

# Paper on the agreement on the organization of a joint validation workshop and the merged Deliverables D4.2 and D3.4

Deliverable **D4.2** (Version 1.0)



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## 1. Background to the STAR II project

The STAR II project (Support small and medium enterprises on the data protection reform II) commenced in August 2018 and is intended to run for a two-year period. It is co-funded by the European Union under the Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme 2014-2020 and is aimed at: (i) assisting European Union (EU) Data Protection Authorities (DPAs) raise awareness about the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) among small and medium enterprises (SMEs); and (ii) assisting SMEs to comply with the GDPR.

There are 22 million SMEs in the EU who form the core of the EU enterprise policy. These SMEs face distinctive challenges from data protection law and can often not afford professional legal advice. As such, they merit special support from public authorities as recognised by Recital 132 of the GDPR which specifies that when undertaking awareness-raising activities addressed to the public, data protection authorities should include specific measures directed towards, among others, SMEs.

The STAR II project outputs will include:

- 1) A review of the state-of-the-art in DPA awareness-raising activities aimed at SMEs (Deliverable 2.1).
- 2) Report analysing the SME experience of the GDPR during its first year (Deliverable 2.2)
- 3) An email hotline run by *Nemzeti Adatvédelmi és Információszabadság Hatóság* (NAIH, the Hungarian National Authority for Data Protection and Freedom of Information) in both Hungarian and English;
- 4) A guidance document for DPAs on good practices in awareness-raising techniques among SMEs;
- 5) A handbook for SMEs to help them comply with the GDPR.

At the time of writing, NAIH is currently operating the email hotline and has completed an awareness-raising campaign in Hungary to promote the hotline among SMEs. An analysis of this effort along with the previously submitted Deliverables D2.1 and D2.2. and the validation workshops will ensure that the guidance document for DPAs and the handbook for SMEs is innovative and assist SMEs compliance with the obligations stemming from the GDPR.

## 2. Reasons of the request for the organization of a joint workshop and the submission of a merged Deliverable

The STARII project proposal foresaw the following three workshops and the launch event to be held during the timespan of the project:

Workshop	Location	Date	Deliverable
Validation Workshop (W1)	Dublin, IE	M7 (February 2019)	D2.3
Validation Workshop (W2)	Brussels, BE	M21 (April 2020)	D3.4
Validation Workshop (W3)	Dublin, IE	M17 (December 2019)	D4.2
Launch event for the guidance & handbook (W4)	Budapest, HU	M23 (June 2020)	D4.4

During the kick-off meeting (KoM) of the project that was held on 10 September 2018 in Budapest the Partners discussed that workshops within the scope workpackages 3 and 2 (i.e., W2 and W3) and consequently D3.4 and D4.2 could be merged. It was agreed that instead of hosting two workshops only one workshop would be organized in Brussels. This merge of workshops subsequently means that one deliverable will be submitted during the period between December 2019 and April 2020. The reason for that is that WP3 (Hotline & awareness-raising campaign for SMEs) and WP4 (Guidance for DPAs & handbook for SMEs) are strongly interconnected and by joining two workshops financial resources could be released and travel costs available for the Partners could be optimized, so members of the Advisory Board (AB) could be invited to that workshop and their travel costs could be financed from the amount released.

After the KoM the Co-ordinator contacted the Project Officer (PO) through the Participant Portal (PP) and asked her whether it is possible to join the two workshops and whether the travel (and maybe the accommodation) costs of the members of the AB could be financed from project-money.

On 12 September 2018 the PO confirmed that it is possible to group the two workshops. She also informed the Co-ordinator that normally, all changes to deliverables need formal amendment, but in this case there would be a possibility to upload in December 2019 this paper under D4.2 saying that in agreement with the PO the deliverable is merged with D3.4. The PO would then approve this deliverable and then between December 2019 and April 2020 all the related documents of the merged D3.4 and D4.2 must be uploaded.

In accordance with the agreement with the PO the merged workshop (W2 and W3) will be held in mid-March 2020 in Brussels where the draft guidance and handbook will be presented.

### **3. CPDP2020 Conference**

To further promote the outcomes of the project, STAR II is going to co-host a panel debate at the 13th International CPDP (Computers, Privacy and Data Protection) Conference with the SMOOTH project, which also seeks to assist micro enterprises in adopting and complying with the GDPR. Provided the overlapping scope and objectives of the two projects, the organizers of the conference facilitated the cooperation among the projects. The joint panel is scheduled for 8:45 on 22 January 2020.

Title of the panel:

**The GDPR is easy: (Un)tangling SMEs compliance hurdles.**

Description of the panel:

SMEs are the backbone of European economy, they employ 2 out of 3 employees and produce 57 cents of every euro of value added. Some Data Protection Authorities (DPAs) suggest that attaining compliance with the GDPR for SMEs is fairly easy. Complying with the GDPR, however, poses distinctive challenges for SMEs – apart from lack of awareness, they rarely can afford professional legal advice. Therefore, SMEs have distinct GDPR related needs and merit special support from public authorities – DPAs. In view of this, the panel will first identify those distinct needs of SMEs and then it will turn to the discussion on ways in which public and private actors could help SMEs to move from a relatively good level of awareness to actual compliance with the GDPR.

The panelists will seek to answer the following question during the debate:

- What are the perceived distinct GDPR related needs of SMEs?
- What kind of assistance could SMEs expect and demand from DPAs?
- What traditional and alternative (e.g. AI) solutions facilitating GDPR compliance for SMEs are available on the market?
- What's the perspective of an SME owner?

Moderator: Annika Linck, European DIGITAL SME Alliance (BE)

Speaker 1: Narseo Vallina-Rodriguez, IMDEA Networks (US)

Speaker 2: Mistale Taylor, Trilateral Research (IE)

Speaker 3: Karen Clements, LOW (BE)

Speaker 4: Pawel Brzeziński, Airpoint (PL)