

Project overview

Development of multiple online tools for cities in order to meet the new data protection standards acc. to the EU-GDPR

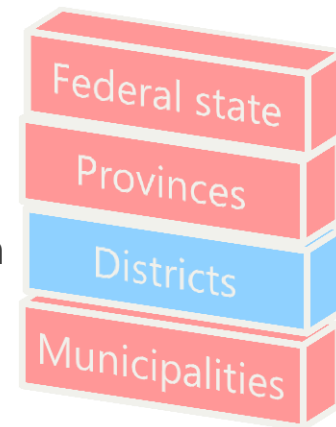
- Österreichischer Städtebund
(Austrian Association of Cities and Towns)
- Österreichischer Gemeindebund
(Austrian Association of Municipalities)
- Bundeskanzleramt (Federal Chancellery)
- Fachhochschule Hagenberg
(University of Applied Sciences Hagenberg)
- IT Kommunal and bitmedia (ICT companies)

The General Data Protection Regulation entered into force on 25th of May 2018 and raised wide-ranging new responsibilities for local authorities in Austria. The Association of Cities and Towns started a couple of initiatives to support all of its members with guidelines and tools for a better implementation of the new and comprehensive regulation.

1. Institutional setting



- 83.871 km² / 8,77 Mill. Inhabitants / **2098 municipalities** in total
- Federation of 9 "Bundesländer" (In EU-Diction "Region", comparable to German "State")
- The competences are allotted to the 3 levels federal state, provinces and municipalities
- Legislative Competence is on federal and regional level, districts are administrative subdivisions of the nine provinces
- Municipalities have a comprehensive right of information and participation in the implementation of EU legislation if their sphere of competences is affected (Art 15a B-VG)



Representation of Interests of Municipalities

- **Austrian Association of Cities and Towns** (Österreichischer Städtebund)
255 members (approx. 70 % of the population)
- **Austrian Association of Municipalities** (Österreichischer Gemeindebund)
organisation for smaller municipalities, 2087 members (approx. 70 % of the population)
- Both organisations are protected by the Austrian Constitution (Art 115 B-VG) – unique among all EU members



Österreichischer
Städtebund

2. Starting point

On 27th April 2016 the Council and the European Parliament adopted the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), which entered into force on 25th May 2018. Article 47 requires that all organizations affected by the GDPR ensure *an appropriate data protection instruction to personnel having permanent or regular access to personal data*

- Little technical and legal in-house-knowledge (especially in small member cities)
- No detailed knowledge what has to be done to apply the GDPR
- Lack of human resources for in-house trainings

27th April 2016



25th May 2018

3. Approach

- **Guidelines** for an accurate implementation of the GDPR
- **Online platform** for the exchange of experiences among data protection officials
 - Library of data protection materials, collection of new findings, discussion forum
- **E-Learning program** for basic knowledge of data protection in a local authority
- **Online record** of GDPR-relevant municipal processing activities
- Collection of **online-forms for data subjects**
 - e.g. right to gain access to the stored personal data (Art 15 GDPR)
- **GDPR-Roadshow**
 - Workshops with high level data protection experts in different provinces to transfer knowledge about implementation of the new regulation to the member cities

These tools were developed with financial support of the federal state (and without support of the provinces)

4. Outputs

GDPR E-Learning-Tool

Within only 4 weeks...

- 116 cities registered (45 % of our members)
- 3.376 registered users
- 1.649 completed lessons

Online record of municipal processing activities

- Used by 157 cities



Substantial administrative and financial savings compared to conventional trainings (e.g. by law offices)

5. Lessons Learned

“High level expert knowledge drilled down to a compact manual” is the right way to avoid multiple engagement with similar questions and misinterpretations

Centrally managed services are the best solution to maximize the benefit for many similar organisations (as local authorities are)

User centric online training is a great approach to multiply the use for thousands of persons without (or only low) additional expenses



6. Follow up

- Evaluation of the project
- Appointment of data protection officers by each city
- Exchange of knowledge on the platform "municipal data protection"
- Integration of the E-Learning Tool into the new platform "Städtebund Academy"

