



ANDMEKAITSE INSPEKTSIOON

Data Protection in Estonia

Estonian Data Protection Inspectorate
23.11.2021

Estonian Data Protection Inspectorate (EDPI)

- Supervision over data protection, freedom of information and direct marketing (spams)
- By institutional form, the EDPI is an independent governmental supervisory authority under the Ministry of Justice (with a separate budget)
- EDPI has 20 employees – all are civil servants
- Supporting services (IT, bookkeeping, HR management) are provided by specialised units

Legal regulations

- The primary law in data protection is
 - General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)
 - Personal Data Protection Act (PDPA)
- The primary law in freedom of information is
 - Public Information Act (entered into force in 2001) – access to public information and establishing state databases

Powers

- complaint or own-initiative, data breach notifications submitted by data controllers
- on-site inspections, audits
- one-stop-mechanism
- consulting, giving opinions to the drafts of legal acts
- guidelines and circular letters
- raising awareness and trainings
- authorization (scientific researches (made for political development purposes), data transfers to third countries)
- coordination of state databases (based on the Public Information Act)

Correction powers

- Prohibition of data processing (permanent or temporary), deleting data etc.
- Warnings and reprimands
- Precepts with penalty payments
- Fines (misdemeanor proceedings)

Co-operation

- Consulting of data controllers and processors (incl. state authorities)
- Giving opinions to the drafts of legal acts
- Giving permission to the establishment of state databases (in co-operation with State Information Systems Agency, Statistical Office, National Archives, Land Board)