



Activity Report

2023 - 2024



BRUSSELS
PRIVACY
HUB

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Message from the Co-Directors

As we present the Brussels Privacy Hub's activities, we reflect on a decade of dedication to improving data protection and privacy. Since the creation of the Hub in 2014, the landscape of data protection and privacy has shifted dramatically. Artificial intelligence, big data, and the Internet of Things have transformed how data is collected, processed, and used. These changes have created unprecedented opportunities while posing complex privacy and security challenges. Socially, concerns about data breaches, surveillance, and the misuse of personal information drive a growing demand for privacy. Legally, the implementation of comprehensive frameworks such as the GDPR has established new global standards for data protection. However, the rapid pace of technological innovation constantly tests the adequacy and adaptability of these regulations.

In this context, the Brussels Privacy Hub's mission has never been more relevant. The growing complexity requires greater effort than ever to address these challenges effectively. Our activities over the last year, from hosting the Summer Academy and Brussels Privacy Symposium to participating to providing specialised training on AI and fundamental rights, demonstrate our dedication to fostering dialogue, innovation, and policymaking.

We are grateful to our team, partners, and stakeholders for their support and collaboration throughout this journey. Together, we will continue to navigate the complexities of the digital age, ensuring that privacy and data protection remain at the forefront of research agendas.



Prof. Sophie Stalla-Bourdillon



Prof. Gianclaudio Malgieri

Executive Summary

The Brussels Privacy Hub has had an eventful and impactful year, marked by significant achievements and proactive engagements in the field of data protection and privacy:

- **Summer Academy 2023:** Successfully hosted the 8th edition, focusing on the intersection of data access, governance, and AI. This event brought together 45 participants and 28 speakers for an intensive week of lectures, workshops, and discussions.
- **Brussels Privacy Symposium 2023:** Held in cooperation with the Future of Privacy Forum, this symposium addressed the EU Data Strategy and its implications, attracting over 100 high-level professionals.
- **Computers, Privacy & Data Protection 2024:** Played a central role in this major event, organising multiple panels and a book launch while engaging in critical discussions on AI, privacy, and data protection.
- **Frontex Training 2024:** Conducted a two-day training on Fundamental Rights Impact Assessments under the AI Act for Frontex Fundamental Rights Monitors.
- **Consumer Leadership Academy 2024:** Partnered with Euroconsumers and Google to empower consumers in the age of AI, featuring sessions on digital consumer protection and algorithmic transparency.

The Brussels Privacy Hub will continue working in the next year, hoping to further improve the quality of its output and the reach of its activities.



About the Brussels Privacy Hub

The Brussels Privacy Hub (also BPH, “Hub”) was established in 2014 by Prof. Christopher Kuner and Prof. Paul De Hert as an academic research centre with a global outlook. Operating under the auspices of the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB), the BPH strategically leverages its location in Brussels, the capital of Europe, to engage with EU policymakers, data protection regulators, the private sector, and non-governmental organisations (NGOs). This strategic positioning enables the BPH to generate innovative, forward-thinking research on pivotal matters concerning data protection and privacy law and policy. Given that Brussels serves as the epicentre for pivotal decisions regarding data protection within the European Union, the BPH plays a crucial role in shaping global standards for data protection and privacy law.

The BPH’s main goals are to produce privacy research of the highest quality, bring together leading thinkers from around the world, and foster an interchange of ideas among privacy stakeholders in a climate of intellectual openness.

The team at the BPH is guided by the following principles:

- We believe strongly in the relevance and importance of data protection and privacy law, particularly in light of the challenges posed by the rapid development of technology and globalisation.
- We believe fresh and innovative thinking based on multidisciplinary research is necessary to meet these challenges. Thus, we strive to bring together scholars from a wide array of disciplines who will engage with the private sector, policymakers, and NGOs to produce cutting-edge research.
- We operate in a manner that is neutral, transparent and guided by the highest ethical standards.
- We believe in network-building and have created a network of contacts with other leading privacy researchers inside and outside the EU with whom we will work.

Purpose of the report

This report serves as a comprehensive overview of the activities and accomplishments of the Brussels Privacy Hub over the past year. By looking into the initiatives, research endeavours, and engagements undertaken by the BPH, this report aims to provide stakeholders with valuable insights into the centre's contributions to the field of data protection and privacy law. Moreover, it seeks to highlight the BPH's commitment to fostering intellectual discourse, promoting interdisciplinary collaboration, and driving meaningful progress in the realm of data protection.



Activities

Summer Academy 2023



Figure 1 - Leonardo Cervera Navas, Secretary General at the EDPS, lecturing at the Hub's Summer Academy

In June 2023, the Brussels Privacy Hub hosted the 8th edition of its Summer Academy for Global Privacy Law, focusing on "From Data Access to Data Transformations: How to Govern Data in the Age of Analytics and AI?".¹ This event was a comprehensive exploration of the current and emerging challenges in data governance, particularly in the context of advanced analytics and artificial intelligence (AI). Spanning five days from June 19 to 23, the Academy featured a structured program² that included lectures, workshops, and side events. With participants

spanning multiple countries and continents, and speakers from academia, civil society, the private sector and EU institutions,, the event fostered engaging discussions on data protection, regulatory frameworks, and the future of data governance in a digital world.

The Summer Academy covered a wide array of critical topics, starting with the relationship between personal data protection and algorithmic processing. Discussions emphasised the interplay between the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the AI Act, highlighting the importance of risk assessment in data reuse. The focus then shifted to third-party data access, examining new EU regulations like the Data Act and issues surrounding IoT data and platform data access. Comparative perspectives on data reuse and sharing were analysed, featuring insights from various global legal systems. The complexities of international data transfers were addressed, emphasising recent regulatory developments and risk-based

¹ <https://brusselsprivacyhub.com/education-training/summer-academy-for-global-privacy-law-2023/>

² https://brusselsprivacyhub.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/BRUSSELS-PRIVACY-HUB-SUMMER-ACADEMY-FOR-GLOBAL-PRIVACY-2023_final-version-1.pdf

approaches. The final day looked into Privacy Enhancing Technologies, exploring their potential and challenges, and concluded with a lecture on software compliance.

Looking ahead, the discussions and insights from the Summer Academy underscore the need for robust and adaptive data governance frameworks. As data analytics and AI continue to evolve, ensuring data protection and compliance will become increasingly complex. The Brussels Privacy Hub remains committed to advancing the dialogue on these issues, contributing to the development of innovative solutions and



Figure 2 - Prof. Malgieri at the Summer Academy

regulatory policies. By organising such events, the Hub plays a crucial role in shaping the future of data governance, fostering collaboration among experts, and educating the next generation of privacy professionals. The Hub's initiatives are instrumental in ensuring that data governance frameworks are resilient, inclusive, and capable of addressing the challenges posed by rapid technological advancements.



Figure 3 - The BPH team

Summer Academy Side Event – Presentation of the book *Beyond Data*

On 22 June 2023, the Hub presented “Beyond Data: Human Rights, Ethical and Social Impact Assessment in AI”, a seminal book by Prof. Alessandro Mantelero. This event, hosted as a side event to the Summer Academy, attracted a diverse audience eager to explore the intersection of AI, human rights, ethics, and social impact. Professors Gianclaudio Malgieri and Sophie Stalla-Bourdillon joined the event as commentators, providing insightful analysis and fostering a thought-provoking dialogue with the attendees.

The discussion highlighted several key takeaways from *Beyond Data*. Prof. Mantelero emphasised the importance of integrating human rights considerations into AI development and deployment. The commentators underscored the need for robust ethical frameworks and social impact assessments, arguing that these elements are crucial for ensuring AI technologies are developed responsibly and equitably. The debate explored how different regulatory approaches could be applied to balance innovation with the protection of fundamental rights, and how AI can be aligned with societal values.

Brussels Privacy Symposium 2023

On 14 November 2023, the Brussels Privacy Hub hosted the 7th Brussels Privacy Symposium,³ in cooperation with the Future of Privacy Forum⁴ (FPF). The symposium, titled “Understanding the EU Data Strategy Architecture: Common Threads – Points of Junction – Incongruities”, convened experts to discuss the evolving landscape of data governance. Held in person at the U-Residence on the VUB campus in Brussels, the single-day event focused on the EU Data Strategy and its interaction with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). Esteemed speakers, including European Commissioner for Justice Didier Reynders and European Data Protection Supervisor Wojciech Wiewiórowski, kicked off a day filled with insightful discussions on how new EU data in the AI Act, DSA, DMA and DGA are transforming data access, consent mechanisms and impact assessments.



Figure 4 - The European Data Protection Supervisor Wojciech Wiewiórowski

The full programme, consultable online,⁵ featured panels about various aspects of the EU Data Strategy. Several Brussels Privacy Hub members took part as speakers and workshop leaders, including co-director Prof. Gianclaudio Malgieri, vice-director Dr. Juraj Sajfert and executive team member Barbara Lazarotto. A report⁶ on the discussions was prepared by the FPF.

With over 100 attendees, mostly high-level experts on data and data protection law, the event was a resounding success, offering a space for insightful discussions both during the sessions and at the several networking opportunities provided. The format will see another edition on 8 October 2024.⁷

³ <https://brusselsprivacyhub.com/2023/11/03/14-november-brussels-privacy-symposium-2023/>

⁴ <https://fpf.org/>

⁵ <https://fpf.org/fpf-event/brussels-privacy-symposium-2023/>

⁶ <https://fpf.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/FPF-Brussels-Privacy-Symposium-2023.pdf>

⁷ <https://fpf.org/fpf-event/save-the-date-brussels-privacy-symposium-2024/>

CPDP 2023

The CPDP 2023 event was a significant occasion for the Brussels Privacy Hub, highlighting its active involvement in shaping discussions on data protection and privacy. The opening night on May 23, 2023, featured a panel titled "Turning Data Protection Inside Out," with a keynote speech by Julie Cohen on "From Surveillance Vulnerability to Doughnut Privacy." This was followed by a dialogue moderated by Prof. Gianclaudio Malgieri from the BPH. The panel included notable speakers such as Alexandra Geese, MEP Green Party (EU), François Pellegrini from CNIL (FR), and Dr. Timo Jakobi from Nuremberg University (DE). The discussions delved into the evolution of data protection and privacy in light of new thinking around sustainability, participatory and value-sensitive design, and the impacts of digital technologies on vulnerable populations.

On May 24, BPH's observatory on vulnerability in data protection, Vulnera⁸, organized a panel on understanding and addressing vulnerability in the context of data protection and privacy law. Moderated by Prof. Mireille Hildebrandt, the panel included experts such as Simone van der Hof from Leiden University (NL), Fanny Coudert from the European Data Protection Supervisor (EU), and others. The session focused on defining vulnerability, exploring mechanisms in data protection law and the broader European Digital Strategy to protect vulnerable and marginalized groups. Questions discussed included the adequacy of the AIA's definition of vulnerable people and the relevance of the DSA in protecting human vulnerabilities online.

Furthering its impact, Prof. Malgieri participated in a panel on May 25 about AI fairness testing, discussing the practical aspects of ensuring fairness in automated decision-making and the challenges and best practices involved. Additionally, BPH organized a book launch for Malgieri's new book "Vulnerability and Data Protection Law" which was discussed by prominent figures like Wojciech Wiewiórowski from EDPS and Prof. Julie Cohen from Georgetown University. Other BPH members contributed to various panels, such as Bárbara

⁸ <https://brusselsprivacyhub.com/vulnera/>

da Rosa Lazarotto discussing the underuse of personal data and Prof. Stalla-Bourdillon addressing the challenges of accommodating children's needs online.

Looking to the future, the BPH's involvement in CPDP 2023 highlights its critical role in shaping the discourse on data protection and privacy. The event demonstrated BPH's commitment to tackling emerging issues such as AI fairness, the protection of vulnerable populations, and the underuse of personal data. Through panels and discussions, BPH facilitated in-depth explorations of how data protection laws can adapt to contemporary challenges, ensuring that the voices of academia, policy-makers, and industry leaders are heard. By engaging with topics like algorithmic transparency, vulnerability in data protection, and children's online privacy, BPH is actively contributing to the development of more robust, inclusive, and effective data protection frameworks. The successful launch of Prof. Malgieri's book during the event further solidifies BPH's influence and dedication to advancing knowledge and policy in this critical field.



Figure 5 - Prof. Malgieri at a panel during CPDP 2023

Frontex Training 2024

On 26 – 27 March 2024, the Brussels Privacy Hub delivered a two-day training on Fundamental Rights Impact Assessments (FRIAs) under the AI Act to Frontex Fundamental Rights Monitors.⁹ Led by experts Prof. Gianclaudio Malgieri, Prof. Niovi Vavoula, Vincenzo Tiani and Michaël Van den Poel the training aimed to improve understanding and practice in protecting fundamental rights when using AI in the EU.

The training provided theoretical and practical insights into conducting FRIAs, emphasising the importance of assessing AI's impact on fundamental rights. Interactive exercises and case studies helped participants grasp the complexities of AI regulation.

This training highlights the Brussels Privacy Hub's commitment to promoting ethical AI use. By continuing to offer such educational initiatives, the Hub ensures AI implementations in the EU respect fundamental rights.



Figure 6 - Participants and speakers of the Frontex Training

⁹ <https://brusselsprivacyhub.com/2024/05/06/bph-delivers-training-to-frontex/>

Consumer Leadership Academy 2024

From 10 – 12 April, the VUB hosted the Consumer Leadership Academy (CLA),¹⁰ an initiative of the Consumer Empowerment Project organised by Euroconsumers and Google in collaboration with the Brussels Privacy Hub. This event brought together selected participants, chosen through a competitive process, to explore methods of empowering consumers in the age of artificial intelligence. Over three days, attendees engaged in a series of sessions focused on digital consumer protection, algorithmic transparency, data protection, and disinformation, featuring keynotes from notable experts and vibrant networking opportunities.

The program commenced with a session on "Digital Consumer Protection: An Overview in Light of the Latest Regulations," introduced by Marco Scialdone and Vincenzo Tiani. Keynote speaker Roberto Viola, Director General of DG CNECT, along with experts like Gabriele Mazzini and Rachele Carli, discussed the AI Act and the European standard AI Trustworthiness Framework. This set the stage for in-depth discussions on algorithmic transparency led by Dr. Lex Zard and data protection in AI by Alfredo Salmaso, Vitor Bernardo, and Leonardo Cervera-Navas. At the European Parliament, Brando Benifei and Laura Caroli presented the AI Act, followed by presentations from Paolo Sangregorio and Anita Williams from Google on online abuse prevention. Discussions also tackled the pressing issue of disinformation, especially concerning the June 2024 European elections, with insights from Krisztina Stump and Anita Williams. The event included vibrant networking opportunities, such as a dinner at the Atomium and a gathering at Vesterbar, fostering professional connections and collaborative spirit. The academy concluded with participants receiving certificates of participation, marking the successful completion of an intensive and informative program.

The Consumer Leadership Academy highlighted the crucial role of empowering consumers in the rapidly evolving digital landscape. Moving forward, the Brussels Privacy Hub will continue to contribute significantly to this field by supporting initiatives that promote consumer protection and data governance. By collaborating with key stakeholders and organising such

¹⁰ <https://brusselsprivacyhub.com/2024/05/03/consumer-leadership-academy/>

impactful events, the Hub ensures that consumers are well-informed and protected in the age of AI. This ongoing commitment positions the Brussels Privacy Hub as a leader in advocating for digital rights and ethical AI practices, driving forward the mission of consumer empowerment in Europe and beyond.

Global Governance for Digital Ecosystems

The "Global Governance for Digital Ecosystems" project, initiated by the Centre on Regulation in Europe (CERRE), aims to address the increasing geopolitical volatility and regulatory fragmentation within the digital ecosystem. This initiative involves top academics from around the world.

In collaboration with CERRE, the Brussels Privacy Hub has published three reports on cross-border data transfer regimes in Brazil,¹¹ India,¹² and China¹³ with contributions from Pablo Trigo Kramcsák, Smriti Parsheera and Yueming Zhang. Additionally, a fourth report¹⁴ led by Prof. Stalla-Bourdillon assesses the role of confidentiality-enhancing technologies in the context of cross-border data transfers, shedding light on the concept of anonymisation. CERRE also published a comprehensive report on generative AI, led by Prof. Malgieri.¹⁵

The future of global digital governance lies in achieving a balance between regulatory convergence and respecting regional differences. The Brussels Privacy Hub plays a pivotal role in this evolving landscape by continuing to contribute its expertise in privacy and data protection to CERRE's ongoing research, especially in areas related to AI governance and cross-border data flows.

¹¹ <https://brusselsprivacyhub.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/Personal-Data-Protection-in-Brazil.pdf>

¹² <https://brusselsprivacyhub.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/Data-Protection-and-Cross-border-Data-Flows-in-India-v2.0.pdf>

¹³ <https://brusselsprivacyhub.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/Personal-Data-Protection-in-China.pdf>

¹⁴ <https://brusselsprivacyhub.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Cross-Border-Data-Transfer-Tools-v.-PETs-2.pdf>

¹⁵ <https://cerre.eu/publications/generative-ai-global-governance-and-the-risk-based-approach/>

CPDP 2024

At CPDP 2024, the Brussels Privacy Hub once again took a leading role in advancing essential discussions on privacy, AI, and data governance. A highlight of the event was BPH's Prof. Malgieri receiving the CAIDP Europe AI Policy Leader Award alongside Prof. Mantelero, in recognition of their advocacy for incorporating fundamental rights impact assessments into the EU AI Act, most notably through an open letter and event in the European Parliament, both supported by the Brussels Privacy Hub.¹⁶

On the opening night,¹⁷ titled "The Global Challenge of Governing AI: What's the Role of Individuals?" featured Prof. Malgieri as moderator. The panel, with notable speakers including Prof. Vladan Joler, Prof. Margot Kaminski, Clarisse Girot, and Karine Caunes, delved into the intersections of AI governance and individual rights. Key discussions centred on balancing autonomy and systemic risk regulation, with a focus on transparency, explanation, and human oversight as pivotal elements in AI regulation. The concept of data extractivism and participative AI governance was also explored, emphasising inclusivity and collective agency in decision-making processes.

In another significant panel, "AI for Privacy: Isn't it Time to Switch Perspectives?", Prof. Malgieri moderated discussions on how AI can enhance privacy and data protection. This session, organised by CRIDS/University of Namur, featured insights from industry leaders, regulators, and academics, including Isabelle Vereecken, Prof. Jessica Eynard, Lorelien Hoet, and Prof. Sandra Wachter. The panel tackled topics such as the regulatory role of the AI Act, privacy by design, automation of data subjects' rights, and AI's potential for enforcement and compliance, challenging the notion that AI inherently threatens fundamental rights.

Prof. Stalla-Bourdillon facilitated a workshop on building decentralised data architectures for federated data governance. This session highlighted the trend towards decentralised data management and its implications for data protection and governance. Participants learned

¹⁶ <https://brusselsprivacyhub.com/2023/09/12/brussels-privacy-hub-and-other-academic-institutions-ask-to-approve-a-fundamental-rights-impact-assessment-in-the-eu-artificial-intelligence-act/>.

¹⁷ https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/5b631f134427333fc998ad36/663b5c717dfa00d629b603c2_CPDP2024-Opening-Night.pdf

about designing and assessing decentralised architectures and the technological requirements for supporting such frameworks, emphasising the benefits of localised data management and fine-grained data-sharing controls.

Prof. Stalla-Bourdillon also moderated a panel on the interplay between data sovereignty and free trade, discussing the complexities of regulating cross-border data flows in the context of multilateral trade agreements. Speakers, including Bruno Gencarelli, Svetlana Yakovleva, Burcu Kilic, Prof. Alex Joel, and Prof. Arif Wider, examined how data sovereignty interacts with free trade principles and fundamental rights protection, scrutinising recent developments and exploring promising data transfer tools.

Barbara da Rosa Lazarotto participated in a panel on AI in urban landscapes, navigating data governance with multiple stakeholders. This session, organised by the Centro Nazionale IoT e Privacy, brought together legal experts, technology innovators, and NGO representatives to discuss ethical and effective data management in smart cities. Barbara also facilitated a workshop on B2B data sharing under the Data Act, aiming to increase understanding of the Act's opportunities and challenges and foster interdisciplinary collaboration to address these issues.



Figure 7 - Prof. Malgieri at a panel at CPDP 2024

Webinars

In the past year, the Hub delivered five free webinars on a wide range of topics, hosting 25 speakers from academia, NGOs and public institutions.

- Adequacy Decision and Qualifying Safeguards: The EU-US DPF Explained (26 September 2023)¹⁸
- Taking GDPR Enforcement Really Seriously: What to Expect from the GDPR Procedural Regulation? (12 December 2023)¹⁹
- The Future of Data Access and Portability: GDPR vs. Data Act, Health Data Space Regulation & Open Finance Initiative (28 November 2024)²⁰
- Cross-Border Data Transfer Rules in the Making: What to Expect from New Cross-Border Data Transfer Regimes Emerging in China, Brazil, and India and the Global Cross Border Privacy Rules (CBPR) Framework (22 February 2024)²¹
- AI Training and Legal Basis: To Segment or Not to Segment Training and Deployment Phases? (6 June 2024)²²

¹⁸ <https://brusselsprivacyhub.com/2023/09/13/unlocking-the-eu-u-s-data-privacy-framework-dpf-a-webinar-exploring-its-implications/>

¹⁹ <https://brusselsprivacyhub.com/2023/11/17/12-december-taking-gdpr-enforcement-really-seriously-what-to-expect-from-the-gdpr-procedural-regulation/>

²⁰ <https://brusselsprivacyhub.com/2023/10/12/28-november-the-future-of-data-access-and-portability-gdpr-vs-data-act-health-data-space-regulation-open-finance-initiative/>

²¹ <https://brusselsprivacyhub.com/2024/02/01/22-february-cross-border-data-transfer-rules-in-the-making-what-to-expect-from-new-cross-border-data-transfer-regimes-emerging-in-china-brazil-and-india-and-the-global-cross-border-privacy-rules-c/>

²² <https://brusselsprivacyhub.com/2024/05/01/ai-training-and-legal-basis-to-segment-or-not-to-segment-training-and-deployment-phases/>

Publications

The Brussels Privacy Hub continues to play an important role in shaping the future of data protection and privacy through its two publication series: Reports, general publications on the hottest topics in data governance; and Working Papers, which present ongoing academic research, offering a platform scholars can use to discuss about their work with peers.

The last year, the Hub published five reports and eight working papers.

Reports²³:

- Case 80/21: A Quest for Clarity. The Law Enforcement Directive 2016/680, A Bulgarian Court and Case 205/21 by Liubomir Nikiforov (April 2024).
- Political Advertising Targeting and Minors: The Belgian Case by Liubomir Nikiforov (March 2024).
- The Digital Services Act, Content Moderation, and Elections by Liubomir Nikiforov (January 2024).
- Joint Non-Paper on the AI Act: France, Germany, and Italy Reach Consensus by Liubomir Nikiforov (November 2023).

Working Papers²⁴:

- Vol. 10, N° 6: Anticipating Compliance. An Exploration of Foresight Initiatives in Data Protection by Alessandro Ortalda, Stefano Leucci, and Dr. Gabriele Rizzo (April 2024) - Version 1.0.
- Vol. 10, N° 5: Data Protection and Cross-border Data Flows in India by Smriti Parsheera (March 2024) - Version 2.0.
- Vol. 10, N° 4: Cross-Border Data Transfer Tools vs. Privacy Enhancing Technologies: A False Debate by Sophie Stalla-Bourdillon (March 2024) - Version 2.0.
- Vol. 10, N° 3: Personal Data Protection and Data Transfer Regulation in China by Yueming Zhang (February 2024) - Version 2.0.

²³ <https://brusselsprivacyhub.com/reports/>

²⁴ <https://brusselsprivacyhub.com/working-papers/>

- Vol. 10, N° 2: Personal Data Protection and Data Transfer Regulation in Brazil by Pablo Trigo Kramcsák (February 2024) - Version 1.0.
- Vol. 10, N° 1: European Biometric Surveillance, Concrete Rules, and Uniform Enforcement - Beyond Regulatory Abstraction and Local Enforcement by Paul De Hert and Georgios Bouchagiar (February 2024).
- Vol. 9, N° 2: The European Commission's Proposal for a Digital Euro – A Preliminary Personal Data Protection and Privacy Analysis by Andrés Chomczyk Penedo, Michaël Van den Poel, and Pablo Trigo Kramcsak (December 2023).
- Vol. 9, N° 1: Post-GDPR Lawmaking in the Digital Data Society: Mimesis without Integration by Paul De Hert (October 2023).

Conclusion

As we wrap up this Activity Report for 2023-2024, we reflect on a year of significant accomplishments, meaningful engagements, and continued growth for the Brussels Privacy Hub. Our dedication to advancing data protection and privacy remains unwavering, guided by the fundamental vision that inspired our founding a decade ago.

Over the last year, we've successfully navigated the complexities of a constantly changing digital landscape, addressing critical issues at the intersection of technology, law, and society. We have promoted intellectual discourse, interdisciplinary collaboration, and forward-thinking research through initiatives such as the Summer Academy, the Brussels Privacy Symposium, and our participation in CPDP. Our training sessions and collaborative projects, including those with Frontex and Euroconsumers, demonstrate our commitment to practical applications and real-world impact.

Today's challenges are more complex than ever, with technological advancements outpacing regulatory measures and societal privacy expectations rising to new heights. The rapid evolution of artificial intelligence, the proliferation of big data, and the integration of IoT technologies necessitate a strong, adaptable approach to data governance. In response, we have not only kept up, but have also taken the lead in shaping global standards and policies.

We are excited about the new directions and opportunities that await us. To meet the growing demand for expertise and guidance in data protection and privacy, we intend to expand our educational offerings, form thematic working groups, and improve our digital presence. These initiatives will strengthen our position as a leading authority in the field, allowing us to contribute even more effectively to the global dialogue.

Finally, we reaffirm our commitment to creating a safer, more transparent, and equitable digital world. The Brussels Privacy Hub will remain a beacon of knowledge, innovation, and advocacy in data protection and privacy, dedicated to addressing the challenges and opportunities of tomorrow.

Acknowledgements

We are deeply grateful to our dedicated team, partners, and stakeholders. Your unwavering support and collaboration have been critical to our success and will continue to be so as we move forward. Together, we will navigate the complexities of the digital age, ensuring that privacy and data protection principles remain central to technological and societal progress.

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