



Issue 4 - July 2024

NEWSLETTER

RAISING DATA PROTECTION AWARENESS AMONG CHILDREN

CREATING AN OPEN SOURCE OF KNOWLEDGE FOR PRIVACY PROFESSIONALS

The byDefault project is funded by the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme (CERV) of the European Union and is coordinated by the Hellenic Data Protection Authority.

Views and opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the project partners only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or European Commission. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.

The Partners

The byDefault consortium is comprised of three partners that represent three areas: regulatory, academic and software industry. The coordinator of the project is the Hellenic Data Protection Authority and the other two partners are the University of Piraeus Research Center and ICT Abovo PC.



The project's Goals

PROMOTE the creation of an open source of knowledge for **DPOs and privacy professionals**.

Visit the website of the project at
<https://bydefault-project.eu/>

RAISE data protection and privacy awareness among the critical social group of **children**.

DPOs and privacy professionals

In brief

As described in [Newsletter 3](#), the **collaboration platform for DPOs and privacy professionals** has been operational since September 2023, with a discussion space (for registered users) and a digital library (open to everyone).

- So far, **340 users** have registered on the platform. However, user participation in discussions remains limited, with few topics being initiated by users and limited participation as feedback on existing topics.
- Video surveillance systems were the **new main topic** of discussion during this last period.
- During this period, **9 texts** were added to the digital library.
- No comment was received via the digital library. It should be noted, though, that visitors to the library's website have the opportunity to **view or download locally** to their computers the texts/documents posted on the platform without being registered as users.

Evaluation of the Platform

At the end of May 2024 and until June 2024, **the platform was evaluated** by 42 of its users using the **SUS methodology** and a set of specific questions.

The **results** of the evaluation have led to the following conclusions:

- **The technical implementation of the platform was rated very positively.** In general, it was considered to be simple and easy to use, uncomplicated, with sufficiently comprehensive functionality.
- Users acknowledged that **they do not make sufficient use of the platform.**

DPOs and privacy professionals

- Users cited the **lack of time** as the main reason for not making sufficient use of the platform and the digital library.
- They also added that it is **not necessary in their daily work** and that they can easily find information in other ways.
- However, they say that **they would like to see it enriched** with more thematic units.

Finally, on the question of whether, given the low level of participation, the platform is useful or needs to be modified or should be replaced by another solution, **the majority of respondents (45%) said that it is useful as it is**, a significant percentage (31%) that it should be enriched with other functions and around 25% that the application should have been implemented differently.

In the individual comments, the prevailing view was that **the platform should be further promoted by the Authority**.

Conclusions of the project team

From the evaluation, the project team concludes that the number of professionals in Greece who actively deal with personal data protection issues on a daily basis is not large. There is a sufficient number of professionals who deal with data protection, but along with other tasks, so it is doubtful that they can take the time to delve into data protection issues.

A second conclusion concerns data protection officers (DPOs). It was observed that they had little involvement in the platform (with a few exceptions). From the evaluation of the platform, it is not possible to draw firm conclusions on the reasons for the low

DPOs and privacy professionals

rate of participation of DPOs, but possible causes seem to be:

- the subtle reluctance to ask questions in order not to reveal internal issues of each institution or their lack of knowledge on the issues,
- the allocation of the role and position of DPO is not necessarily combined with the provision of sufficient time for training and information.

Next steps to be taken

In any case, the participation of those professionals who are genuinely interested in using the platform could be further encouraged by the Authority if it were to be more systematically promoted as the **main tool through which professionals and DPOs can find answers to any questions** they may have in the exercise of their duties.

Other ways to encourage professionals to be actively involved in the platform would be to **promote the platform on the homepage of the Authority's website** as the main means of providing guidance to professionals in the field.

Finally, at the **international conference** on the results of the project on **24 July 2024**, session 2 will be dedicated to the platform and there will be time to **discuss users' needs and wishes** and possible future solutions.



Children

In brief

In the last quarter of 2023 and especially in the first semester of 2024, teacher trainings and pilot educational activities for students were held to raise students' awareness of data protection and to develop teachers' professional skills and knowledge.

Training activities for teachers

Primary and secondary school teachers followed a comprehensive training program **in data protection** through **four independent training events**, as follows:

- an introductory, in person, awareness-raising event on 4 October 2023;
- a fast-track training webinar on 15 February 2024;
- a 50-hour (8-week) extended learning and training seminar from 4 April to 6 June 2024; and
- a fast-track training webinar on 18 June 2024 (following the first three training events described in [Newsletter 3](#)).

Building on the cumulative experience of the previous training events, the participating teachers were familiarized with the basic objectives and concepts of the educational game “**Tzimanious**”.

A total of **248 teachers** from different regions of Greece with wide geographical coverage attended the training events.



Children

Evaluation of the training events

In order to evaluate the above mentioned training events, the participating teachers filled in online questionnaires. The **questionnaires** were delivered via the EU Survey platform.

Participants expressed their **opinion on several aspects**, including the ease and usefulness of the learning methods and resources, duration, content, organisation, objectives of the learning experience, acquisition of appropriate knowledge and skills, and suggestions for improvement.

The results of the evaluation analysis were **overwhelmingly positive** and confirmed the **effectiveness** of the training sessions in enhancing teachers' understanding and knowledge of data protection and privacy.

Pilot training of students

The **pilot training of students** took place in 24 classes, mainly in public (21 classes) and private (3 classes) primary (6 classes) and secondary (13 middle school and 5 high school classes) schools, with more than 500 students participating.

Apart from piloting all the learning materials produced, the pilot training focused also on the use of the **augmented reality board game "Tzimanious"** as a tool to inform and raise students' awareness on data protection and privacy.

Teachers who used the training materials and learning tools in their classrooms, as well as students, filled in questionnaires, combining qualitative and quantitative evaluation methods, aiming to gain full understanding of the impact from both teacher and student



Children

perspectives. The relevant findings highlight the **positive influence of “Tzimanious” game** in improving learning outcomes.

Final conclusions and perspectives

The byDefault project gave the Authority the opportunity to fulfil a very important objective: to make a **significant contribution to informing and raising awareness among children about the protection of their personal data.**

Although the Authority had previously created and maintained a special [microsite](#) as well as videos and other informative materials for children at www.dpa.gr, the educational materials and tools developed within the project have already been used to create a special skills laboratory.

It is expected that this will be used by all primary and secondary schools, and that the teacher training programme will continue to be offered by the Centre for Training and Lifelong Learning (KEVIDIM) of the University of Piraeus.



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