



EuroPriSe - Pilot Certifications begin

The first pilot certifications within the framework of the eTEN research project EuroPriSe – European Privacy Seal - of the EU can now begin.

Following establishment of the test and certification criteria for the project, a workshop took place in November in Vienna with more than 80 data protection experts, where the test criteria and methods were described in more detail. Following this, the future experts put their specialist knowledge to the test and solved a practical task. After the successful "Trial Evaluation", the first technical and legal experts have been approved to carry out the tests for the pilot certifications.

The role model for the project is the Schleswig-Holstein data protection seal of approval, which up to now is the only legally-recognised data protection certificate in Europe. It has been successfully established since the year 2000, particularly on the German market, and has now been awarded to around 45 products. Within the quality assured procedure for gaining the European seal of quality, recognised specialist experts first perform a product assessment with report on receipt of a corresponding order placed by the manufacturer. It must be emphasised that this report has to be drawn up taking both legal and technical aspects into consideration, and therefore both legal and technical experts must be involved in the evaluation. This report is then submitted to the independent certification body, which reviews it. If the decision is made in favour of issuing a certificate, the seal of quality is awarded. During the pilot phase, the certification bodies will be the Independent Centre for Privacy Protection Schleswig-Holstein (Unabhängiges Landeszentrum für Datenschutz Schleswig-Holstein - ULD) and the Agencia de Protección de Datos de la Comunidad de Madrid (Spain).

Further information regarding EuroPriSe

The EU Commission has entrusted a consortium of nine European organisations and companies under the leadership of the ULD with the task of developing requirements for a European data protection seal of quality, and for conducting trials on an exemplary basis. Within the project European Privacy Seal (EuroPriSe), a market evaluation will be carried out for a European data protection seal of approval.

The following partners are participating in the EuroPriSe project:

- Unabhängiges Landeszentrum für Datenschutz Schleswig-Holstein, Germany
- Agencia de Protección de Datos de la Comunidad de Madrid, Spain
- TÜV Informationstechnik GmbH, Germany
- Borking Consultancy, Netherlands
- Commission Nationale de l'Informatique et des Libertés, France
- Ernst & Young AB, Sweden
- Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften, Institut für Technikfolgenabschätzung
- London Metropolitan University, United Kingdom
- VaF s.r.o, Slovakia

"The European Privacy Seal certifies that an IT product or IT based service facilitates the use of that product or service in a way compliant with European regulations on privacy and data protection, taking into account the legislation in the pilot countries."

With this project, which is being funded by the European Commission, the participating countries are pursuing the concept of distinguishing IT services and products with a high level of data protection by means of a certificate, thus making such products visible to consumers and other interested parties.

Further information on the EuroPriSe projects, along with a list of the specialist experts who are approved in connection with EuroPriSe can be found at <http://www.european-privacy-seal.eu/>