

Strasbourg, 21 June 2018

T-PD(2017)23Rev

**THE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE OF THE CONVENTION FOR THE  
PROTECTION OF INDIVIDUALS WITH REGARD TO AUTOMATIC PROCESSING  
OF PERSONAL DATA**

**'STEFANO RODOTÀ'  
DATA PROTECTION AWARD**

## The 'Stefano Rodotà' Data Protection Award

### **Overview**

The 'Stefano Rodotà' Data Protection Award is aimed at discovering and highlighting original and innovative academic research concerning the protection of personal data and the promotion of the right to privacy in the digital environment, which deserve to be drawn not only to the attention of the general academic community but more broadly to data protection experts and authorities. Ultimately, the award aims at contributing to the improvement of the conceptual understanding and development of data protection law and policy.

The Award will entail official recognition by the Committee of Convention 108 of the effectiveness and significance of the winning study, highlighting its benefits towards the improvement of the protection of personal data. Together with this recognition, the Award would also increase the visibility and publicity of the research in question, encouraging the dissemination and academic debate within the scholars' community. As such, the Award would contribute to the furthering of the protection of personal data, stimulating the emergence of more consistent (and advanced) standards throughout the many countries contributing to the work of the Committee.

The prize was designed and will be awarded in memory of Stefano Rodotà, an Italian jurist and politician who passed away on 23 June 2017. Not only was he a passionate defender of human rights at European level, having been member of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (1983 – 1994), and having participated in the drafting of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union (2000). He specifically devoted much of his life to the protection of the right to privacy, being the first President of the Italian Authority for the Protection of Personal Data (1997 – 2005), the chair of the Coordination Group of Trustees for the right to privacy of the European Union (1998 – 2002), the chair of the Article 29 Data Protection Working Party (2000 – 2004) and chairman of the scientific committee of the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (2007). As such, he has been an invaluable champion of privacy and data protection, to the point of being considered a 'founding father' of the data protection community. Italy and Europe's data protection tradition will always bear his imprint and this Award constitutes a means to keep the memory of his achievements alive.

### **Who can Participate?**

The Award is intended to give publicity to academic researches, studies and dissertations conducted in national jurisdictions aimed at advancing the protection of personal data. These pieces of research should improve and develop the current conceptual understanding of data protection issues: they should therefore represent innovative studies, and their results should stimulate debates and discussions within the general community of data protection experts, ultimately extending our understanding of data protection legal regimes and policies.

The competition will be open to students and researchers, including those working in foundations, civil society organisations or any other research entity involved in data protection in the countries participating in the Committee of Convention 108 as members or observers (non-state observers would equally be welcome to contribute and apply).

### **Selection Procedure**

The Selection Panel of the Award is composed of the Chair of the Committee of Convention 108 and the members of its Bureau, in light of their established expertise in the field of data protection.

Each application would be submitted electronically either in English or in French. The application shall include:

- The application form duly filled in;

- A summary of the research of three pages maximum;
- If necessary, a limited number of appended documents.

From the pool of applications, a list of 10 will be preselected by the members of the Selection Panel for further examination. The members of the Panel will then assess the 10 preselected applicants' research, to proceed with the selection of the award-winning initiatives, i.e. select 4 of them by secret ballot specifying an order of preference for each of them, following a point-based system.

The method applied will be the granting, by each member of the Selection Panel, of 4 points to the best research he/she selected as winning scheme, 3 points to the second one, 2 points to the third one and finally one point to the fourth award-winning study.

After counting the points, in the event of a tie, a second vote by simple majority can be taken in order to decide between two projects with the same number of points.

The research with the highest number of points shall be awarded the 'Stefano Rodotà' Data Protection Award and shall be invited to come to the next Plenary of the Committee of Convention 108 to present the award winning study. The three other ones shall be given a "special mention" by the Selection Panel.

The Award ceremony will be held annually on Data Protection Day (28 January) and its first Edition will be launched on 2019.