Introduction and Scope

The PICASSO project organised a participatory webinar on "EU-US policy recommendations on Data Protection and Privacy".

With this webinar, PICASSO brought forward policy recommendations designed to improve EU/US ICT-orientated collaborations – specifically in the technological domains associated with 5G networks, Big Data, and IoT/CPS with focus on the implications of technological developments for privacy and data protection policy and vice versa taking into account the different approaches towards privacy and data protection being taken in the USA and in Europe.

Background Notes

The participatory and interactive webinar intended to validate initial conclusions based on a Policy Briefing on Privacy and Data Protection prepared by the PICASSO ICT Policy Expert Group. The Policy Briefing shall be updated with content stemming from the webinar discussions and beyond and published shortly.

Agenda

PICASSO Welcome and purpose of the call
Maarten Botterman, PICASSO Policy Expert Group Chairman

Introduction to EU-US Privacy and data protection issues (legal frameworks and approaches)
Dr. Jonathan Cave, GNKS Consult and University of Warwick
  Participatory discussion: current status and expected development in EU and US

Introducing the three domains - 5G, Big Data, IoT/CPS
Dr. Gerhard Fettweis, PICASSO 5G Networks Expert Group Chairman
Dr. Nikos Sarris, Chairman of the PICASSO Big Data Expert Group
Dr. Tariq Samad, Co-Chairman of the PICASSO IoT/CPS Expert Group
  Introduction and Participatory discussion:
  i. Focus per domain;
  ii. Privacy and data protection issues relevant for each domain (Taxonomy of privacy sensitivity);
  iii. How this affects the domain & EU-US collaboration in this domain

Preliminary conclusions (Briefing Document validation)

Organizing Committee

Policy Expert Group Chair: Maarten Botterman, GNKS Consult, The Netherlands

Policy Expert Group Member: Jonathan Cave, Warwick University, United Kingdom
Marta Calderaro, APRE, Italy
Margot Bezzi, APRE, Italy

Topic leads

5G Networks:
Gerhard Fettweis, Tech. Univ. Dresden, Germany

Big Data:
Nikos Sarris, Athens Technology Center, Greece

IoT/CPS:
Tariq Samad, Univ. of Minnesota, United States of America

Technicalities

Webinar Date: 11th October 2016
Duration: approx. 90 minutes
Participation: Free of Charge
Technical System: Adobe Connect
Recording, Presentations and Policy Brief at: www.picasso-project.eu
Webinar Results

Participants discussed the basic concept of privacy and data protection as seen in the EU and in the USA and what the impact was on 5G Networks; Big Data; and CPS/IoT as developed within the other PICASSO Expert Groups. Participants included spokespersons from all 4 PICASSO expert groups and a number of other experts from research, business, and civil society. Overall 39 participants had registered to the participatory webinar.

Challenges for cooperation on any developments that involve personal data are in the core related to the fact that personal data privacy is considered a fundamental right within the EU, whereas personal data are considered an economic right within the US legal context. In order to avoid legal challenges, it is important for any services - which involve the use of data that may be related to persons - to be set up to respect the key conditions for dealing with personal data under the General Data Protection Regulation that will be into full force in May 2018.

- With regards to 5G networks, it was remarked that with 5G networks sensors and tracking will become even more ubiquitous than it is today, as networks will be designed with a focus on data collection and exchange. As such, EU/US policies do not seem to directly affect the ability to collaborate in 5G networks ICT research and innovation.
- With regards to Big Data the challenges go two ways. Not only may personal data not be shared unless it is set up to be shared by explicit intent and consent, but there is also the additional challenge that through use of algorithms and big data, data could become related to private individuals that were never intended to be "personal". Here, a clear link to intent/consent will need to be respected in order to ensure big data services to operate in a legal way.
- With regards to Cyber Physical Systems and Internet of Things, it is remarked that in particular CPS do not aim to sensor/track an individual unlike what happens with many personal, yet a relationship may be incurred. It will be very important to determine which data are privacy sensitive, and how they relate to intent and consent – as IoT as such is a big data generator (see the arguments above).

Main Conclusions

Overall, solutions need to be found to allow services that are needed/wanted can get deployed, while respecting the (European and US) privacy and data protection frameworks. A particular point of attention that came up during the webinar is the use of algorithms and the increasing importance to insist that these are build up “in a law abiding way” – i.e. not combining data in ways that affect the privacy of individuals. A second point is the recognition that some services are more privacy sensitive than others – a taxonomy would help distinguish this, well.