

Foreword

One of the most challenging issues facing our current information society is the accelerating accumulation of data trails in transactional and communication systems, which may be used not only to profile the behaviour of individuals for commercial, marketing and law enforcement purposes, but also to locate and follow things and actions. Data mining, convergence, interoperability, ever-increasing computer capacities and the extreme miniaturisation of hardware are all elements which contribute to a major contemporary challenge: the profiled world. This interdisciplinary volume offers twenty contributions that delve deeper into some of the complex but urgent questions that this profiled world poses to data protection and privacy.

The chapters of this volume are a peer-reviewed elaboration of presentations that were presented during one of the 12 panel sessions of the second *Conference on Privacy and Data Protection (CPDP2009)—Data protection in a profiled world* held in Brussels in January 2009 (www.cpdpconferences.org). In this sense, this book can be seen as a sequel of *Reinventing data protection?* (Springer 2009) which stemmed from the first CPDP conference of November 2007.

The yearly CPDP conferences aim to become Europe's most important meeting where academics, practitioners, policy-makers and activists come together to exchange ideas and discuss emerging issues in information technology, privacy, data protection and law. The second edition of the conference, of which this book is a reflection, was again very successful.¹ During the two conference days (16 & 17 January 2009) 61 speakers took the floor representing a worldwide palette of stakeholders and specialists of privacy and *data protection*, including members of academia, national, European and international administration, people from the private sector, representatives of the civil society, law firms, data protection authorities and so on. Around 200 motivated and highly qualified participants attended the conference, and at some point the *deBuren's* wide room seemed to come apart at

¹ The CPDP2009 conference was organised by LSTS from the Vrije Universiteit Brussel, the CRID from the University of Namur, TILT from the University of Tilburg, the INRIA in Grenoble, the Vlaams-Nederlands huis deBuren and last but not least, the VUB instituut voor PostAcademische vorming (iPAVUB). It was further supported by the Fonds voor Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek (FWO), the Brussels Capital Region, Microsoft, Hunton & Williams and Stibbe.

the seams. The evening event, the *Pecha Kucha*, in the Belgian Rock&Roll temple *Ancienne Belgique* was also highly appreciated and three conference experts courageously went on stage, presenting ideas in the lively and challenging format of the event.

The present volume reflects the richness of the conference, containing chapters by leading lawyers, policy makers, computer, technology assessment and social scientists. It is structured in six parts, respectively dealing with generic, specific and third pillar issues, and with views from legal practitioners, technologists and technology assessment. The chapters cover a wide range of themes such as the evolution of a new generation of data protection laws, the constitutionalisation of data protection, profiling, the European human rights approach, security breaches, unsolicited adjustments, social networks, Eurojust, transatlantic data sharing, the Prüm agreement, surveillance, electronic voting, privacy by design, PETs, and more ... In respect of the diversity of nationalities, disciplines, and perspectives represented in this book, the editors and the publisher have left the choices concerning the use of reference systems to the authors of the contributions.

This book not only offers a very close and timely look at the state of data protection and privacy in our profiled world, but it also explores and invents ways to make sure this world remains a world we want to live in.

We hope this book will find and interest many readers and we thank all authors, speakers, participants, discussants, supporters and organisers that helped contributing to its accomplishment.

Brussels, Belgium
Namur, Belgium
Brussels, Belgium

Serge Gutwirth
Yves Poullet
Paul De Hert



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Gutwirth, S.; Pouillet, Y.; de Hert, P. (Eds.)

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