

InDiCo-Global Factsheet

# Data protection in the absence of GDPR

The GDPR in Europe is a decade old and has inspired regulatory practices in many parts of the world. Taking the notion of personal data serious in digital contexts that are largely invisible requires a strong shared vision, a regulatory history and enforcement capabilities.

Today, as some governments redefine their open data policy, InDiCo global participants in Latin America are aligning with European digital standards to improve how data is managed and made available. Significant challenges remain, especially in how that data is shared, integrated, and used effectively by citizens, businesses, and institutions.



## What do you do if you live in a country with no national data protection laws?

As Teresa Lopez Barajas, Ethos <mark>Innovación en Políticas Públicas , an InDiCo-Global Open Call participant states:</mark>

Strengthening open data is not just a technical issue, it's a democratic one.

Better data means greater transparency, smarter decision-making, and stronger governance.







Some countries that want to advance in the implementation of digital services, digital government and lately, IA technologies, do not currently have a personal data protection law. This law, GDPR, is basic since these technologies require processing a very large amount of a citizens personal data. Civil society organizations aim to raise awareness and provide practical tools for small businesses, universities, and organizations to implement responsible data governance.

Projects aim to bridge this gap by fostering technical collaboration, training public institutions, and advocating for the adoption of proven best practices.

While countries have some sectoral regulations related to privacy and cybersecurity, there is no unified legal framework governing data protection, nor an independent data protection authority.

Awareness is growing among businesses and civil society organizations. The InDiCo Global Open Call projects work with private and academic stakeholders to encourage voluntary adoption of GDPR-based practices, preparing the ground for future regulatory developments.

### Takeaways:

In the absence of national data protection laws, citizens and civil society organizations are turning to local and city level to work with officials on issues of transparency, open data and personal data protection.





Small businesses are often unaware of data privacy requirements, but through workshops and coaching programs, they aim to build their capacity to integrate responsible data governance practices.

Existing regulations, such as consumer protection laws and financial sector rules, contain some provisions on personal data handling, but they do not comprehensively address modern digital governance challenges. Yet they are good examples to create awareness that a holistic wide GDPR like approach could harmonize this fragmentation.



InDiCo Global supports these efforts to arrive at strong data protection.

#### Are you interested to learn more?

We can make available manuals and event outcomes that can serve as key reference points for institutions across different territories.

### How InDiCo-Global Supports Your Engagement



InDiCo-Global is a Horizon Europe Coordination and Support Action that aims at establishing and strengthening bridges between Europe and partner geographies to coordinate and foster dialogues on digital policies and the standardization activities supporting them.

Visit the InDiCo-Global website to learn more about upcoming activities related to education and contact the project team to discuss a possible involvement.

https://indico-global.eu/



For more specific information on standardization and education mail robbert.van.kranenburg@martel-innovate.com Contact us if you are interested in data protection and human rights.

