
UNESCO Chair in Data Privacy

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Motivation

- Data privacy is the adaptation to the Information Society of the fundamental right to privacy and private life, included by the United Nations in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), whose Article 12 states:

No one shall be subjected to arbitrary interference with his privacy, family, home or correspondence, nor to attacks upon his honour and reputation. Everyone has the right to the protection of the law against such interference or attacks.

- Data privacy technologies are about technically enforcing the above right in the information society.



Motivation (II)

- The design of such privacy technologies requires high-level information protection expertise, which is lacking in transition countries and even in many developed countries due to:
 1. Lack of awareness of the population on the existing privacy threats (profiling, location tracking, etc.)
 2. Lack of pressure on the service and technology providers
 3. Lack of private investment in the development of privacy-preserving technologies

- Unless direct action is taken, the spread of the information society might result in serious privacy loss, especially in rapidly developing countries. The lack of privacy undermines most of all other fundamental rights (freedom of speech, democracy, etc.).

What is the UNESCO Chair?

- It is an agreement between UNESCO and an academic institution (Universitat Rovira i Virgili) for a renewable period of two years time (starting Jan. 1, 2007).
- It must do research, training and dissemination in a field considered relevant by UNESCO for the welfare of humankind (data privacy).
- It is not directly funded by UNESCO, but by whatever funds the UNESCO umbrella can help raise (e.g. URV, Government of Catalonia, etc.).
- It can have associated participating institutions



Participating institutions in the UNESCO Chair in Data Privacy

In the Chair proposal:

- **URV:** Rovira i Virgili University. Host institution. Faculties of Engineering and Law.
- **CSIC:** Spanish Higher Research Council
- **CBS:** Statistics Netherlands
- **UNECE:** Statistical Division of the U.N. Economic Commission for Europe
- **IDESCAT:** Statistics Catalonia
- **Sabanci:** Sabanci University, Istanbul, Turkey
- **INE:** Statistics Spain
- **INSSE:** Statistics Romania
- **NSI:** Statistics Bulgaria
- **MITYC:** Spanish Ministry of Industry, Tourism and Commerce (State Secretary for Telecommunications and Information Society)

**OPEN TO OTHER INSTITUTIONS WISHING TO
SPONSOR/JOIN/COLLABORATE!!!**



Chair general objectives

- Train public administrations of transition countries (e.g. NSIs) in privacy-preserving techniques and legal aspects of privacy.
- Promote the adoption of privacy-preserving technologies manufacturers, banks, telecom operators, etc.)
- Raise the public awareness of the need, the right and the preserving the individual privacy in the information society.
- Promote cross-national research on privacy technologies.
- Exchange master and doctoral students on privacy between transition and developed countries.



Chair specific objectives

- Co-organize targeted training courses on privacy preservation in official statistics, with a focus to Eurasian transition countries (both technical and legal aspects to be covered).
- Organize annual workshops and professional conferences on privacy. Subsidize the attendance of delegates from transition countries.
- Offer doctoral education on data privacy and security at the host institution and at the participating institutions. Promote the enrolment of graduate students from transition countries.



Further information

■ Chairholder

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■ Web site in operation from January 1, 2007 on:

<http://unescoprivacychair.urv.cat>

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