

Personal Data and Public Information

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In the age of electronic government the concern on the exploitation and exposure of personal data is one of the primary reasons of hesitation on behalf of the citizens in using the e-government services and applications. On the other hand, information concerning the doings of the governments and public organizations is increasingly stored, handled, transmitted and communicated via electronic means and information systems.

Regardless of the reassurances given by experts on the increased and continuously evolving security measures, a legislative and regulatory framework on what consists personal data and which of the information gathered by governmental information systems and transmitted between different levels of public organizations can be accessed and under which circumstances, is a prerequisite for a well-structured and controlled informational environment.

In Greek legislative reality, three main laws define the complexity and interrelation between personal data and public information. Firstly, there is the newly established Law 3979/2011 on electronic government and, secondly, the Law 2472/1997 on personal data protection. Finally, there is the Law 3448/2006 on the further use of government information, whereas the Law 2690/1999 defines the term “public document” and the access to them (Article 5).

The main purpose of this paper is to point out where among these legal documents the delicate balance between the proper use and exploitation of personal data in order to enable access to government information and the processing of administrative procedures, and the protection of such data from maluse or abuse is concealed.

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