



# BRUSSELS PRIVACY HUB NEWSLETTER

INTERNATIONAL ACADEMIC PRIVACY RESEARCH CENTRE IN THE HEART OF  
EUROPE



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## ABOUT THE BRUSSELS PRIVACY HUB

The Brussels Privacy Hub (BPH) is an academic privacy research centre with a global focus. As an entity of the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB), it uses its location in Brussels, the capital of Europe, to engage with EU policymakers, data protection regulators, the private sector, and NGOs, and to produce innovative, cutting-edge research on important questions of data protection and privacy law and policy.

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*The Brussels Privacy Hub'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.*

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## OUR WORK

We focus on all areas of data protection and privacy research. Among our main areas of interest are empirical research on privacy issues; privacy governance and regulation in the EU; global flows of data; reconciling law enforcement and privacy interests; privacy challenges posed by new technologies; comparative research on privacy in different regions; jurisprudential issues of privacy protection; and many others.

Our activities include ones such as the following:

- Publishing high-quality academic research of all types.
- Bringing prominent visiting scholars to Brussels for short- or long-term visits.
- Training the next generation of privacy lawyers and privacy officers.
- Organising workshops, seminars, and public debates on specific themes of interest.
- Attracting a select group of PhD students.
- Participating in the work of international organisations.
- Bidding for EU and international tenders.
- Creating synergies with other leading privacy research centres.

- Playing an integral role in further development of the annual CPDP conference.

## SOME OF OUR ONGOING ACTIVITIES

### Data protection and humanitarian action project

In cooperation with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the BPH has initiated a project on data protection and humanitarian action. In June 2015, the BPH organised the first in a series of workshops, which will include further ones in 2016 and culminate in the publication of a *Handbook on Data Protection and Humanitarian Action for Humanitarian Organisations*. Participants in the project include individuals from EU institutions, international humanitarian organizations, data protection authorities, the private sector, NGOs, and academia.

### Data protection law reading group

The Hub has established a Data Protection Law Reading Group that meets on a regular basis to discuss recent judgments from the EU Court of Justice and the European Court of Human Rights; the first meeting was held in July 2015 at the office of the European Data Protection Supervisor (EDPS). This initiative brings together a small group of Brussels-based experts from the EU institutions, academia, and data protection authorities to discuss legal developments in data protection on an informal basis. The group focuses on legal issues under EU law and European human rights law, and does not deal with political issues. Participation is by invitation only.

### Sample publications

Hub researchers have published dozens of articles, books, and working papers in the past year, for example the following:

- Kuner, C., ‘Data nationalism and its discontents’ 64 *Emory Law Journal Online* 2089 (2015)
- Kuner, C., ‘The Court of Justice of the EU Judgment on Data Protection and Internet Search Engines’, *Law, Society and Economy Working Paper Series*, London School of Economics and Political Science (2015)
- *The data protection regime in China: In-depth Analysis* by Prof. Paul de Hert and Dr. Vagelis Papakonstantinou (Brussels Privacy Hub Working Paper, Vol. 1, N° 4, November 2015)
- *Towards efficient cooperation between supervisory authorities in the area of data privacy law* by Dariusz Kloza, Antonella Galetta (Brussels Privacy Hub Working Paper, Vol. 1, N° 3, October 2015)

## COMING UP BRUSSELS PRIVACY HUB DATA PROTECTION

**SUMMER SCHOOL (4-8 JULY 2016):** check our website for information on registration, programme, and fees.

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**Brussels:** where key decisions are taken on data protection in the European Union. EU rules set the standard for data protection and privacy law around the world.

## OUR MISSION

We are 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 globalization.
- We also believe that fresh and innovative thinking based on multidisciplinary research is necessary to meet these challenges. The BPH thus brings together scholars on a global basis from a wide array of disciplines who will collaborate with the private sector, policymakers, and NGOs to produce cutting-edge research.
- Our work is carried out in a manner that is neutral, transparent, and is guided by the highest standards of ethics and impartiality.
- We believe in network-building, and have built a strong network of contacts with other leading privacy researchers both inside the EU and outside Europe with whom we will work.