

Weekly Policy News Summary

Year 2018 – week 9

Official Journal: Addressing unjustified geo-blocking

The Regulation (EU) 2018/302 of the the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 February 2018 on addressing unjustified geo-blocking and other forms of discrimination based on customers' nationality, place of residence or place of establishment within the internal market and amending Regulations (EC) No 2006/2004 and (EU) 2017/2394 and Directive 2009/22/EC has been published in this week Official Journal (L).

The purpose of this Regulation is to contribute to the proper functioning of the internal market by preventing unjustified geo-blocking and other forms of discrimination based, directly or indirectly, on the customers' nationality, place of residence or place of establishment, including by further clarifying certain situations where different treatment cannot be justified. This Regulation does not apply to purely internal situations, where all the relevant elements of the transaction are confined within one single Member State. This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States. It shall apply from 3 December 2018. Please follow [this link](#) to access the Regulation

New Commission initiative to improve administrative capacity in managing EU funds

The Commission is launching [a call for participation](#) in a pilot action to help managing authorities in Member States further enhance the way EU funds are managed and invested. The selected candidates will receive support through a new approach, based on expertise from the Commission, in cooperation with the OECD, and an integrated and coordinated use of available assistance and instruments. In particular, it will help managing authorities prepare a comprehensive roadmap with clear objectives, as well as implement identified actions. This pilot initiative will assist selected managing authorities to prepare for the next financial period, beyond 2020. It is part of a broader Commission [initiative](#) to ensure effectiveness of EU funds on the ground, in line with the [Reflection Paper on the future of the EU Finances](#).

Workshop on Open Research Data within the context of the PSI Directive

Over 35 participants took part in the participatory workshop on Open Research Data within the context of the PSI directive. It was generally acknowledged that the exploitation of research data has not yet reached its full potential. Participants listed issues related to licensing, exclusive agreements, copyright and intellectual property right as well as interoperability and data infrastructures as possible causes. Some referred to the extension of the scope of the PSI Directive to research data as one of the possible solutions to the above-mentioned problems, while others raised questions and cast some doubts about the effectiveness and proportionality of such an intervention. Overall, participants agreed that, to foster the opening up and re-use of research data, a coherent legal framework must be in place, and that this should also include clarification of the relation with existing rules, for example regarding copyright and database protection. [Complete report and minutes](#)
