is not excluded that we might have additional questions at a later stage.

[1] Directive (EU) 2016/680 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by competent authorities for the purposes of the prevention, investigation, detection or prosecution of criminal offences or the execution of criminal penalties, and on the free movement of such data.[2] Article 63(1) LED, [3] Article 62(1) LED,[4] Reports should subsequently be issued every four years. [5] Article 62(5) LED,[6] Article 62(4) LED, [7] Article 62(2) LED

QUESTIONNAIRE

We kindly ask the countries that have more than one SA to send us one consolidated reply.

* Select your Country

Cyprus

Powers

* Q1: In your opinion, did the LED strengthen your investigative powers / corrective powers?

- Yes
 No

* Q2: Please list your investigative powers

- To obtain, from the controller and the processor, access to all personal data and to all information necessary for the performance of its tasks
 To obtain access to any premises of the controller and the processor, including to any data processing equipment and means, in accordance with Union or Member State procedural law
 To carry out investigations in the form of data protection audits
 Other(s)

*** Q3: Do you consider your investigation powers effective**

- Yes
- No

Q3.2: If needed, please provide more details below:

Law 138(I)/2001, which transposed the provisions of Directive 95/46/EC into the national legal order, was applicable to processing activities carried out for law enforcement activities and empowered the Commissioner with investigative and corrective powers. We believe that the current legal regime, i.e. Law 44 (I)/2019, which transposes the provisions of the LED into the national legal order, maintains or strengthens the Commissioner's investigative and corrective powers.

*** Q4: Do you face any practical difficulties in applying your investigative powers?**

- Yes
- No

*** Q5: Have you conducted investigations and/or inspections on your own initiative or only on the basis of complaints?**

Multiple replies are possible

- On our own initiative
- On the basis of complaints

*** Q6: Do you have all the powers listed under Article 47(2)(a), (b – including rectification, erasure, restriction) and (c) LED?**

- Yes
- No

*** Q7: Do you have the same corrective powers towards all law enforcement authorities?**

- Yes
- No

*** Q8: Do you consider your corrective powers effective?**

- Yes
- No

*** Q9: Have you used your corrective powers?**

- Yes
- No

*** Q9.3: Please provide the reason why you have not used your corrective powers**

The Laws for SISII and VIS have not yet been put into effect. SIS II is not yet operable and a national VIS which has been operating by virtue of a Decision of the Council of Ministers, is in the process of reconstruction to be aligned with VIS Regulation and Decision.

Since Law 44(I)/2019 came into effect, we examined 11 complaints against the Police but none justified taking corrective measures.

Some of the complaints were unfounded and some had been concluded to the satisfaction of the complainants and did not justify taking corrective measures.

Complaints

*** Q10: Has there been an increase in complaints following the LED transposition in your Member State?**

- Yes
 No

*** Q10.1: Please indicate approximate increase in percentages.**

There was a slight increase in 2021.

*** Q11: Please indicate the issues raised the most in these complaints, in particular as regards data subject rights.**

- The respect of the proportionality and necessity principle (Article 4 LED)
- The respect of the purpose limitation principle, including for subsequent processing
- Data minimisation principle (Article 4 (1)(c) LED)
- Accuracy of the data (Article 4 (1)(d) LED)
- Storage limitation principle (Article 4 (1)(e) LED) and appropriate time limits (Article 5 LED)
- Accountability of the controller (Article 4(4) LED)
- The determination of the legal basis (Article 8 / Article 10 LED)
- The conditions related to the processing of special categories of personal data (Article 10 LED)
- Automated individual decision-making, including the right to obtain human intervention in automated individual decision-making (Article 11 LED)
- Modalities for exercising the rights (Article 12 LED)
- The right to information (Article 13 LED)
- Right of access by the data subject and limitations to this right (Articles 14 and 15 LED)
- The right to rectification or erasure of personal data (Article 16 LED)
- Exercise of the data subject's rights in the context of joint controllership (Article 21 LED)
- Data protection by design and by default (Article 20)
- The obligation to keep track of the logs and purposes of processing regarding the logs (Article 25 LED)
- The obligation to conduct a data protection impact assessment (Article 27 LED)
- The obligation to ensure the security of processing, including data breaches (Articles 4(1)(f), 29 LED)
- Other

Q11.12: Right of access by the data subject and limitations to this right (Articles 14 and 15 LED) - raised issues:

Most complaints related to the exercise of the right to access.

*** Q12: Are you following up on all complaints?**

- Yes
 No

*** Q13: Have you received complaints by organisations representing data subjects under Article 55 LED?**

- Yes
 No

Consultations and advisory powers

*** Q14: Have competent authorities utilised the prior consultation procedure in accordance with Article 28 (1)(a) or (b) LED?**

- Yes
 No

*** Q14.1: In this context, did you provide written advice and/or use your corrective powers pursuant to Article 28(5) LED?**

- Yes
 No

*** Q14.1.1: In how many cases did you provide written advice and/or use your corrective powers pursuant to Article 28(5) LED?**

No available numbers. Our Office has been consulted with on several occasions. Most of the impact assessments that had been submitted to our Office, related to the combination of large scale IT systems in accordance with section 31 of the Law (for envisaged data exchange/ sharing among law enforcement authorities) and section 10 of Law 125(I)/2018, which implements certain provisions of the GDPR (for envisaged data exchange/ sharing between a law enforcement authority and other public authorities). Insofar, there had not been any cases that justified using our corrective powers.

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Q15: Have you established a list of processing operations subject to prior consultation pursuant to Article 28(3) LED?

- Yes
 No

*** Q16: Does your national parliament / government consult you during the preparation of legislative or other regulatory measures with a data protection dimension ?**

- Not at all
 Occasionally
 Systematically

*** Q17: How many opinions under Article 47(3) LED, other than prior consultations pursuant to Art 28 (1) LED, have you issued upon request or on your own initiative?**

- (a) 4 Memorandums of Understanding for police cooperation
(b) 4 Bilateral Agreements (3 of which were with third countries) and
(c) 4 draft bills

*** Q18: Please indicate the types of issues on which competent authorities have approached you for advice (e.g. data breach notifications, handling of data subjects' requests, security).**

[Multiple replies are possible – please note that as regards consultations in the context of DPIAs relevant replies should be made to Questions 17 and 18]

- The respect of the proportionality and necessity principle (Article 4 LED)
 Storage limitation principle (Article 4 (1)(e) LED) and appropriate time limits (Article 5 LED)
 Accountability of the controller (Article 4(4) LED)
 The determination of the legal basis (Article 8 / Article 10 LED)
 Processing of special categories of personal data (Article 10 LED)
 Types of processing, in particular, using new technologies, mechanisms or procedures (Article 27 / Article 28 (1)(a) LED)
 Processing for purpose of research and/or innovation (Article 9(2) LED)
 Automated individual decision-making, including profiling (Article 11 LED)
 Modalities for exercising the rights (Article 12 LED)
 Handling of data subjects requests in relation to the exercise of their rights (Chapter III LED)
 Joint controllership, including on the arrangements of the joint controllers' responsibilities (Article 21 LED)
 Controller / processor arrangements (Article 22 LED)
 Data protection by design and by default, including anonymisation and pseudonymisation (Article 20 LED)
 The obligation to keep track of the logs and purposes of processing regarding the logs (Article 25 LED)
 Appropriate security measures (Article 4(1)(f) and Article 29 LED)
 Other

*** Q18.16: Other - raised issues:**

Our Office has been consulted with on several occasions. Most of the impact assessments that had been submitted to our Office, related to the combination of large scale IT systems in accordance with section 31 of the Law (for envisaged data exchange/ sharing among law enforcement authorities) and section 10 of Law 125(I)/2018, which implements certain provisions of the GDPR (for envisaged data exchange/ sharing between a law enforcement authority and other public authorities). Insofar, there had not been any cases

that justified using our corrective powers.

In the course of examining data protection impact assessments (DPIAs) submitted to our Office for prior consultation, we have provided guidance and advices to competent authorities or processors, for ensuring that the measures relating to the DPIAs comply with Law 44(l)/2019. Also, several policies that the Police has prepared, for example for the exercise of rights, had been consulted with our Office before they were adopted.

Awareness-raising, training and guidance

*** Q19: Have you issued guidance and / or practical tools supporting competent authorities or processors to comply with their obligations?**

- Yes
 No

*** Q19.1: Please list them below**

Not in the form of Guidelines or practical tools. However, in the course of examining data protection impact assessments (DPIAs) submitted to our Office for prior consultation, we have provided guidance and advices to competent authorities or processors, for ensuring that the measures relating to the DPIAs comply with Law 44(l)/2019. Also, several policies that the Police has prepared, for example for the exercise of rights, had been consulted with our Office before they were adopted.

*** Q20: Have you provided training to / carried out awareness-raising activities for competent authorities and / or processors (DPOs included)?**

- Yes
 No

*** Q20.1: how many and on which topics?**

Yes. In the course of training courses organized by the Police Academy, the Commissioner made several general presentations in relation to the Police's data protection obligations but also specific presentations, tailored to address particular topics of interest to the Police.

Data breach notifications

* Q21: How many data breach notifications have you received?

We have received 3 data breach notifications by the Police. All were handled under the GDPR.

* Q22: In what proportion have you followed up with investigations?(%)

All of them

* Q23: In what proportion have you advised or ordered competent authorities to take measures mitigating the risks ?(%)

None.

* Q24: In what proportion has the communication to the data subject been delayed, restricted or omitted on the grounds set out in Article 13(3) LED? (%)

None.

Power pursuant to Article 47(5) LED

Q25: Have you exercised your power to

	Yes	No
* bring infringements of your national law(s) transposing the LED to the attention of judicial authorities?	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
* commence or otherwise engage in legal proceedings?	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

* Q26: Did you face difficulties in exercising this power?

- Yes
 No

Exercise of data subjects' rights through the SA

* Q27: How many requests under Article 17 LED have you received?

None.

*** Q27.1: What were the outcomes of the cases?**

Multiple choices are possible

- Request declared inadmissible
- All or some data requested provided to data subject
- SA informed data subject that it has conducted all necessary verifications or a review
- Controller ordered to provide (partial) access to the personal data
- Controller ordered to rectify personal data
- Controller ordered to erase personal data
- Controller ordered to restrict the processing of personal data
- SA applied other corrective powers (e.g. a ban on processing and/or fines)
- Others

*** Q27.1.2: Other - Please specify:**

Not applicable.

*** Q28: Did encounter any particular problems?**

- Yes
- No

International transfers

*** Q29: Have you encountered cases where a controller transferred personal data based on a 'self-assessment' pursuant to Article 37(1)(b) LED?**

- Yes
- No

*** Q30: Have you carried out any investigations into data transfers based on derogations, in particular those set out in Article 38(1)(c) and (d) LED?**

- Yes
- No

*** Q31: Have you received any information pursuant to Article 39(3) LED about data transfers based on Article 39(1) LED?**

- Yes
- No

* Q32: Have you carried out activities to promote the awareness of controllers/processors (specifically) with respect to their obligations under Chapter V of the LED?

- Yes
 No

* Q33: Have you exercised your advisory powers towards the government and/or competent authorities with respect to data transfers under Chapter V of the LED, for instance as regards the level of appropriate safeguards under Article 37(1)(a), (b) LED)?

- Yes
 No

* Q34: Have you provided (or been asked to provide) assistance to Member States in assessing and, where necessary, reviewing their international agreements involving international data transfers (for instance, relating to mutual legal assistance, police cooperation) that were concluded prior to 6 May 2016?

- Yes
 No

* Q35: Have you received/handled complaints (by data subjects and/or bodies, organisations or associations in accordance with Article 55) specifically addressing the issue of data transfers?

- Yes
 No

* Q36: Have you exercised your investigative and/or enforcement powers with respect to data transfers?

- Yes
 No

* Q37: Have there been cases in which you have cooperated with foreign data protection authorities (for instance, exchange of information, complaint referral, mutual assistance)?

- Yes
 No

Judicial review

* Q38: Have data subjects / competent authorities / processors contested your decisions (or inaction) before national courts?

- Yes
 No

Cooperation

* Q39: Have you used the mutual assistance tool under Article 50 LED?

- Yes

No

* Q40: Have you encountered any obstacles (e.g. of an administrative nature) when requesting or providing assistance to another DPA?

Yes

No

Human, financial and technical resources

Q41: How many persons (in full time equivalents) in your DPA (respectively EDPB Secretariat) work on issues that fall within the scope of the LED specifically?

	Number (FTE)	%
* 2017	1	6%
* 2018	1	6%
* 2019	1	4%
* 2020	2	10%
* 2021	2	9%

* Q42: How would you assess your DPA's resources for its work on the LED from a human and financial point of view?

Sufficient

Insufficient

Q42.1: Please explain why the resources are insufficient:

For the time being, sufficient. In light of the coming operation of SIS II and VIS, insufficient

* Q43: Do you face any specific challenges when supervising competent authorities in terms of expertise (criminal law / technical / IT) and IT resources?

Yes

No

Horizontal questions

*** Q44: In your opinion, what has been the main impact(s) of the transposition of the LED in your Member State?**

As explained above, due to the fact that Law 138(I)/2001 did apply to processing activities carried out for Law enforcement purposes, the transposition of the LED, with Law 44(I0/2019, did not have a major impact.

*** Q45: Have you identified any specific challenges regarding the application of the LED in relation to new technologies? Please explain?**

- Yes
 No

*** Q45.1: Please explain.**

We have issued an Opinion to the Police, taking the view, that the introduction of technologies that constitute high risks for individuals, by virtue of the Constitution, must be regulated by Law. The use of technologies that do not constitute high risks, could be regulated by “soft law”, e.g. Police Orders/ Circulars, binding for police members, after prior consultation with and the approval of the Commissioner.

*** Q46: Have you identified any important problems regarding the transposition of the LED in your Member State?**

- Yes
 No

*** Q47: Is there anything else you would like to mention relevant for the LED evaluation that is not covered in this questionnaire?**

- Yes
 No

