Supporting security of personal data processing
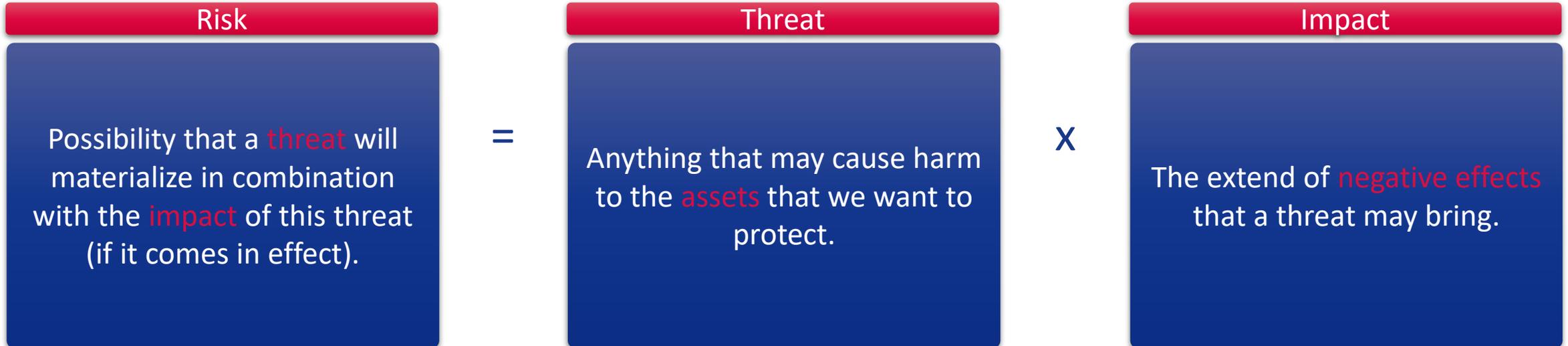
Dr. Prokopios Drogkaris | NIS Expert

Security of Personal Data Processing | Athens | 08.10.2018

European Union Agency for Network and Information Security

The notion of risk in information security

Risk

Possibility that a threat will materialize in combination with the impact of this threat (if it comes in effect).

=

Threat

Anything that may cause harm to the assets that we want to protect.

X

Impact

The extend of negative effects that a threat may bring.

More information security?

more effort from data controllers and data processors regarding information security
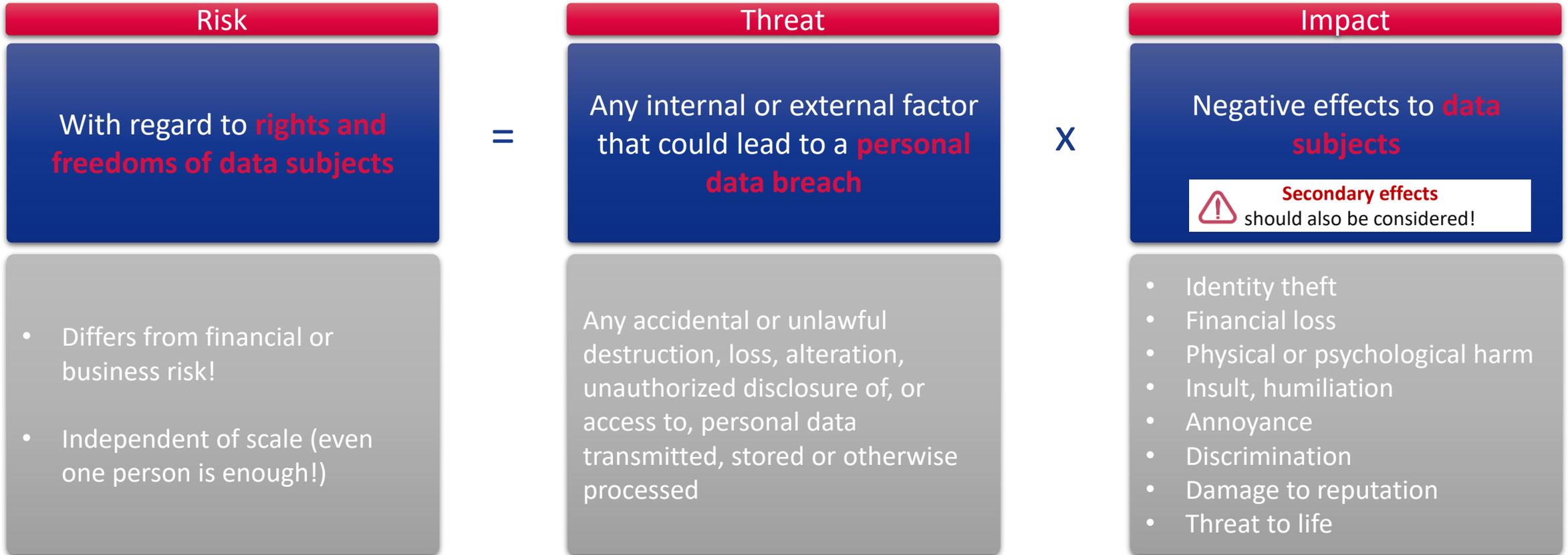
Section 2

Security of personal data

Article 32
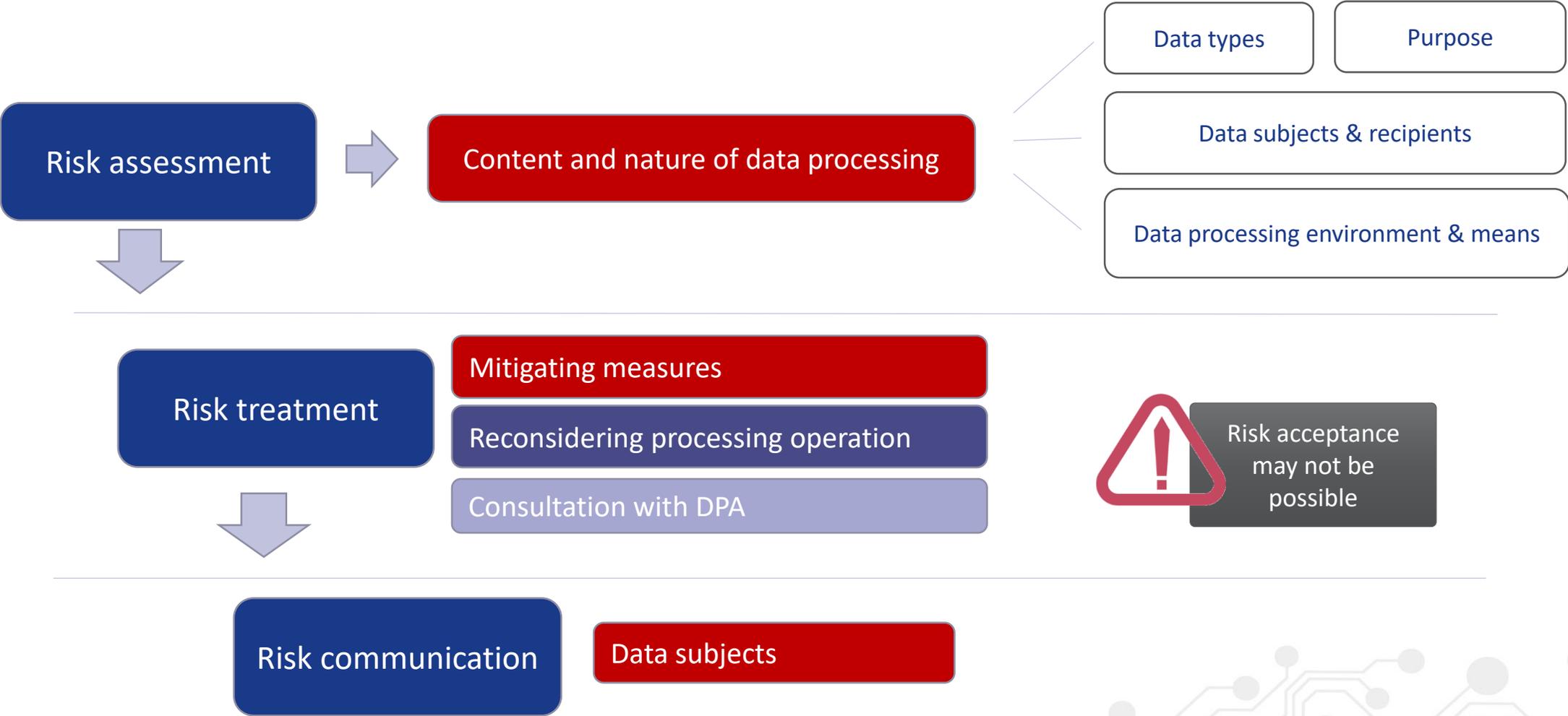
Security of processing

1. Taking into account the state of the art, the costs of implementation and the nature, scope, context and purposes of processing as well as the risk of varying likelihood and severity for the rights and freedoms of natural persons, the controller and the processor shall implement appropriate technical and organisational measures to ensure a level of security appropriate to the risk, including inter alia as appropriate:

(a) the pseudonymisation and encryption of personal data;

(b) the ability to ensure the ongoing confidentiality, integrity, availability and resilience of processing systems and services;

(c) the ability to restore the availability and access to personal data in a timely manner in the event of a physical or technical incident;

(d) a process for regularly testing, assessing and evaluating the effectiveness of technical and organisational measures for ensuring the security of the processing.

The notion of risk to privacy and personal data

Risk		Threat		Impact
With regard to **rights and freedoms of data subjects**	=	Any internal or external factor that could lead to a **personal data breach**	x	Negative effects to **data subjects**

⚠️ **Secondary effects** should also be considered!

• Differs from financial or business risk! • Independent of scale (even one person is enough!)	Any accidental or unlawful destruction, loss, alteration, unauthorized disclosure of, or access to, personal data transmitted, stored or otherwise processed	• Identity theft • Financial loss • Physical or psychological harm • Insult, humiliation • Annoyance • Discrimination • Damage to reputation • Threat to life

A data protection risk management framework

Risk assessment → **Content and nature of data processing**
- Data types
- Purpose
- Data subjects & recipients
- Data processing environment & means

Risk treatment
- Mitigating measures
- Reconsidering processing operation
- Consultation with DPA

⚠️ Risk acceptance may not be possible

Risk communication
- Data subjects

Security risk assessment for the processing of personal data

Step 1

Definition of the processing operation and its context

- Types of personal data
- Categories of data subjects
- Means of processing
- Recipients

Step 2

Understanding and evaluation of impact

- Confidentiality
- Integrity
- Availability

Step 3

Definition of possible threats and evaluation of their likelihood

- Network and technical resources
- Processes/procedures related to the data processing operation
- Different parties and people involved in the data processing operation
- Business sector and scale of processing

Step 4

Evaluation of risk

THREAT OCCURRENCE PROBABILITY	IMPACT LEVEL		
	Low	Medium	High / Very High
Low	Green	Yellow	Red
Medium	Green	Yellow	Red
High	Yellow	Red	Red

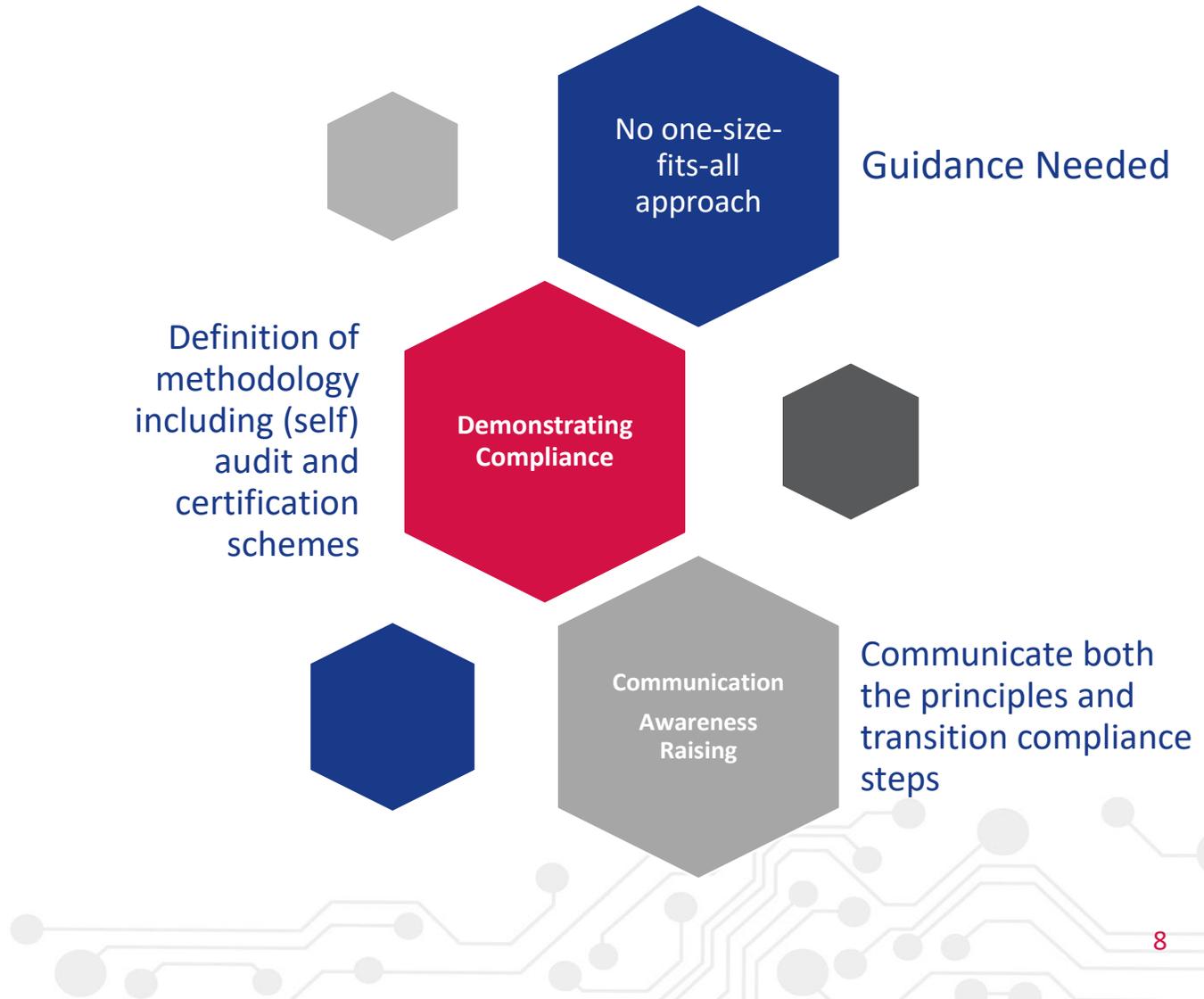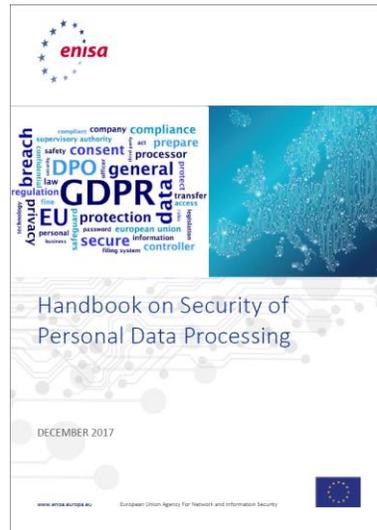# Adoption of measures appropriate to the risk

Security policy

SM.A.1	The organization should develop and document a security policy with regard to the processing of personal data. The policy should be approved by management and communicated to all employees and relevant external parties.	
SM.A.2	The security policy should be reviewed and revised, if necessary, on an annual basis.	
SM.A.3	The security policy should at least refer to: the roles and responsibilities of personnel, the baseline technical and organisation measures adopted for the security of personal data, the data processors or other third parties involved in the processing of personal data.	
SM.A.4	An inventory of specific policies/procedures related to the security of personal data should be created and maintained, based on the general security policy.	
SM.A.5	The security policy should be reviewed and revised, if necessary, on a semester basis.	
	Related to ISO 27001:2013 - A.5 Security policy control	

Database security

SM.M.1	Database and applications servers should be configured to run using a separate account, with minimum OS privileges to function correctly.	
SM.M.2	Database and applications servers should only process the personal data that are actually neededs to process in order to achieve its processing purposes.	
SM.M.3	Encryption solutions should be considered on specific files or records through software or hardware implementation.	
SM.M.4	Encrypting storage drives should be considered	
SM.M.5	Pseudonymization techniques should be applied through separation of data from direct identifiers to avoid linking to data subject without additional information	
SM.M.6	Techniques supporting privacy at the database level, such as authorized queries, privacy preserving data base querying, searchable encryption, etc., should be considered.	
	Related to ISO 27001:2013 - A. 12 Operations security	

Overall Findings

Guidelines for SMEs on the security of personal data processing

DECEMBER 2016

Handbook on Security of Personal Data Processing

DECEMBER 2017

No one-size-fits-all approach

Guidance Needed

Definition of methodology including (self) audit and certification schemes

Demonstrating Compliance

Communication Awareness Raising

Communicate both the principles and transition compliance steps

Thank you

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