







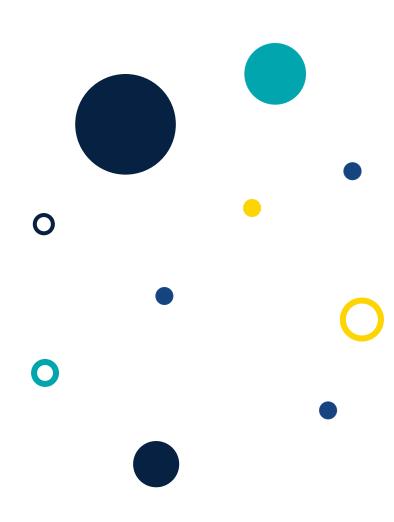
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Introduction

> Today, the use of new technologies, fed by data, is so common that almost all companies have become familiar to their daily use, and it is seen as something normal. In this scenario, the privacy protection is a key challenge in the day-to-day work of companies.

Data are essential to improve the competitiveness of SMEs, as their correct analysis and exploitation generate opportunities to optimise business processes, support decision-making, help optimise costs and provide support in the control of business expenses.



What is data protection?

> Data protection is a fundamental right of all natural persons, which imposes a number of obligations and principles on companies to protect the personal data of their customers/suppliers/employees.

Proper privacy management will bring numerous benefits to businesses, such as improved reputation, increased competitiveness, and above all, guaranteed compliance with regulations so as not to be fined and/or sued.

> We distinguish between two types of data: personal data and non-personal data.



What is data protection?

The Spanish Data Protection Agency aims to guarantee the privacy and data protection of citizens, as well as compliance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the Organic Law on the Protection of Personal Data and Guarantee of Digital Rights (LOPD-GDD).

The AEPD provides free tools for citizens to help them understand and assess their level of compliance with data protection regulations:



> These tools generate the key documents that companies must have up to date in order to legally comply with regulations, so that they can be accredited to the authorities.

In addition, and without being a tool in itself, the Oficina de Seguridad Internauta (OSI), of INCIBE, provides the possibility of identifying any type of security incident for your data, related to botnets, with the AntiBotnet service.

What is data protection?

These are the companies that must comply with the GDPR:



> EU-based companies, whether or not data processing is carried out in the EU.



> If the behaviour of EU citizens is monitored.



If they offer goods or services to people in the EU.

- > How to comply with the regulation?
- > Identify whether the processing of the data is high-risk data
- > Risk evaluation.
- > Develop a procedure for verification, evaluation and assessment of the implementation of the measures developed for data protection.
- > Depending on whether they are high or low risk treatments, different actions should be taken:

High risk

- > Registration of activities involving treatment.
- > Appointing a Data Protection Officer.
- > Carry out an impact analysis of data processing.

High + low risk

- > Establish appropriate procedures.
- > Review Data Protection Officer contracts.
- > Establish policies to ensure data processing.
- > Conduct employee training.

Common data protection problems and errors

- Lack of awareness of the **legal obligations on personal data protection**, as laid down in national legislation.
- 2 Documents with confidential and sensitive information should be kept out of sight.
- The use of **single contact forms** is another common mistake.
- Recruitment of employees who have a database of contacts, as these contacts are often requested to be added to the database of the new company.
- In some cases, **e-mail marketing campaigns or the sending of advertising** by post are also not permitted without the consent of the recipients.
- 6. Another mistake is the need to have the **company's details on its website** so that any user can consult them.
- Jegnorance of the need to establish a contract with those responsible for the processing of their data.



Applicable sanctions

- According to a study by Finbold, Spain leads in the number of fines imposed for non-compliance with the GDPR, with a total of 34 fines and more than €15 million in fines imposed by the authorities (in the first quarter of 2021).
- > A KPMG study analyses the main reasons for sanctions, among them:
- > Failure to establish the necessary security measures for data processing.
- > Lack of a legitimate basis for the processing of personal data.
- > Lack of notification of security breaches and violations to users.
- > Breach of the duty to inform.

Data table:		
Country	Total fines in EUR in Q1 2021 (Jan 1 - Mar 31)	Number of fines by country
Spain	€15,700,300	34
Germany	€10,700,200	3
Italy	€5,656,000	20
Netherlands	€440,000	1
Norway	€382,750	12
France	€245,000	3
Czech Republic	€118,500	1
Belgium	€86,000	4
Poland	€81,300	5
Cyprus	€81,000	4
Latvia	€65,000	1
Lithuania	€30,000	3
Romania	€13,500	4
Denmark	€13,450	1
Greece	€2,000	1

EU countries hit with over €30 million in GDPR fines in Q1 2021. Finbold. 2021.

Sanction examples

- > In 2020, the Spanish Data Protection Agency fined a Madrid-based SME €50,000 for not having a DPO (Data Protection Officer) profile when it should have had one.
- > Another example of a fine was for the re-use of papers with confidential data on the back by a lawyer. In this case the fine amounted to a total of €2,000.

Conclussions

- > The large volume of data managed by companies generated more than €2.5 billion in 2019.
- There are multiple tools, made available by different public bodies, which aim to support companies in complying with personal data protection.
- > It is necessary to know the applicable legislation on data protection, as well as the main problems that may occur due to this lack of knowledge, since our business handles a large volume of personal data.

In conclusion, knowing the importance of the data, ensuring their proper treatment in accordance with the legislation and complying with the obligations established for companies are aspects that must be considered to avoid potential sanctions.





