

International and European Data Protection Law

Content:

This course tackles the fundamentals of International and European Data Protection Law, granting particular attention to the global challenges of privacy and data protection regulation. After introducing the main theories surrounding data protection and privacy, it enters into an in-depth exploration of European Union (EU) data protection law, covering most notably: the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), the EU law aspects of European data protection law, and the relation between European human and fundamental rights and EU data protection, as well as the specific implementation of EU data protection online (addressing cloud computing, Big Data and the Internet of Things). The situation of the United Kingdom in light of Brexit is also covered. Case studies on the practice of data protection law and 'data protection on the ground' will complement the study of the EU framework. The second part of the course focuses on international perspectives by studying International law and data protection, as well as privacy and data protection from a comparative perspective: the main features of other key national and regional legal systems (e.g. the United States, OECD, APEC, etc.) are introduced. A third section will be devoted to the issue of global data transfer. This section considers both existing principles and mechanisms, as well as possibilities for improvement, critically bringing together elements from the studied EU and international perspectives. Finally, the course will close with a forward-looking reflection of the key future challenges in the area.

Additional information regarding evaluation:

The students will be evaluated on the basis of a written exam, evaluating their knowledge of the studied subjects as presented in the lectures and reading materials.

Additional information:

In relation to teaching methods:

- In addition to traditional lectures, the teaching will engage the students in discussing selected case studies and 'real-life' practical examples.
- Expert guest lectures will allow the students to learn from and interact with representatives of Data Protection Authorities (DPAs), EU institutions, and privacy professionals working in the private sector.

Learning outcomes:

As a result of following this course, students will obtain: a sound understanding of International and European data protection law and their conceptual underpinnings, a clear view of the main international legal systems on privacy and data protection, as well as the crucial differences and similarities between them, and confirmed knowledge on the fundamental elements of EU data protection law. The students will learn to grasp the complexities of regulating data processing in light of stringent fundamental rights requirements, massive flows of data and where incessant technological development. They will have knowledge on contemporary and upcoming challenges, and have an understanding and initial familiarity with the skills of the practitioners and decision-makers. In sum, the students will be prepared to apply present International and European data protection law, and capable of thinking about, and adapting to, the evolution of such law in the future.