



EUROPEAN DATA PROTECTION SUPERVISOR

Brussels, 18 September 2026

Dear data protection professional,

The protection of individuals rights and freedoms depends on how effectively the risks to those rights and freedoms are assessed. As European Data Protection Supervisor, I therefore encourage you to participate in an empirical study on risk assessments in data protection. The study will ask you to identify and evaluate risks to individuals' rights and freedoms in specific data processing scenarios.

This research has the potential to provide valuable insights into how data protection professionals assess risks to fundamental rights and freedoms and evidence to support future research, policy discussions and practical guidance for data protection professionals. Consistent, well-founded risk assessment is central to the risk-based approach on which the EDPS and other supervisory authorities rely. Better evidence on how it is practised will help us give clearer guidance.

I also encourage data protection professionals to share this invitation within their communities, as wider participation will strengthen the evidence base.

The study is being conducted by an interdisciplinary research team comprising legal scholars, a philosopher of law and a psychologist from KU Leuven and Vrije Universiteit Brussel, as part of the research activities of d.pia.lab. It has been reviewed and approved through the relevant ethical procedures and is conducted in accordance with applicable data protection standards.

While the EDPS has granted its patronage to this study because of its relevance and potential contribution, it is important to note that the EDPS is neither conducting the research nor a party to the project. The findings and conclusions of the study should therefore not be considered as reflecting the official position of the EDPS.

Thank you for considering this invitation.

Yours sincerely,

Wojciech Rafał WIEWIÓROWSKI

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