Data sharing for law enforcement: building safeguards for public-private partnerships
28 - 31 May 2018 @ Snellius

This workshop aimed to categorise the current practices of data sharing for law enforcement purposes, to identify the limitations presented by the EU data protection framework in establishing PPPs in the law enforcement area and present workable technical and societal suggestions in the form of a white paper with best practices and recommendations, which can be implemented in the short to medium term. The concepts of privacy and data protection by design were assessed in the context of information exchange, together with appropriate data security measures.

The workshop approached the topic of Data Sharing for Law Enforcement through the exploration of four lenses: concepts, actors, technology and regulation. Every co-organisers gave a short introduction on each of the lenses and then the participants were divided into four groups for breakout sessions. These were followed by plenary discussions. On the last day, the participants were again split into four groups were they reflected on key questions on the topic of the workshop aiming at the drafting of policy recommendations. The workshop was complemented with four timely and substantive Keynote lectures by top experts in the field and with a session dedicated to presentations from the junior researchers that participated in the workshop.

The discussions focused on the general topic of data sharing for law enforcement, which covers, according to the views of the participants, both voluntary and mandatory sharing, including PPPs based on legal mandate or contract. The notion of 'data sharing" raised positive connotations and implies trust towards the entity that you are sharing with; however, in the context of data sharing for law enforcement, sharing is not quid pro quo, so various alternative terms were discussed.

The workshop participants prepared a draft list of current practices in data sharing for law enforcement, highlighting the asymmetry in the volumes of requests and the challenges raised by technological developments and political pressure. They also identifies current and future challenges and drafted recommendations for public and private organisations, law enforcement authorities, media and civil society, users and the general public, researchers, and legislators and politicians.

On the 1st of June 2018, one representative of the Workshop was invited to report on our preliminary results at a closed workshop of the BotLeg project in Amsterdam.

The workshop organisers will elaborate on the findings of the workshop in order to prepare a white paper with policy recommendations on the issue of data sharing for law enforcement.

Organizers
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