



COURSE UNIT (MODULE) DESCRIPTION

Course unit (module) title	Code
DATA PROTECTION IN ACTION: WHEN A CLIENT COMES TO THE LAWYER	

Lecturer(s)	Department(s)
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Study cycle	Type of the course unit (module)
Second	Optional

Mode of delivery	Course unit delivery period	Language(s) of instruction
Blended	Spring semester	English

Requirements for students	
Pre-requisites: none	Co-requisites (if any): none

Number of credits allocated	Total student's workload	Contact hours	Self-study hours
5	133	32	101

Purpose of the course unit (module): programme competences to be developed		
The aim of the course is to prepare students in a practical way to solve real legal problems related to personal data protection in an international and digital environment; to develop abilities to analyse real-world applications of data protection law in different jurisdictions (EU, UK, US, Brazil), allowing students to compare different approaches to privacy protection, compliance, and data controller accountability, as well as to comprehend how these regulations affect the practices of international organizations and corporations; to develop abilities to draft fragments of compliance documentation.		
Learning outcomes of the course unit (module)	Teaching and learning methods	Assessment methods
Students will understand the global and regional frameworks of data protection law (EU, UK, US, Brazil), including the philosophical, legal, and institutional foundations of privacy protection. They will be able to identify the main similarities and differences between these systems and evaluate their practical implications for multinational organizations.	Lectures introduce key theoretical foundations and comparative legal frameworks necessary to understand the international and European regulation of personal data protection. These sessions are complemented by flipped classroom activities, in which students prepare through readings and short video materials before class. During in-class sessions, the focus is placed on problem-based discussion and comparative analysis of different regimes (GDPR, UK GDPR, CCPA, LGPD). Group discussions, debates and guided case analyses help students apply legal principles to real-world global contexts and develop critical reasoning skills.	Discussion questions, single-choice test, research paper and its presentation
Students will be able to map personal data flows in multinational organizations and classify data according to their sensitivity, purpose, and lawful basis. They will understand the logic and structure of the Records of Processing Activities (RPA) and their role in accountability.	Practical sessions focusing on <i>data mapping exercises</i> and preparation of documentation fragments. Students work in groups simulating compliance teams to identify data sources, transfers, and retention periods. Learning is supported by visual tools (mapping templates, flowcharts). The method promotes teamwork, applied reasoning, and problem-solving. Practical exercise assessing students' ability to map data flows and identify compliance risks.	Discussion questions, research paper and its presentation
Students will comprehend and apply GDPR principles (lawfulness, fairness, transparency, purpose)	<i>Flipped classroom</i> with preparatory reading (e.g. GDPR Articles 5–6) followed by case study analysis (e.g. hotel video surveillance, location data in transport)	Discussion questions, single-choice test, research

limitation, data minimization, accuracy, storage limitation, integrity/confidentiality, accountability) in concrete operational contexts such as monitoring, profiling, or mobile applications.	apps). Students collaborate to create a “GDPR Principles Matrix”, linking categories of data, risks, and safeguards. Lecturer-led reflection connects each principle to compliance documentation and ethical practice.	paper and its presentation
Students will identify and apply appropriate legal bases for data processing (consent, contract, legitimate interest, legal obligation, vital interest, public task) and will be able to prepare accurate and user-friendly privacy notices and consent clauses for different legal environments.	Problem-based learning combined with drafting practical sessions. Students analyse EU and US regulations, then draft privacy clauses for two contexts: a job applicant in the EU and an e-commerce customer in the US. Peer review and class discussion help refine both language and legal logic. Practical exercise assessing students’ ability to map data flows and identify compliance risks.	Discussion questions, single-choice test, research paper and its presentation
Students will understand and apply the rights of data subjects (right of access, rectification, erasure, restriction, portability, objection) and will be able to prepare an internal Data Subject Request (DSR) procedure that ensures timely and lawful responses.	Practical sessions include simulated handling of a DSR (based on real cases, e.g. <i>Google Spain v. AEPD</i>). Students work in groups to prepare a procedural template, assigning internal roles and timeframes. Discussion follows, linking procedure design with accountability and transparency obligations. Practical exercise assessing students’ ability to map data flows and identify compliance risks.	Discussion questions, single-choice test, research paper and its presentation
Students will understand how to organize data protection compliance in a company and integrate <i>privacy by design</i> and <i>privacy by default</i> principles into organizational and technological processes.	Practical sessions devoted to preparing a privacy policy for a mobile application, combined with simulation of the DPO’s advisory role. Students analyse examples from practice (WhatsApp vs. Signal) and debate design choices that affect user privacy. <i>Flipped classroom</i> materials introduce key compliance management concepts before class. Practical exercise assessing students’ ability to map data flows and identify compliance risks.	Discussion questions, research paper and its presentation
Students will be able to identify and respond to data protection incidents , recognize, analyse and report data breaches, and propose corrective and preventive measures in line with GDPR Articles 33–34 and best international standards.	Case-based learning and simulation exercises. Students analyse notable breach cases (e.g. British Airways, Marriott) and apply the legal reporting framework to hypothetical scenarios. They prepare a breach notification form and present communication strategies to supervisory authorities and affected individuals.	Discussion questions, research paper, including privacy notes and consent clauses, and their presentation
Students will be able to plan and conduct a data protection audit and evaluate the data protection culture in an organization. They will prepare an audit report and a compliance checklist, demonstrating practical understanding of accountability mechanisms.	<i>Project-based learning</i> – students, working in small groups, conduct a simulated audit of a chosen organization. They analyse official EDPB and national DPA decisions (e.g. TikTok, Google Analytics) and integrate lessons into their reports. Peer feedback and reflection support learning from practice and error analysis. Practical exercise assessing students’ ability to map data flows and identify compliance risks.	Discussion questions, research paper
Students will communicate orally and in writing contributing to the specialist discussion, providing their own insights and reasoning their opinions.	Seminar discussions based on selected case studies and readings, encouraging students to express and justify their own opinions. Workshops and group work focused on problem-solving and developing arguments in a collaborative setting. Peer feedback sessions to promote critical engagement and constructive evaluation of others’ contributions. Active participation and reflection are emphasized throughout, ensuring that students not only acquire knowledge but also practice applying it in professional communication.	Discussion questions, research paper and its presentation

Content: breakdown of the topics	Contact hours	Self-study: hours and assignments
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	Lectures	Consultations	Seminars	Practical sessions	Laboratory activities	Internship/work	Contact hours	Self-study hours	Assignments
1. Introduction and practical foundations of data protection <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Overview of international and regional data protection systems (GDPR, UK GDPR, CCPA, LGPD). Definitions of personal data, controller and processor. Global privacy principles. Major data scandals. <i>Case studies</i>: Cambridge Analytica and Amazon. 	1		1	2			4	14	<p>Preparation for discussion: how global privacy regulations differ in their objectives and enforcement.</p> <p>Case study analysis: Cambridge Analytica and Amazon – what compliance failures occurred?</p> <p>Preparation of document: beginning of the Global Data Protection Policy (scope, definitions, principles).</p> <p>Preparation of research paper.</p>
2. Data mapping and classification <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Data categories and sensitivity. Mapping of data flows. Documentation obligations (Art. 30 GDPR). International data transfers and accountability. <i>Case studies</i>: HR recruitment via LinkedIn; cloud processing, Google Cloud. 	1		1	2			4	12	<p>Preparation for workshop: review of sample data mapping templates.</p> <p>Group work: creation of an excerpt from the Record of Processing Activities (RPA).</p> <p>Preparation for discussion: challenges of cross-border data transfers.</p> <p>Preparation of research paper.</p>
3. Principles of data processing in practice <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Core GDPR principles: lawfulness, fairness, transparency, purpose limitation, minimization, accuracy, retention, integrity, accountability). <i>Case studies</i>: hotel video surveillance (Spain); transport apps (Uber, Bolt). 	1		1	2			4	14	<p>Preparation for discussion: application of data minimization and transparency in real contexts.</p> <p>Workshop: development of a GDPR Principles Matrix for a mobile app (linking data categories, purposes, safeguards).</p> <p>Reflection: how can excessive data collection affect user trust?</p> <p>Preparation of research paper.</p>
4. Legal bases for data processing <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Legal grounds under GDPR Articles 6–9, Differences in consent and legitimate interest between the EU, UK, US and Brazil. <i>Case studies</i>: e-mail marketing (EU vs. US); biometric identification at airports. 	1		1	2			4	12	<p>Preparation for discussion: comparing EU “double opt-in” and US “opt-out” systems.</p> <p>Drafting task: sample information clauses – (a) job applicant in the EU, (b) e-commerce customer in the US.</p> <p>Peer feedback: presentation and evaluation of drafted clauses.</p> <p>Preparation of research paper.</p>
5. Rights of data subjects <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Rights under GDPR Chapter III. CCPA rights to opt-out and delete. LGPD parallels. 	1		1	2			4	13	<p>Preparation for discussion: how do individual data rights differ across jurisdictions?</p>

4. <i>Case studies</i> : e.g., Google Spain v. AEPD and Mario Costeja González, C-131/12, 2014.									Simulation: handling a data subject request (DSR) – right to erasure. Preparation of document: procedure for handling DSRs (roles, timeline, communication). Preparation of research paper.
6. Organizing compliance in a company <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Compliance structures. DPO role. Privacy by design/default, risk management, and outsourcing. <i>Case studies</i>: WhatsApp vs. Signal (approach to encryption and privacy); IT outsourcing to India/Philippines. 	1		1	2			4	12	Preparation for discussion: how privacy by design shapes corporate accountability. Group project: drafting a privacy policy for a mobile application, including international transfers. Peer review: comparison of team solutions. Preparation of research paper.
7. Risks, incidents and data breaches <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Identifying and managing data breaches. Notification requirements (Art. 33–34 GDPR). Incident response strategy. Documentation of breaches. <i>Case studies</i>: e.g., Marriott International (2018–2020); H&M (Hamburg DPA, 2020). 	0.5		0.5	3			4	12	Preparation for discussion: what factors increase data breach risk in global companies? Simulation: incident response and breach notification exercise. Preparation of document: breach report and corrective action plan. Preparation of research paper.
8. Audit and data protection culture <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Conducting internal audits and compliance reviews. Accountability culture and ethical dimension of privacy. Decision-making in complex compliance environments. <i>Case studies</i>: TikTok (EU/US/UK) and Google Analytics (Austria, France, Italy). 	0.5		0.5	3			4	12	Preparation for discussion: can effective privacy protection exist without organizational culture? Group work: Data Protection Audit simulation – preparation of an Audit Report and Checklist. Preparation of research paper, presentation of it and peer feedback session.
Total	7		7	18			32	101	

Assessment strategy	Weight, percentage	Assessment period	Assessment criteria
Participation in the class discussions	30	During semester	<p>Students will be expected to demonstrate both the knowledge gained during the course as well as their abilities to apply it in a given situation. Active participation in the discussions and in group work. The evaluation will be based on the following: the fact that the intervention of the student is to the point, the relevance of the arguments raised, and the fact that the arguments presented are logic, coherent and persuasive. Maximum evaluation: 3 points.</p> <p>Participation in practical sessions and seminars is mandatory: at least 6 practical sessions and/or seminars. If more practical session and/or seminars is missed, the part of practical sessions and/or seminars missed exceeding the permitted limit is to be settled during time arranged with the lecturer. The form of settling the missed practical sessions and/or seminars depends on the on the topic covered during the missed practical session and/or seminar.</p>
Test	10	During semester	One-choice test (10 closed and open-ended questions) on topics discussed during lectures and practical sessions/seminars. (0.1 points x 10 questions = 1 point). Students will be asked to select the correct

			answer from three options offered as a list and/or students will be asked to insert the necessary word/phrase in a sentence. Maximum evaluation: 1 point .
Research paper and presentation of it orally	60	June	The assessment of short written research paper (supplemented by prepared legal documents) and oral presentation. 2 points: Paper content and analysis – demonstrated ability to critically assess legal and ethical issues, identify key features, trends and developments within the selected topic; correct and relevant use of sources; critical and analytical thinking; formulation of conclusions and/or recommendations, proper substance of supplemented legal documents. 2 points Paper structure, style and documentation – clear structure (introduction, analysis, conclusion), use of academic language, precision of wording, correct referencing and ethical citation. Where applicable, inclusion of related accurately prepared legal documents (e.g., privacy notice, consent clause, DSR, DPIA outline) as annexes demonstrating practical application of theoretical knowledge. 1 point for oral presentation (concentrated work presentation, clear arguments in support of points made in a logical, coherent and structured manner, adhesive scientific language, the use of informative visual aids); 1 point for efficient and active participation in discussion, answering to questions, contribution to other participants' ideas Maximum evaluation: 6 points .

Author	Year of publication	Title	Issue of a periodical or volume of a publication	Publishing place and house or web link
Compulsory reading				
C. Kuner, L. Bygrave, C. Docksey (eds.)	2020	The EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR): A Commentary		Oxford University Press
Voigt, von dem Bussche	2021	The EU GDPR: A Practical Guide		Springer International Publishing
van Alsenoy, B.	2020	Data Protection Law in the EU: Roles, Responsibilities and Liability		Intersentia
Recommended reading				
Kuner, C.	2022	The European Union and the Search for an International Data Protection Framework	Oxford Journal of Legal Studies, Vol. 42	
Gellert, R.	2021	Understanding the Risk-Based Approach to Data Protection: Risk, Precaution and Proportionality	Computer Law & Security Review, Vol. 40	
Koops, B.-J., Leenes, R.	2020	Accountability under the GDPR: A Conceptual Framework	Computer Law & Security Review, Vol. 37	
Boehm, E., Metcalfe, A.	2021	Data Protection Officers in Practice: Roles, Responsibilities, and Challenges under the GDPR	Journal of Data Protection & Privacy, Vol. 4(3)	