

Privacy & Data Protection

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Headlines

- ICO releases Strategic Plan, p.17
- Europe concerned about uncertainties of new cyber-security law in China, p.18
- Direct marketers await new ICO statutory Code, p.20

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With less than a year to go, GDPR prep tools are thick and fast

A number of European regulators, including those in the UK and Ireland, have released new and updated resources to assist organisations with making the final preparations for GDPR compliance, as the 12 month countdown began last month.

The ICO has updated its toolkit for SMEs (www.pdpjournals.com/docs/88693) and its ‘12 steps to GDPR’ (www.pdpjournals.com/docs/88694). The toolkit includes a checklist that can help organisations assess their progress so far.

Also available is a video addressing boardrooms, and calling on businesses to see the commercial benefits of sound data protection.

In Ireland, which recently published its ‘General Scheme for Data Protection Bill’ (see pages 12-13), the Office of the Data Protection Commissioner launched a GDPR specific website: www.GDPRandYou.ie. Commissioner, Helen Dixon, said her Office was “focussed on helping SMEs who may feel that the GDPR doesn’t apply to them or that there is little to fear in ignoring it,

when in fact this is far from the case.”

Meanwhile the Belgian regulator has produced a 13-Step Plan, a thematic dossier, FAQs, guidelines and recommendations. And the French regulator, the CNIL, has produced a six step methodology.

International law firms including Hunton & Williams and Hogan Lovells International have been promoting their own GDPR awareness and compliance tools. The Centre for Information Policy

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Privacy Shield: what’s your view?

The EU Commission has issued a questionnaire to trade bodies and other organisations seeking their experience on implementing the new EU-US Privacy Shield, to assist it in carrying out the first annual review of the Shield.

The review, to take place in September, will determine whether the key foundations of the Privacy Shield are respected. The Commission will also want

to satisfy itself that the Privacy Shield certifications by companies follow the rules.

The questionnaire was sent to a select group of Privacy Shield-certified organisations. It asks how the organisations implemented policies, procedures and other measures to meet their Privacy Shield obligations and each of the Privacy Shield Principles.

It also asks how the companies modified their business and contractual arrangements with third parties, to ensure that they appropriately protect the personal information they receive. It asks how the firms addressed complaints, and the requirement to select an independent dispute resolution mechanism.

In addition, the question-

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