

REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON PERSONAL DATA

The protection of personal data, an opportunity and an imperative for the region

Tunis, 1 June 2022, Hotel Laico Tunis

Background

At every moment of people's lives, personal information about them is collected, used and processed. In order to protect their right to privacy, but also the autonomy of individuals and their human dignity, it is essential that states ensure the strongest possible protection of personal data at all times and in all activities.

The importance of personal data is growing considerably, and this is true for practically all modern activities, be it the management of civil life, education and teaching, commerce and many economic activities. It is also increasingly coveted for **criminal activities**, facilitated by the development of the digital environment. Personal data are also incorporated into **digital ID** projects, in a variety of ways, which may entail risks to the empowerment of individuals, respect for their human dignity as well as various forms of discrimination. Increasingly interconnected economies and the movement of people make **data flows** inevitable.

These issues will be addressed at the Regional Conference on Personal Data Protection, organised in collaboration with the National Data Protection Authority of Tunisia (INPDP) and the League of Arab States.

This conference will be an opportunity to raise awareness among the countries of the southern Mediterranean region of the need for strong personal data protection for the benefit of both individuals and economies. It also aims to provide participants representing the countries of the region - Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia - with an opportunity to exchange experiences and practices and to advance the issue in the region.

Data protection experts and representatives of data protection authorities **from the region** will discuss with professionals and civil society representatives three areas where personal data will be particularly involved: **cybercrime, digital identity and transborder data flows**. The most recent international standards will be presented as well as the experience of Tunisia, a pioneer country in the field of personal data protection on the continent.

Participants

The conference aims to bring together representatives of data protection authorities from the Southern Mediterranean region (Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia), international experts, data protection professionals and civil society representatives.

The conference will be held in French and Arabic, with simultaneous interpretation.

This conference is organised with the financial support of the European Union and the Council of Europe in the framework of the project "Support to independent instances in Tunisia" (PAII-T) and of the joint programme "Regional support to the reinforcement of Human Rights, the Rule of Law and Democracy in the South Mediterranean" (South IV Programme).