

## SDPA publishes a Practical Guide to Expanding the Right to Data Protection among Citizens

The SDPA has published a practical guide to raise awareness on the right to data protection among citizens, "Data Protection: A Guide for Citizens".

One of the main purposes of the SPDA is to inform citizens about their rights regarding the processing of their personal data, and to advise them on filing complaints to ensure those rights are respected.

This Guide directed towards citizens has a clear and direct language. Its purpose is to inform citizens of their fundamental right to the protection of personal data, both in regards to the obligations that must be fulfilled by those who process their personal data, as well as the rights that protect the citizens themselves.

The number of inquiries received by the Agency confirms the importance of personal data protection and privacy for citizens: in 2016 the Spanish Data Protection Agency received around 237,000 inquiries, almost 9% more than in 2015. In February 2017, the CIS Barometer (Centre of Sociological Investigations Barometer in Spain) also highlighted this importance by pointing out that 76% of Spaniards are concerned about the protection of their personal data and the possible use of personal information by third parties.

The GDPR, which will be implemented on 25 May 2018, will involve changes to current legal frameworks. For this reason, the Citizen's Guide contains numerous references to the new regulations, including the main legislative developments regarding the exercise of rights, and detailing which rights may be exercised in each case.

The Guide reviews the traditional rights of access, rectification, cancellation and objection, how to exercise them, and indicates the legal deadlines in which the citizen must obtain a response to their exercises. The Guide also mentions the new right to portability, how to exercise the "right to be forgotten", or how to request the removal of photos and videos from the internet, and what to do in the case that no response is received.

The Guide also contains examples of data processing operations that may have more impact on citizens, such as bad debtor's files, describing the requirements that must be fulfilled so that a person's data can be included in one of these files. On the other hand, the guidelines describe other data processing operations, such as those related to neighbourhood communities, video surveillance (CCTV) or advertising.

Lastly, the guideline offers examples of specific cases and links to additional information available on the SDPA website, so that the citizens can delve deeper into the guarantees of their data protection rights. In addition, it includes a glossary with the terms and definitions used, as well as a list of online resources to facilitate the exercise of rights, including the possibility of filing a complaint or raising a claim to request the protection of certain rights.