

# SMEDATA Newsletter

Issue 4/ November 2020

## About the Project

The main objective of the SMEDATA project is to promote the effective application of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) through awareness, multiplying training and sustainable capacity building for SMEs and their associations, including their legal advisors. The project aims at ensuring sector specific and sustainable knowledge and implementation of GDPR through self-assessment and awareness tools and through assisting the understanding and compliance with GDPR.

To reach this ambitious goal, the SMEDATA partners strive to achieve the following underlying objectives:

- Preparation for the effective application of the GDPR through awareness, multiplying training and sustainable capacity building for SMEs and their associations, including their legal advisors;

- Ensuring sector - specific and sustainable knowledge and implementation of GDPR through self-assessment and awareness tool;
- Assisting the understanding and compliance with GDPR through the development of an innovative software tool.

Among the major planned activities for achieving those objectives are:

- (i) Organization of numerous awareness-raising and training events in Bulgaria and Italy;
- (ii) Elaboration of a self-assessment and awareness tool 'translating' GDPR rules;
- (iii) Development of mobile application 'GDPR in Your Pocket';
- (iv) Deployment of a large-scale dissemination campaign.

[www.smedata.eu](http://www.smedata.eu)



## Project Update Project Achievements



*The last challenging months have been very active for SMEDATA Project. The teams in Bulgaria and Italy have been involved in some of the Project major events*

### 2 Training of Trainers in Italy

After developing the training methodology by the entire SMEDATA project consortium, Italian partners prepared a detailed schedule for the organisation of the training of trainers. The two dedicated two-days training seminars in Rome were:

- First Training of Trainers event - 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> September 2020;
- Second Training of Trainers event - 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> September 2020.

The achieved number of participants was 1781 (478 attendees as well as 1303 online participants).

The aim was to introduce GDPR to the multipliers, namely various professional organisations of businesses and legal practitioners. The attendees were expected to familiarise themselves with the skills they need to understand evolving data obligations. They were provided with practical experience through this intensive two-day workshop. As well as GDPR compliance, they are expected to be prepared to help clients understand their existing obligations, implement appropriate systems for compliance and manage specific challenges as they arise from time to time.

### Training of Trainers events in Bulgaria

Participants, representatives of SMEs as well as their associations along with legal professionals, were provided with practical examples and guidance how to organize and conduct trainings, especially in online environment, through the intensive two-day online events. As well as GDPR compliance, they are expected to be prepared to help clients understand their existing obligations, implement appropriate systems for compliance and manage specific challenges as they arise from time to time.

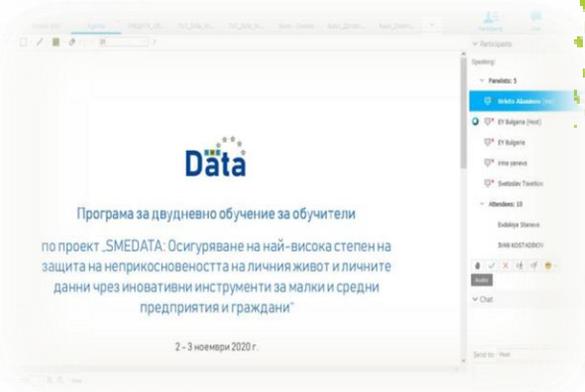
The workshops were practical and interactive with special time dedicated to discussion and group exercises including case studies. Additionally, during the training of trainers, the participants had the chance to discuss practical questions that had been raised during the awareness trainings organised within the previous activity.

Besides, the events were an opportunity to hear about the current project development and to disseminate some of the results so far. The partners had a short presentation on the headline results from the project.

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## Project Update Project Achievements



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### Training of Trainers in Bulgaria

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Both training events had 4 main modules:

- Approaches for presenting models of compliance with the GDPR;
- Presentation of sources of information based on international aspects of personal data protection;
- Methods for instant access to information related to data protection: “GDPR in Your Pocket”;
- The role of the trainer in the field of personal data protection.

The achieved number of participants was 84. The two dedicated two-days training seminars in Bulgaria were:

- First Training of Trainers event – 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2020;
- Second Training of Trainers event – 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> November 2020.

*All training materials are available at:*  
<https://smedata.eu/index.php/documents/>

The content of this newsletter represents the views of the partners of the SMEDATA project and is their sole responsibility. The European Commission does not accept any responsibility for use that may be made of the information it contains.

### Recent in the area:

#### *Forty-first Plenary Session of the European Data Protection Board*

On November 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>, the EU and the EEA Data Protection Authorities and the European Data Protection Supervisor, assembled in the European Data Protection Board, met for their forty-first plenary session. During the plenary a wide range of topics were discussed. [Read more about adopted documents...](#)

#### *Annual Privacy Forum 2020*

ENISA, DG CONNECT and the Católica University of Portugal, Lisbon school of Law organised the Annual Privacy Forum (APF) 2020 at 22-23 October. [Read more...](#)

#### *Global Privacy Assembly 2020*

The 42<sup>nd</sup> Global Privacy Assembly Closed Session took place virtually on 13-15 October, with more than 100 members and observers joining together to consider key data protection and privacy challenges. [Read more...](#)



# Project Update Project Achievements



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## International Conference for SMEs and their organisations

More than 282 representatives of small and medium-sized enterprises and personal data protection specialists took part in the Final International Conference under the SMEDATA Project, held online on October 28, 2020. The event reviewed the results of the activities carried out within the project, aimed at raising awareness of personal data protection among representatives of small and medium enterprises (SMEs). Current challenges to the processing of personal data, including aspects imposed by the Covid-19 pandemic, were also discussed.

The Conference was opened by the Vice President of the Italian Data Protection Authority - Ms Ginevra Cerrina Feroni,

Chairman of CPDP Mr Ventsislav Karadjov, and Prof. Luca Pietromarchi, Rector of the Roma Tre University.

The conference included four panels on various topics related to the processing and protection of personal data:

- The experience of the SMEDATA Project: results of the awareness raising activity and multiplication of GDPR training for SMEs;
- The processing of personal data in SMEs, also in the light of the requirements imposed by the Covid-19 pandemic: comparing experiences;
- Good practices for the proper processing of personal data by SMEs;
- Pseudonymisation, security and data breach.

More information and a full record of the Conference: [here](#).



## CURRENT FOCUS



Data

*The work of the SMEDATA team is currently focused on completing project implementation in compliance with the SMEDATA Grant Agreement.*

### **SMEDATA II - Ensuring the Highest Degree of Privacy and Personal Data Protection through Innovative Tools for SMEs and Citizens**

Last almost 3 years were paramount years for small and medium-sized enterprises in Bulgaria and Italy in the light of application of GDPR.

Various initiatives - surveys, awareness training events, international conference as well as mobile app "GDPR in your pocket" were dedicated to SME representatives and their associations in both EU Member States under SMEDATA project.

SMEDATA team proudly announces that at the beginning of the second quarter of 2020 we succeeded in preparing and submitting a successful project application form. Current preparation process has lead to further funding project efforts after completing SMEDATA this November.

The second stage of the project has following objectives:

- Preparation for the effective application of the GDPR through awareness, multiplying training and sustainable capacity building for SMEs and legal professionals;

- Assisting the understanding and compliance with GDPR through the upgrade of a mobile app "GDPR in your pocket",

in order to achieve following results:

- High level of awareness about the European data protection rules among SMEs and citizens;
- Built capacity on data protection issues for the management and expert staff of associations and other bodies representing SMEs with multiplying effect for their members;
- Common understanding among business organisations about the benefits for business operators and customers of implementing measures of a GDPR-compliant methodology;
- Exchanged experience and best practices among project partners and the participants of the international conference organised within the project framework.

Further information, as usual:

[www.smedata.eu](http://www.smedata.eu)



## PROJECT TIMELINE NEXT STEPS

*Over the coming almost two years the SMEDATA team will complete the following activities under the second stage of the project:*

**January 2021 – June 2022**

**SMEDATA II – Ensuring the Highest Degree of Privacy and Personal Data Protection through Innovative Tools for SMEs and Citizens**

Work Packages:

- Awareness and Training;
- Mobile Application;
- Dissemination and Communication.

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## Contacts:

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