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Global action on Cybercrime Extended
Action Globale sur la Cybercriminalité Elargie

RÉSEAU AFRICAIN
DES AUTORITÉS DE PROTECTION
DES DONNÉES PERSONNELLES

Series of Thematic Workshops on Data Protection
Workshop n°2 - Digital identity

From cradle to grave: issues, challenges and considerations of national digital identity systems

The ability of individuals to prove who they are is crucial to multiple aspects of their lives and daily activities. Increasingly, birth registration systems are seen as a means of establishing a legal identity so that an individual is visible before the state. A legal identity is viewed as essential to enabling access to welfare services, to addressing social and economic inequalities and even to claiming human rights. There are increasing pressures and efforts to digitize birth registrations and to link them to national identity systems.

Growing numbers of countries are digitizing or adopting national 'digital' identity systems and that increasingly incorporate biometrics. National digital identity systems make take two key forms:
- a centralised foundational identity that establishes a unique persistent identification number, or
- a decentralised and federated functional identity that utilises official sectoral or purpose specific identities such as a drivers' licence, voter registration, social security number, or banking AML/KYC data.

From the UK to Jamaica, to Mauritius, to Kenya and more recently to Taiwan, national digital identity systems have been and continue to be subject to legal challenges based on issues such as proportionality, necessity, data quality, and discrimination and exclusion. These challenges reveal the impact of national digital identity systems on a range of human rights.

This workshop aims to provide an opportunity to not only discuss the issues and challenges of national digital identity systems, but considerations of how to address these. For example, and given the increasing successful legal challenges to national digital identity systems, would it be beneficial to consider developing human rights impact assessment methodology that a more traditional 'privacy impact assessment' approach may not be sufficient?

Speakers for this workshop include:
Alenka Prvinšek Persoglio (Vice President, Interact4c www.interact4c.eu) will speak on the topic of good civil registration systems and legal identity. The discussion will cover key governance and accountability elements necessary to guarantee fundamental rights, the benefits of digitized civil registration systems and lessons and recommendations, drawing on experiences from across Africa and Europe.

Grace Mutungu (Research Fellow, Centre for Intellectual Property and Information Technology Law, Strathmore University, Kenya https://cipit.strathmore.edu/our-id-experience/) will speak on the human rights impact assessments for digital ID programmes and how can they help build more socially just systems, drawing on experiences of Kenya.

Dorothy Mukasa (*Chief Executive Officer, Unwanted Witness Uganda https://www.unwantedwitness.org*) will speak about the exclusionary impact of Uganda's national identity system and human rights considerations.

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GMT +1	8 December 2020
15:00	**Opening session – Welcoming remarks and workshop goals** Omar Seghrouchni, Chair of the Working Group on digital identity, African Network of Data Protection Authorities and Chair of the Moroccan DPA Sophie Kwasny, Head of the Data Protection Unit, Council of Europe
15:05	**Setting the scene** Patrick Walshe (Privacy Matters) and Sylvia Appiah (Information Governance Solutions), Council of Europe lead experts
15:10	**The right to privacy: a challenge for the digitisation of "legal identity"?** Alenka Prvinšek Persoglio, Vice President, Interact4c
15:25	**Human rights impact assessments for digital ID programmes: the case of Kenya** Grace Mutungu, Research Fellow, Centre for Intellectual Property and Information Technology Law, Strathmore University, Kenya
15:40	**Digital ID, exclusion and human rights in Uganda** Dorothy Mukasa, Chief Executive Officer, Unwanted Witness Uganda
15:55	**Comments and open discussions between Participants** Facilitated by Omar Seghrouchni, Chair of the Working Group on digital identity, and the Council of Europe lead experts, Patrick Walshe and Sylvia Appiah
17:30	End of workshop