



# Implementing the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) is a seismic change to European data protection law to accommodate changes in the use of technologies over the last 20 years. The GDPR will provide a consistent EU-wide law aimed at growing the digital economy and protecting individuals' online rights.

**Reed Smith is a dynamic international law firm**, with more than 1,700 lawyers across 27 offices, dedicated to helping clients move their businesses forward.

**Accolades**  
Our team has been recognised over a number of years with rankings in both the Chambers and Legal 500 directories.

## What do you need to do?

The new regulation will require organisations to implement and comply with a multitude of new obligations. Organisations will be required to produce documentary evidence of compliance, honour new rights for individuals, and be exposed to increased sanctions at up to 4% of worldwide annual turnover as well as group (class) actions.

The GDPR applies to all organisations (wherever located) that offer goods and services or track individuals located in the EU. Organisations established outside the EU that previously may have been outside the scope of EU data protection law are now subject to the GDPR.

The GDPR was formally adopted on April 27, 2016 and published in the Official Journal of the European Union on May 4, 2016, entering into force 20 days later. A transitional period of 2 years was agreed, providing time for organisations to prepare for **25 May 2018**, when the GDPR becomes enforceable. The countdown has already begun so now is the time to begin preparing for changing regulatory landscape.

The upcoming months is the time to review your data processing activities and build your compliance program. We can help build your compliance program through 4 key actions:



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## The path to compliance

The path to compliance involves 10 steps between now and 25 May 2018:

- **Stakeholder awareness:** Embed data protection across your business functions
- **Data inventory:** Assess and record your data processing activities
- **Gap analysis:** Identify what needs to be updated or newly introduced to comply with the GDPR compliance requirements
- **Implementation plan:** Create a compliance programme to address the compliance gaps
- **Governance/data protection officer:** Assess whether the appointment of a DPO is necessary and create a governance structure to support accountability requirements
- **Supply chain/processors:** Ensure supplier contracts contain adequate provisions to meet GDPR requirements
- **Cross-border data transfers:** Review legal mechanisms for cross-border data transfers from the EEA
- **Accountability processes:** Prepare tools and processes to document and implement compliance
- **Data subjects' rights:** Prepare policies and procedures to ensure requests to exercise rights can be handled effectively
- **Data breach notification:** Prepare a policy handling data breaches and notification

## Accolades

*"The team is responsive and approachable, very helpful and makes an effort to keep us updated about the latest important developments."*  
Chambers & Partners 2017

## Adding value and innovation

We can offer training sessions and have developed automated tools and processes to help you navigate the path to compliance.

## Our Team



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For more insight into the GDPR and other data and technology matters, please take a look at our blog, the Technology Law Dispatch: <https://www.technologylawdispatch.com>