

GDPR FINES NEWSLETTER

GDPR Fines Overview

The General Data Protection Regulation 2016/679 is a regulation in EU law on data protection and privacy in the European Union and the European Economic Area.

530 fines have been given out until today. The overall cumulative total of data protection fines now stands at **275 187 314€**.

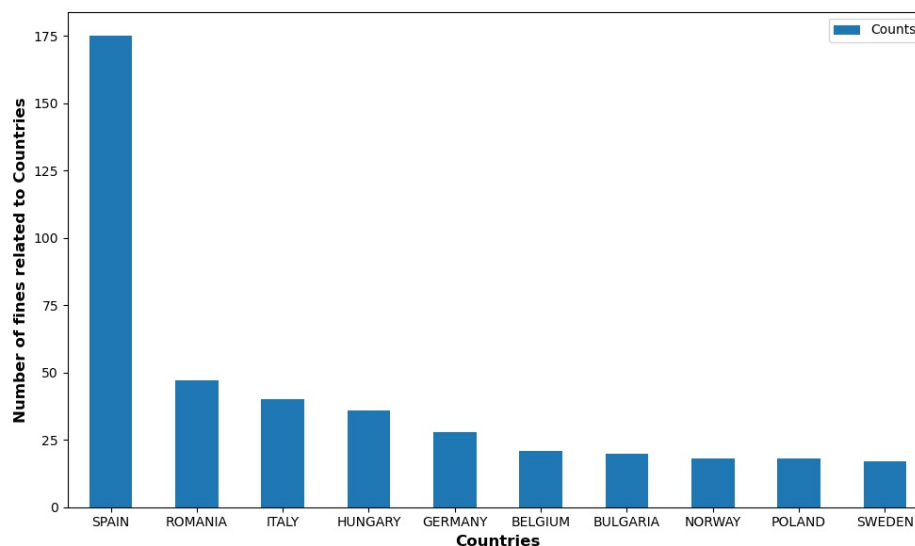


Figure 1. Top 10 EU Countries with the highest number of fines

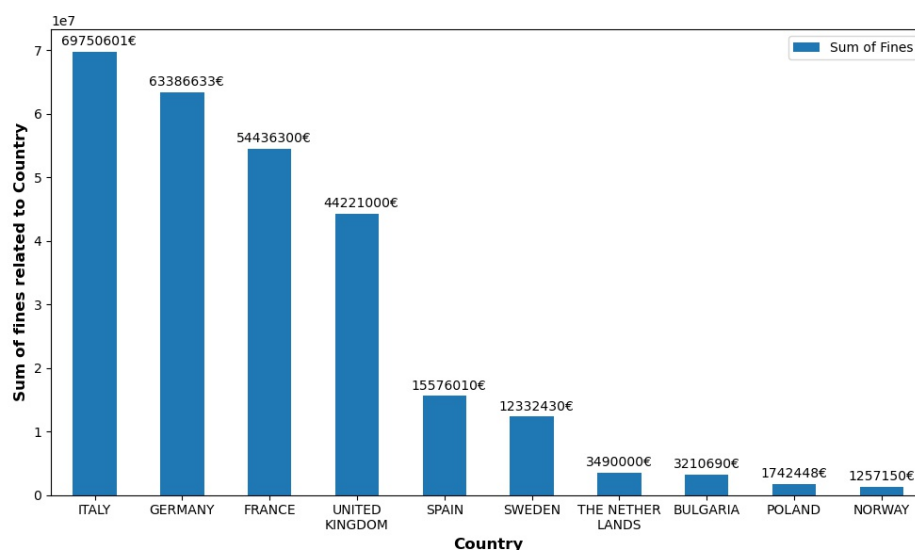


Figure 2. Top 10 EU Countries with the highest sum of fines

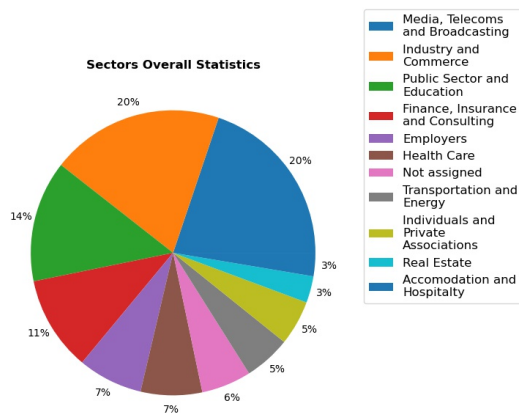


Figure 3. Top 10 Sectors on piechart with the highest number of fines

Overall sum of fines per sector	
Sector	Sum of Fines (€)
Media, Telecoms and Broadcasting	119004365
Industry and Commerce	6855822
Public Sector and Education	4424063
Finance, Insurance and Consulting	16033935
Employers	47796477
Health Care	8921521
Not assigned	910858
Transportation and Energy	34499400
Individuals and Private Associations	849596
Real Estate	14956270
Accommodation and Hospitality	20935007

Figure 4. Top 10 Sectors with the highest amount of fines

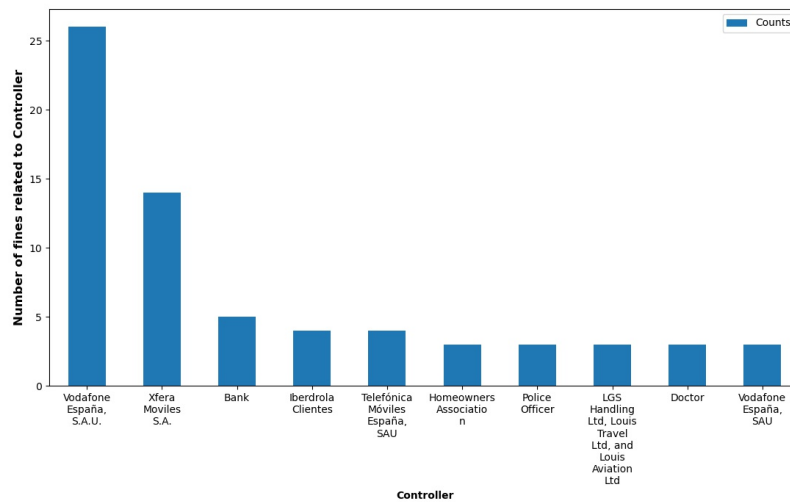


Figure 5. Top 10 Companies with the highest number of fines

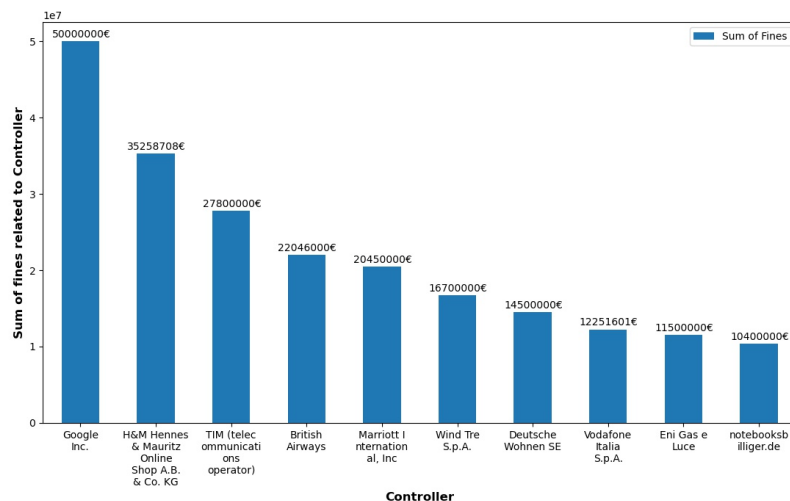


Figure 6. Top 10 Companies with the highest amount of fines

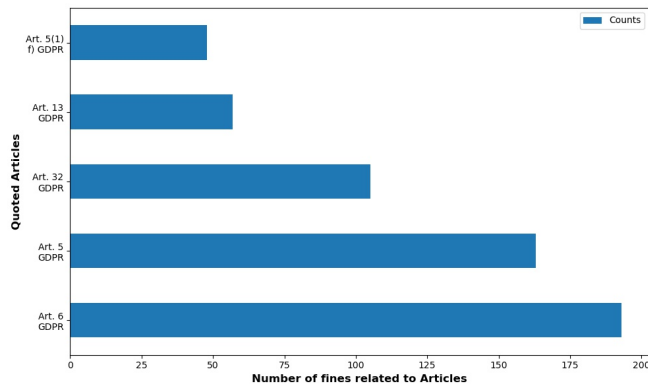


Figure 7. Top 5 Quoted Articles with the highest number of fines

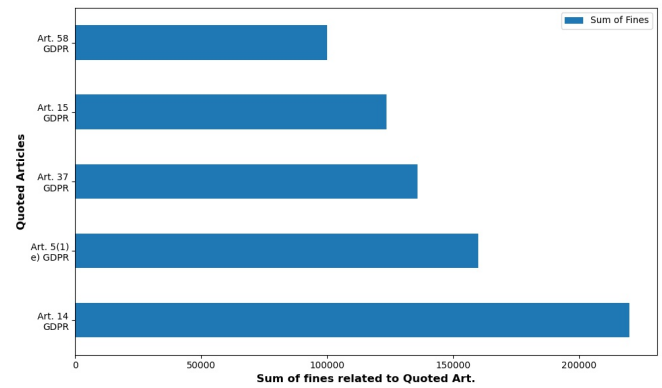


Figure 8. Top 5 Quoted Articles with the highest amount of fines

Analysis on GDPR enforcement over years

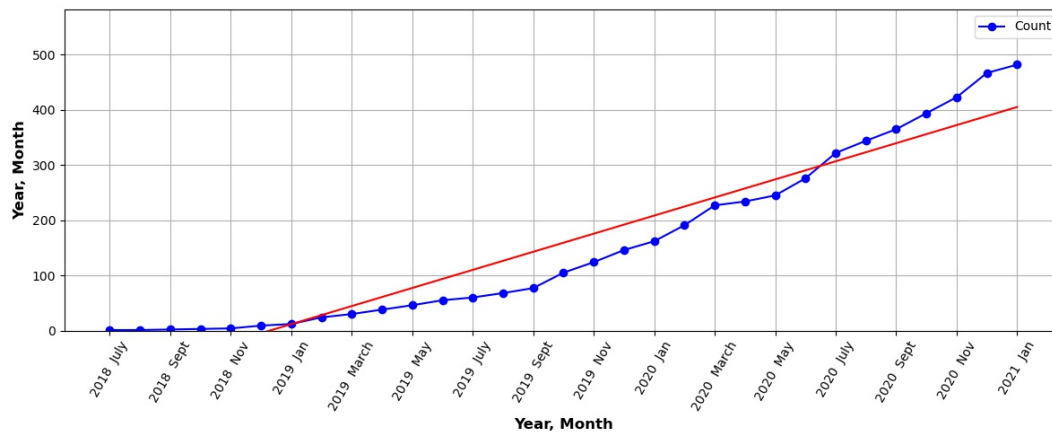


Figure 9. Overall Number of Fines (cumulative)

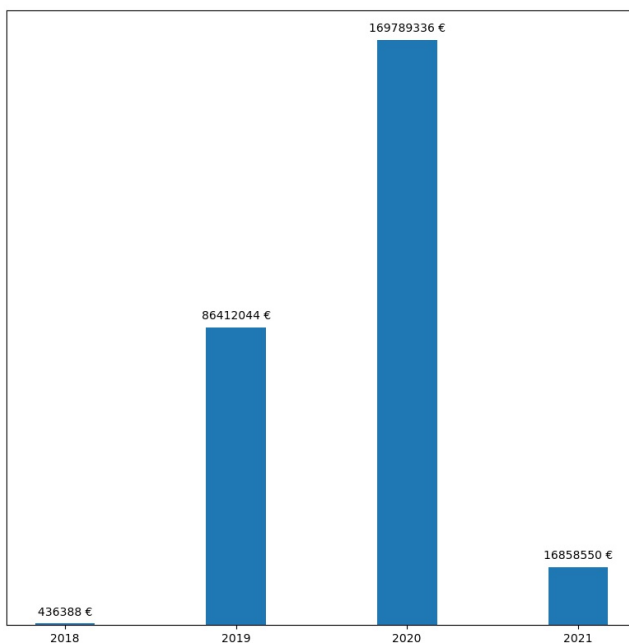


Figure 10. Overall Amount of Fines per year

GDPR enforcement has accelerated since the first few years, both on the number of enforcement cases as well as the sum of fines. Public awareness and media coverage on privacy and data protection have increased over the years too. However, GDPR is at the risk of failing. According to a research from Brave, this is due to the Data Protection Authorities(DPA) not giving enough human and financial resources to perform their tasks. Only 6 national DPAs have more than 10 specialist tech investigation staff. Half of all national DPAs receive small (€5 million or less) annual budgets from their governments.

GDPR fines overview in 2020

In 2020, there have been **321** fines. The cumulative total of data protection fines for 2020 now stands at **169 789 336€**.

Nb of cases	321
Total Amount of Fine	169 789 336€

The GDPR fines for 2020 break down for each months as follow :

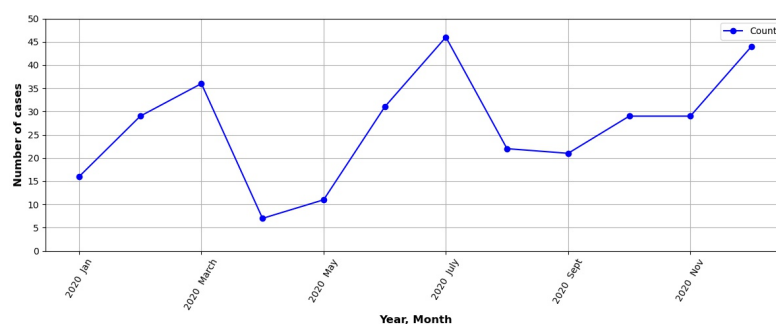


Figure 11. Small Overview over months in 2020

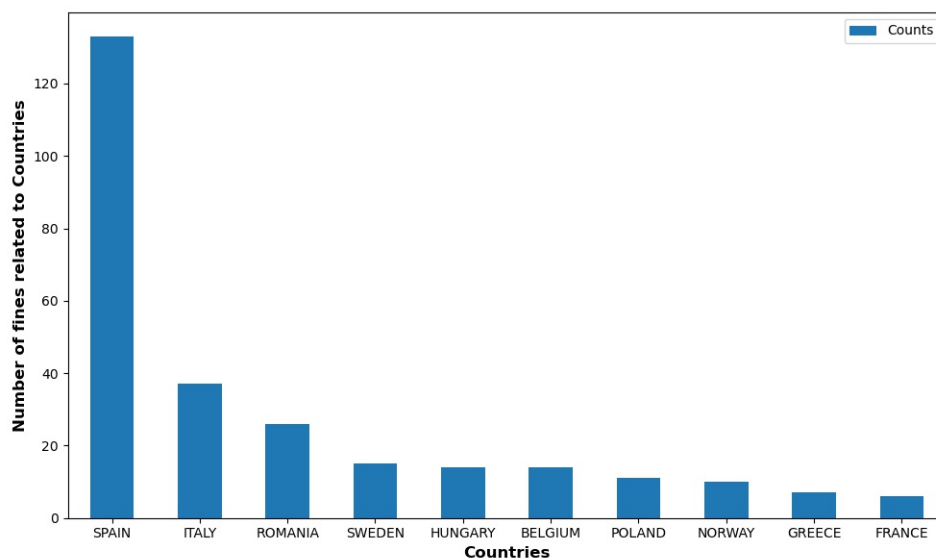


Figure 12. Top 10 EU Countries with the highest number of fines in 2020

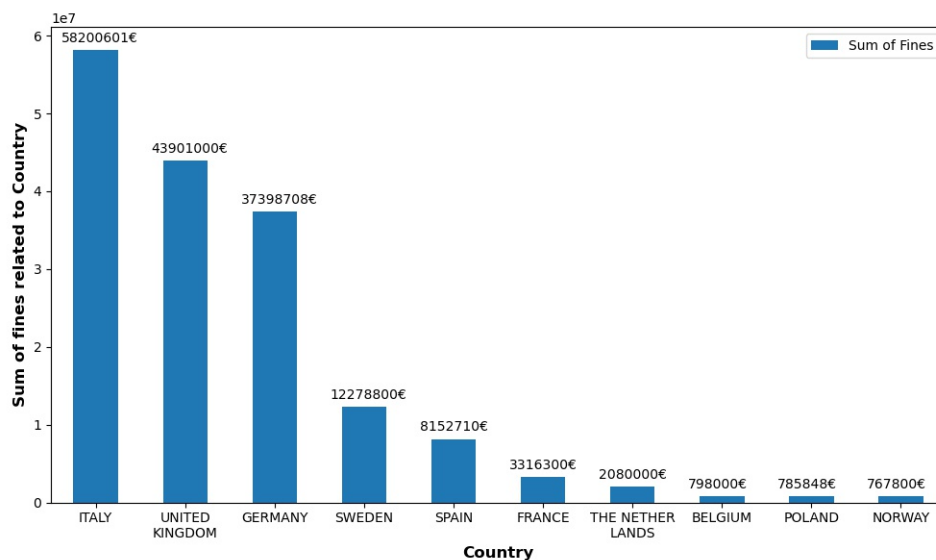


Figure 13. Top 10 EU Countries with the highest sum of fines in 2020

3 most recent fines in 2020

— **2020-12-30**

3,000€ fine issued in ROMANIA to ING Bank N.V. Amsterdam - Bucharest office. The Romanian DPA (ANSPDCP) fined ING Bank N.V. Amsterdam - Bucharest office in the amount of EUR 3,000. The bank had contacted the data subject by e-mail for the purpose of updating his data. At that time, however, the data subject had already terminated his account with the bank, so that the contractual relationship had been terminated. As a result, the data controller had unlawfully processed personal data of the former customer without his consent such as the e-mail address and the name and of the data subject.

[More Info](#)

— **2020-12-29**

1,000€ fine issued in ROMANIA to Qualitance QBS SA. The Romanian DPA (ANSPDCP) fined Qualitance QBS SA EUR 1,000 for a violation of Art. 32 GDPR. The company had sent information by email to 295 individuals, disclosing the email addresses of the other recipients. The ANSPDCP noted that the company had not taken sufficient security measures to ensure the confidentiality of the personal data of the data subjects.

[More Info](#)

— **2020-12-28**

18,930€ fine issued in POLAND to To-

warzystwo Ubezpieczeń i Reasekuracji WARTA S.A.

The Polish DPA (UODO) fined Towarzystwo Ubezpieczeń i Reasekuracji WARTA S.A. EUR 18,930 for a breach of Art. 33 (1) GDPR and Art. 34 (1) GDPR. In May 2020, the DPA received a notification from a third party about a personal data breach involving an insurance agent acting as a processing agent for Towarzystwo Ubezpieczeń i Reasekuracji WARTA S.A. who sent an insurance policy to an unauthorized addressee by email. The document contained personal data concerning, among others, surnames, first names, residential addresses and information on the subject of the insurance policy. As a result, the supervisory authority asked the controller to clarify whether, regarding the sending of the electronic correspondence to an unauthorized addressee, a risk analysis on the data security of natural persons had been carried out, which is necessary to evaluate whether a data breach had occurred. Such a breach requires notification to the DPA and the individuals affected by the breach. In the letter, the supervisory authority advised the controller how to notify the breach and asked for explanations. Despite the letter requesting explanations, the controller did not report the data breach nor did it inform the data subjects about the incident. The DPA therefore initiated administrative proceedings. Only as a result of the initiation of the procedure did the controller report the personal data breach and inform two individuals affected by the breach.

[More Info](#)

Notable fines in 2020

- The **largest** fine of 2020 - **35258708 €** - was issued in GERMANY to Hu0026M Hennes u0026 Mauritz Online Shop A.B. u0026 Co. KG.

Summary : The fashion company with seat in Hamburg operates a service center in Nuremberg. Here, according to the findings of the Hamburg data protection officer, since at least 2014 private life circumstances of some of the employees have been comprehensively recorded and this information stored on a network drive. For example, the company conducted a Welcome Back Talk after employees returned to work after vacation or illness. The information that became known in this context - including information on the symptoms of illness and diagnoses of the employees - was recorded and stored. In addition, according to the Hamburg data protection authority, some supervisors also used the Flurfunk [meaning to hear something through the grapevine) to acquire a broad knowledge of individual employees, for example about family problems and religious beliefs. The information stored on the network drive was accessible to up

to 50 managers of the company and was used, among other things, to evaluate the work performance of the employees and to make employment decisions. The data collection became known due to a technical configuration error in October 2019, according to which the data stored on the network drive was accessible company-wide for several hours. After the violation became known, the management apologized to the employees and offered monetary compensation. In addition, also further protective measures were introduced together with the data protection authority. [Note : Concrete legal basis of the fine not yet published - we assume this will mainly be Art. 5 and 6 GDPR)

[More info](#)

- The **lowest** fine of 2020 - **28 €** - was issued in to Google Ireland Ltd..

Summary : Failure to respond to a data subjects request to access information (Art. 15 GDPR - here : about data processed in the context of Google AdWords) in due time.

[More info](#)

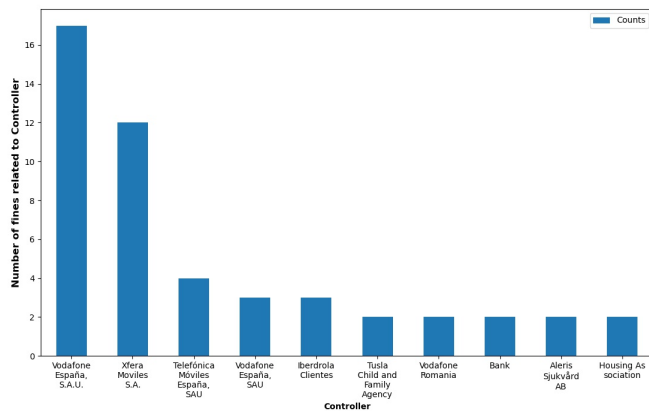


Figure 14. Top 10 Companies with the highest number of fines in 2020

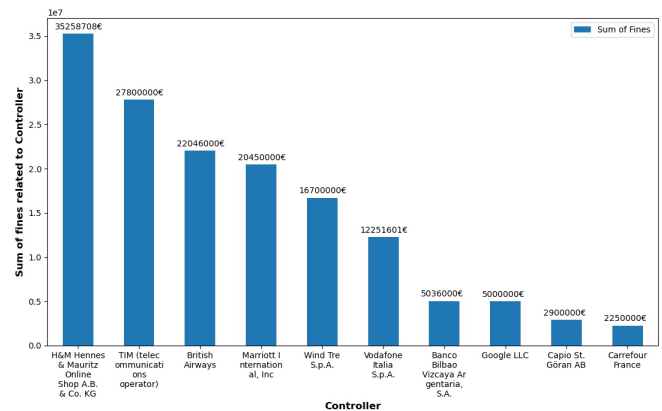


Figure 15. Top 10 Companies with the highest amount of fines in 2020

Overall sum of fines per sector	
Sector	Sum of Fines (€)
Media, Telecoms and Broadcasting	67605224
Industry and Commerce	4945498
Public Sector and Education	1336590
Finance, Insurance and Consulting	8509160
Health Care	7507100
Employers	36139698
Individuals and Private Associations	566066
Transportation and Energy	22483400
Real Estate	54000
Accommodation and Hospitality	0
Not assigned	27800

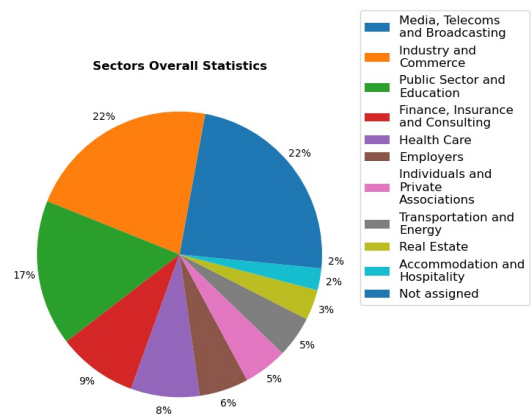


Figure 17. Top 10 Sectors with the highest amount of fines in 2020

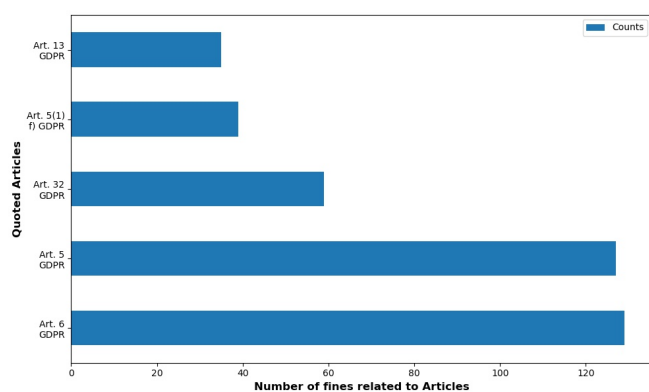


Figure 18. Top 10 Quoted Article with the highest number of fines in 2020

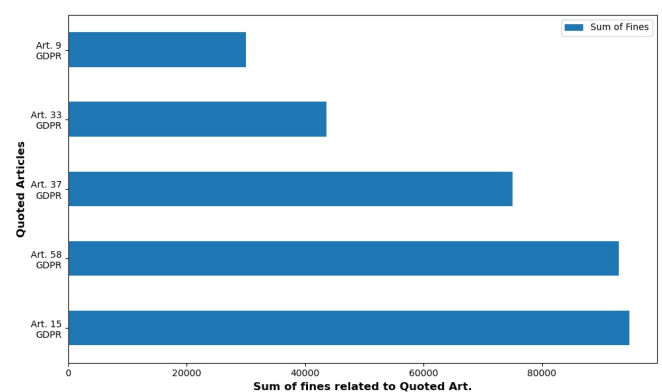


Figure 19. Top 10 Quoted Article with the highest amount of fines in 2020

References :

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