

## **Collaborative Discussion 2 GDPR →**

GDPR, the General Data Protection Regulation, is a comprehensive data protection law enforced across the European Union. It governs how organisations collect, store, and process the personal data of EU citizens (European Commission 2016). This regulation applies to both automated and manual data processing, though it primarily addresses automated data due to the rapid growth of Big Data and the Internet of Things (IoT).

### Key Principles of GDPR:

- Lawfulness, Fairness, and Transparency - Data must be processed lawfully, fairly, and transparently. Organisations must provide clear information about how personal data is used.
- Purpose Limitation - Data should only be collected for specified, explicit, and legitimate purposes and not used in ways incompatible with those purposes.
- Data Minimisation - Only data necessary for the intended purposes should be collected and processed.
- Accuracy - Personal data must be accurate and kept up to date. Inaccuracies should be corrected or deleted promptly.
- Storage Limitation - Data should be kept in a form that allows identification of individuals for no longer than necessary for the purposes for which it was collected.
- Integrity and Confidentiality - Personal data must be processed securely, protecting against unauthorised or unlawful processing, accidental loss, destruction, or damage using appropriate technical and organisational measures.
- Accountability - Organisations are responsible for complying with GDPR and must be able to demonstrate compliance with these principles.

The main purpose of GDPR is to ensure that personal data is collected only when necessary and stored only for as long as required. It mandates securing data legally with adequate safety and encryption protocols to protect individuals' privacy. GDPR empowers individuals by granting them control over their personal data. Individuals have the right to know how their data is being used, to access their data, to correct inaccuracies, and to have their data erased if it is no longer needed. If an individual requests a firm to remove their data, the firm is obligated to comply with this request promptly, ensuring the individual's right to be forgotten.

In the UK, data protection is overseen by the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO). The UK's version of GDPR, often referred to as "UK GDPR," works alongside an amended version of the Data Protection Act (DPA) 2018. Both aim to protect individuals' rights concerning how their data is processed by firms, organisations, and governments. The ICO ensures that these regulations are followed, providing guidance, monitoring compliance, and taking enforcement actions when necessary.

By adhering to these regulations, organisations can build trust with consumers, ensuring that personal data is handled responsibly and securely. This framework not only protects individuals' privacy but also promotes transparency and accountability in data processing practices.

References -

European Commission (2016) GDPR Regulation of the European Parliament and Council. Available at: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2016/679/oj> [Accessed: 3rd June 2024].

Information Commissioner Office (2018) The UK GDPR. Available at: <https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/data-protection-and-the-eu/data-protection-and-the-eu-in-detail/the-uk-gdpr> [Accessed: 3rd June 2024].