# Maltese Education Law and Data Privacy Implications in the Education Sector

Lecture Title: Data Privacy and Education Implications Part I

ACADEMY

Diploma in Law (Malta)



Date: 22 November 2023

Lecturer: Angelito Sciberras

# "Education sector third worst-hit by data breaches in 2020"

884 million leaked records across the globe in 2020



#### Self-Assessment



#### The power & value of DATA



## Pregnancy and Power of Data



"The world's most valuable resource is no longer oil, but data"

- The Economist, May 2017



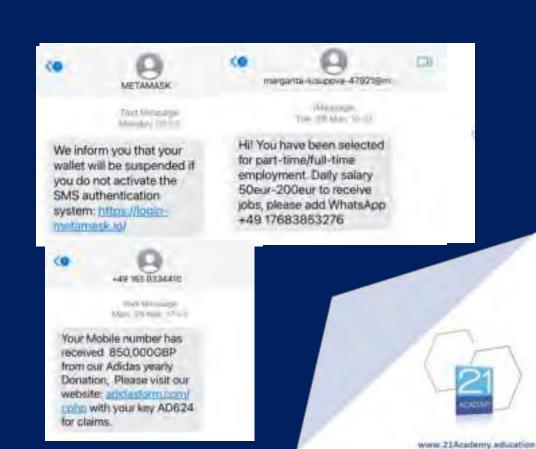
#### Value of Data

What value does personal data have?

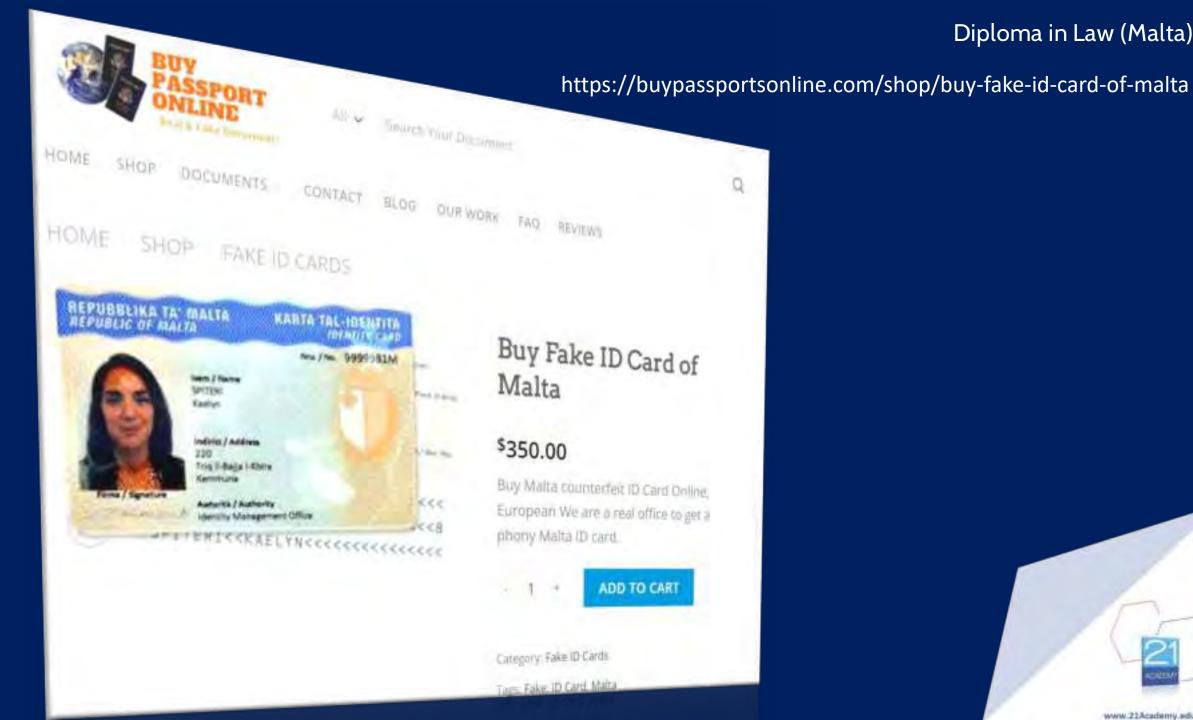
- Email addresses
- Mobile numbers

Do you keep copies of ID cards?

For what purpose?

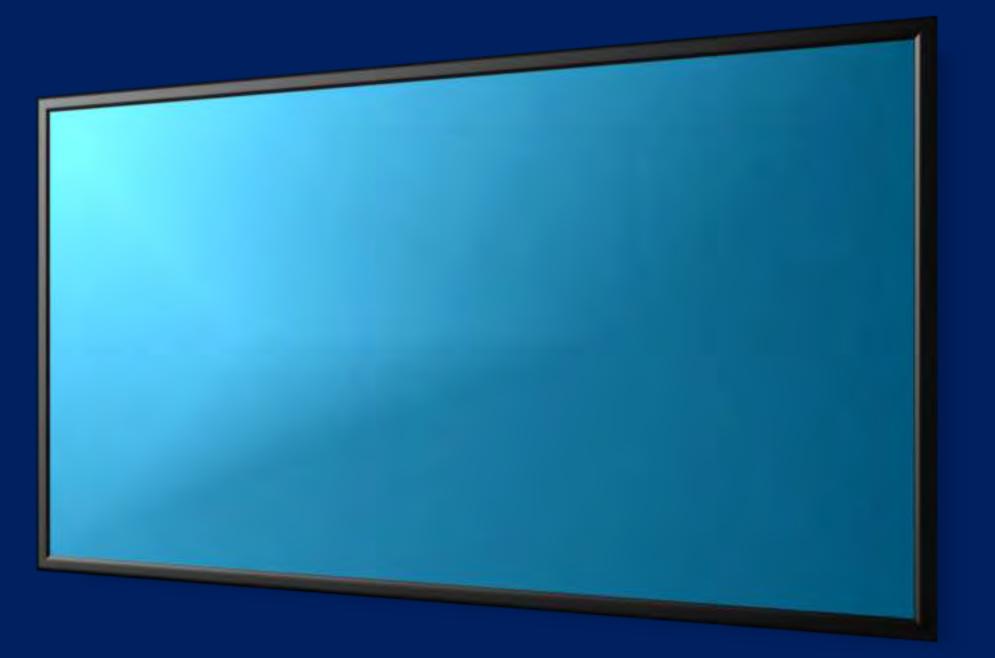


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#### Data vs Personal Data



60sec



#### Data vs Personal Data

facts and statistics collected together for reference or analysis

VS

any information relating to an identified or identifiable individual











## NETFLIX

- Committed to 26 episodes
- @ \$3.8million per episode
- Without watching a single episode



HOW?



You have been employed by Netflix...

...your friends ask you, what is Netflix? What does it do?

How would you answer?





HOME

RESEARCH AREAS

BU

#### About

Netflix has been a data-driven company since its inception. Our analytic work arms decisionmakers around the company with useful metrics, insights, predictions, and analytic tools so
that everyone can be stellar in their function. Partnering closely with business teams in
product, content, studio, marketing, and business operations, we perform context-rich analysis
to provide insight into every aspect of our business, our partners, and of course our members'







In 2014 a Facebook quiz invited users to find out their personality type

The app collected the data of those taking the quiz, but also recorded the public data of their friends

About 305,000 people installed the app, but it gathered information on up to 87 million people, according to Facebook

It is claimed at least

voters in the US

some of the data was sold to Cambridge Analytica (CA) which used it to psychologically profile





## Why GDPR?



Directive 95/46/EC



**GDPR** 

What changed on an Organisational Level?



#### Directive 95/46/EC







**Kodak DCS 460 Camera** 













**IBM ThinkPad 701C** 

#### Legislation

Directive 95/46/EC

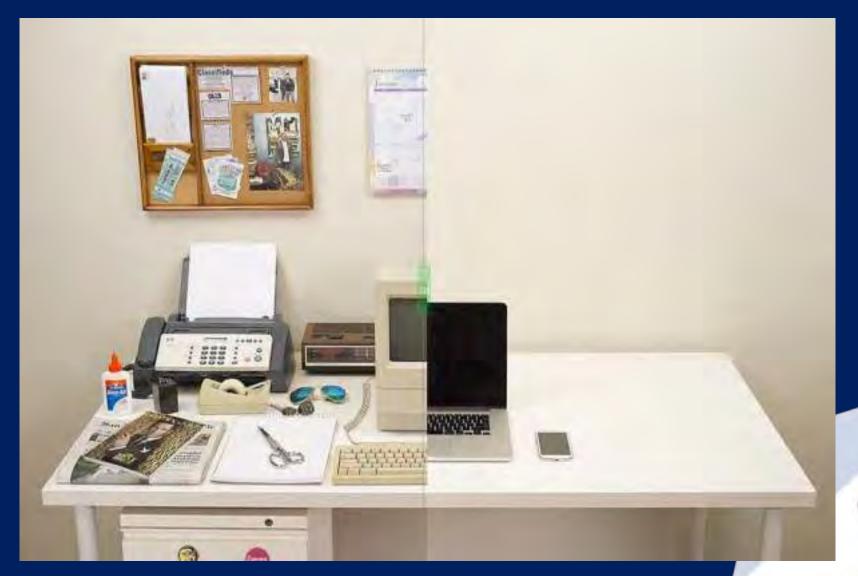


**GDPR** 

What changed on a Company Level?



#### Office Tools Evolution



Directive 95/46/EC



**GDPR** 

What changed on an Personal Level?







# Why are Educational Institutions more at risk?



- Student and Teacher Data Holds Value
- Institutions Often Have Limited Security Protections
- Academic Institutions May Use New, Untried Technology
- Attackers Value Email Addresses Ending in .edu
- Academic Staff Often More Exposed to Phishing
- Some Institutions Have Paid Ransoms







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A D V O C A T E S

# General Data Protection Regulation



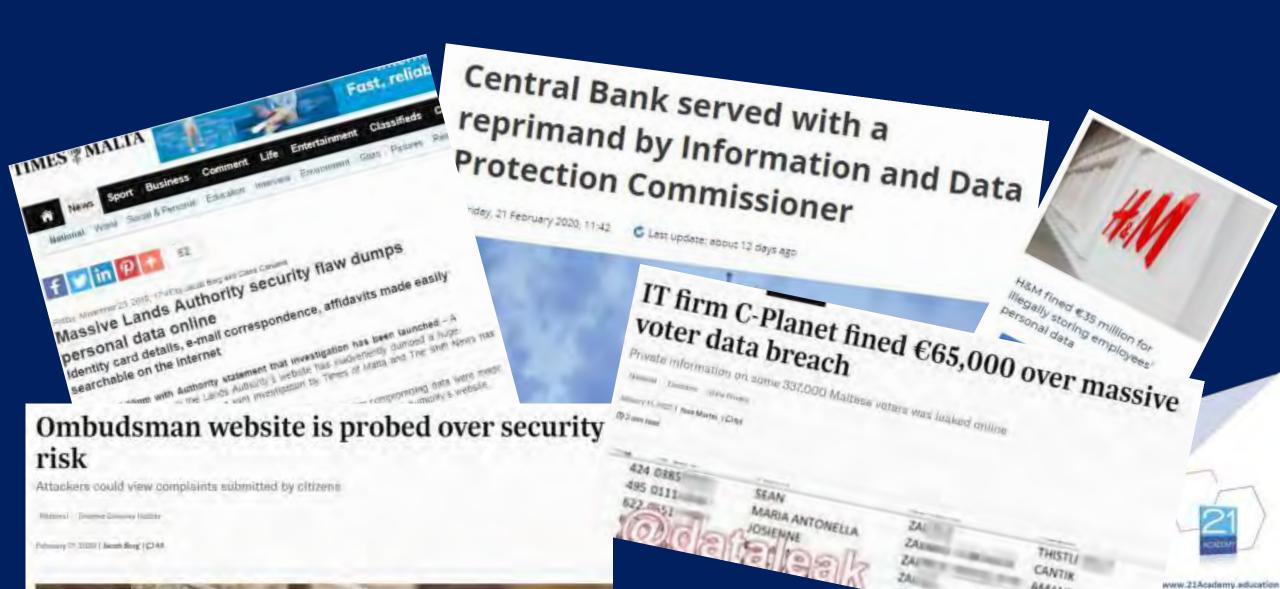
"What must be recognised is that GDPR is an evolution in data protection, not a total revolution... GDPR is building on foundations already in place for the last 20 years."

Steve Wood - Deputy Commissioner for Policy, ICO
 25 August 2017





#### **Problem Solved?**





#### **Problem solved?**

#### 1.2 billion euro fine for Facebook as a result of EDPB binding decision

葡 22 May 2023 EDPB

Brussels, 22 May - Following the EDPB's binding dispute resolution decision of 13 April 2023, Meta Platforms Ireland Limited (Meta IE) was issued a 1.2 billion euro fine following an inquiry into its Facebook service, by the Irish Data Protection Authority (IE DPA). This fine, which is the largest GDPR fine ever, was imposed for Meta's transfers of personal data to the U.S. on the basis of standard contractual clauses (SCCs) since 16 July 2020. Furthermore, Meta has been ordered to bring its data transfers into compliance with the GDPR.



Andrea Jelinek, EDPB Chair, said: "The EDPB found that Meta IE's infringement is very serious since it concerns transfers that are systematic, repetitive and continuous. Facebook has millions of users in Europe, so the volume of personal data transferred is massive. The unprecedented fine is a strong signal to organisations that serious infringements have far-reaching consequences."

In its binding decision of 13 April 2023, the EDPB instructed the IE DPA to amend its draft decision and to impose a fine on Meta IE. Given the seriousness of the infringement, the EDPB found that the starting point for calculation of the fine should be between 20% and 100% of the applicable legal maximum. The EDPB also instructed the IE DPA to order Meta IE to bring processing operations into compliance with Chapter V GDPR, by ceasing the unlawful processing, including storage, in the U.S. of personal data of European users transferred in violation of the GDPR, within 6 months after notification of the IE SA's final decision.

The IE DPA's final decision incorporates the legal assessment expressed by the EDPB in its binding decision, adopted on the basis of Art. 65(1)(a) GDPR after the IE DPA, as lead supervisory authority (LSA), had triggered a dispute resolution procedure concerning the



#### **Problem Solved?**





#### Fines - Malta

What was the highest fine under GDPR in Malta so far?





#### Fines - Malta

€250,000

- 2022
- Information and Data Protection Commissioner
- Controller infringed principles of security regarding personal data of data subjects and failed to implement appropriate technical and organisational measures
- Infringements of Articles 32(1) and 32(2) of the GDPR





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## **Definitions**



# **Processing**

Means <u>any</u> operation or set of operations which is performed on personal data or on sets of personal data,

- whether or not by automated means,
- <u>such as</u> collection, recording, organisation, structuring, storage, adaptation or alteration, retrieval, consultation, use, disclosure by transmission, dissemination or otherwise making available, alignment or combination, restriction, erasure or destruction.



#### **Personal Data**

- <u>any information</u> relating to an identified or identifiable natural person ('DATA SUBJECT');
- an identifiable natural person is one who can be identified, directly or indirectly, <u>in particular</u> by reference to an identifier <u>such as</u> a name, an identification number, location data, an online identifier or to one or more factors specific to the physical, physiological, genetic, mental, economic, cultural or social identity of that natural person;



#### **Is this Personal Data?**





# Hal Muxi School Newsletter Student's personal data hit by cyber attack



- racial or ethnic origin,
- political opinions,
- religious or philosophical beliefs,
- trade union membership,
- the processing of genetic data, biometric data for the purpose of uniquely identifying a natural person
- data concerning health
- data concerning a natural person's sex life or sexual orientation



Art. 9 (2)

- Explicit consent
- Necessary for the purposes of carrying out the obligations and exercising specific rights
  of the controller or of the data subject in the field of employment and social security and
  social protection law
- To protect the vital interests of the data subject or of another natural person where the data subject is physically or legally incapable of giving consent
- Legitimate activities by an association or any other not-for-profit body with a political, philosophical, religious or trade union aim and on condition that the processing relates solely to the members or to former members
- Manifestly made public by the data subject



Art. 9 (2)

- Necessary for the establishment, exercise or defence of legal claims or whenever courts are acting in their judicial capacity
- Necessary for reasons of substantial public interest
- Purposes of preventive or occupational medicine, for the assessment of the working capacity of the employee, medical diagnosis, the provision of health or social care or treatment or the management of health or social care systems and services
- Public interest in the area of public health
- Archiving purposes in the public interest, scientific or historical research purposes or statistical purposes



Art. 10

#### [B] Criminal Convictions & Offences

 only under the control of official authority or when the processing is authorised by Union or Member State law providing for appropriate safeguards for the rights and freedoms of data subjects



#### **Personal Data and Data**

individual

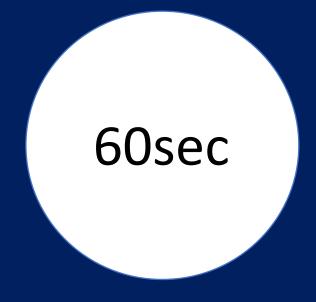
#### PERSONAL DATA NOT PERSONAL DATA SPECIAL CATEGORIES a company registration · criminal records name number; · personal data related to email address an email address racial or ethnic origin (name.surname@dom as info@company.com · medical records ain.com) · anonymiZed data religious or philosophical phone number information about legal beliefs Internet Protocol (IP) entities trade-union membership address data related to a deceased blood type home address

· political stands...

#### **Exercise**

# Identify (a) personal data, (b) sensitive data and (c) out of scope

- J. Borg
- Hal Muxi School
- Class Senior II
- High blood pressure





#### Controller

Art. 4(7)

'Controller' means the natural or legal person, public authority, agency or other body which, alone or jointly with others, determines the purposes and means of the processing of personal data;



# Controller

Art. 4(7)

Hal Muxi School

**CONTROLLER** 

Teachers/Employees

**DUAL ROLE** 

Students/Parents

**DATA SUBJECTS** 

Suppliers

**DATA SUBJECTS** 



#### **Joint Controllers**

Art. 27

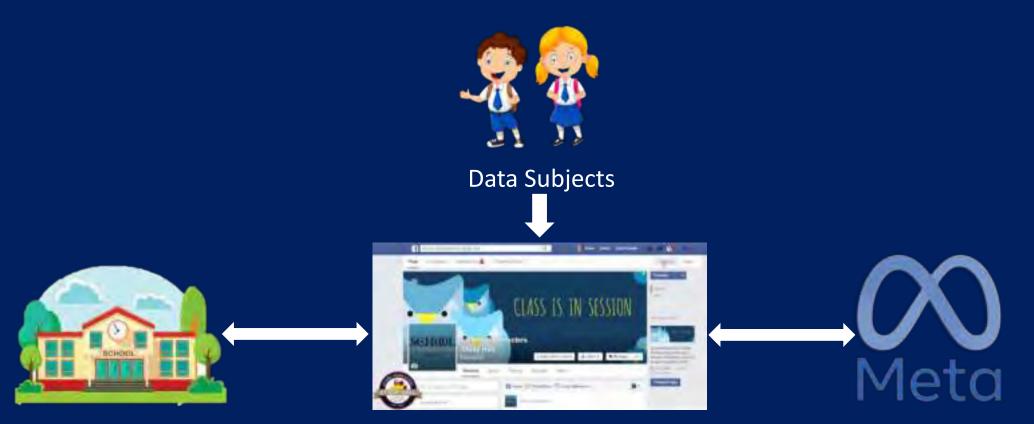
Where two or more controllers jointly determine the purposes and means of processing

Reflect the respective roles and relationships visà-vis the data subjects. The essence of the arrangement shall be made available to the data subject.

The data subject may exercise his or her rights in respect of and against each of the controllers.



# Joint Controllers



Controller Controller

- Facebook's purpose is to improve its ad targeting.
- The Page admin's purpose is to learn about how people interact with its Facebook Page.



#### **Processor**

Art. 4(8)

'Processor' means a natural or legal person, public authority, agency or other body which processes personal data on behalf of the controller (sub-contractor)



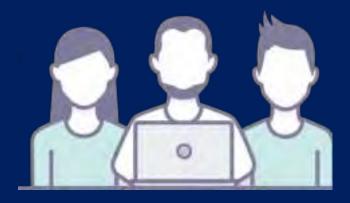
### Controller & Processor



Data Subjects



Controller



Processors

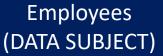


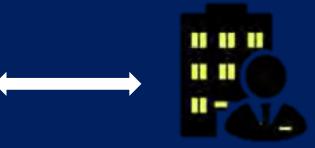




#### Controller & Processor & Sub Processor







School (CONTROLLER)



External Payroll Provider (PROCESSOR)









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A state school contracts a private market-research company to carry out some research. The school's brief specifies its budget and that it requires a satisfaction survey based on the views of a sample of its students' population. The school leaves it to the research company to determine sample sizes, interview methods and presentation of results.

What is the relationship?



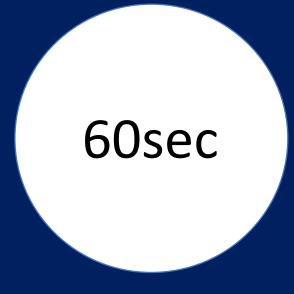


The research company is processing personal data on the schools's behalf, but it is also determining the information that is collected (what to ask the students) and the manner in which the processing (the survey) will be carried out. It has the freedom to decide such matters as which students to select for interview, what form the interview should take, what information to collect from students and how to present the results. This means the market-research company is a joint controller with the school regarding the processing of personal data to carry out the survey, even though the school retains overall control of the data because it commissions the research and determines the purpose the data will be used for.



A private company provides software to process the daily pupil attendance records of a state-maintained school. Using the software, the company gives attendance reports to the school.

What is the relationship?

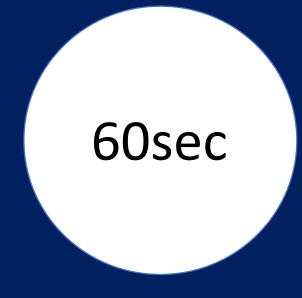


The company's sole purpose in processing the attendance data is to provide this service to the school. The school sets the purpose - to assess attendance. The company has no need to retain the data after it has produced the report. It does not determine the purposes of the processing; it merely provides the processing service. This company is likely to be a processor.



A college contracts a mail delivery service to deliver orders to students such as books. The students can use a website to check the status of their order and track its delivery.

What is the relationship?





The school will be the controller for any personal data inside the package. The delivery company will not be a controller or a processor for any personal data contained inside the package, as it has no control over or access to that data.

However, the delivery company will be processing some personal data (eg the student's name and address) in order to deliver the books and provide the tracking service.

Whether it is a controller or a processor for the tracking element of the service will depend on who makes the decisions.

If the school makes the final decision on the tracking service to be provided and the delivery company merely follows the school's instructions, then the school will be the controller and the delivery company is likely to be a processor.

But if the delivery company independently decides on the tracking service provided to the students without the school's sign-off, it will be a controller.







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