

## Weekly Policy News Summary

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Year 2018 – week 21

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### General Data Protection Regulation: Next steps

The Commission will continue to actively support Member States, Data Protection Authorities and businesses to ensure the rules are applied effectively. The Commission has allocated EUR 1.7 million to co-finance the training of data protection professionals. A further EUR 2 million has been allocated to support national data protection authorities in reaching out to businesses, in particular SMEs, and individuals. One year after the Regulation enters into application (2019) the Commission will organise an event to take stock of different stakeholders' experiences of implementing the Regulation. This will also feed into the report the Commission is required to produce by May 2020 on the evaluation and review of the Regulation. For more information please see 3 factsheets on EU data protection for the EU: Benefits for [citizens](#) , Benefits for [businesses](#) , [What changes after 25 May](#) .

### JRC: Blockchain4EU project

The JRC has just completed a research project to explore the existing, emerging and potential applications based on Blockchain and other DLTs. The outcomes of the project is available at [report](#) . The project results will now contribute to the work of the [EU Blockchain Observatory](#) and promote exchange of experiences amongst European innovators and users of Blockchain, and the [European Blockchain Partnership](#) - a set of 23 European countries that have agreed to work together in the development of a EU-wide blockchain services infrastructure to support secure cross-border public services in the DSM.

Brief Strategic recommendations for policy-makers are: Support experimentation and piloting with simplified requirements; Build upon other digitisation initiatives and programmes; Stimulate knowledge sharing and collaborations between projects; Foster interoperability and open standards with wider engagement; Promote adequate skills and training also beyond core Blockchain spaces; Cultivate wider exchanges between policy and Blockchain stakeholders; Fund Blockchain interdisciplinary and problem-driven research; Design stable regulatory frameworks for better policy preparedness; Champion Blockchain in public and governmental sectors.

### Commission: Cohesion policy beyond 2020

The Commission has selected five national and regional authorities to participate in a new pilot action on good governance and administrative capacity-building: the 'Transport Infrastructure, environment and sustainable development' programme in Greece, the Lubelskie regional programme in Poland, the Extremadura regional programme in Spain, the 'Competitiveness and cohesion' programme in Croatia and the 'Regions in Growth' programme in Bulgaria. The Commission will evaluate the results of the pilot by the end of 2019. The conclusions drawn will feed into the development of guidance on administrative capacity-building for the authorities in charge of handling EU funds programmes in the next long term funding period.

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