Improving data exchange in conformity with GDPR

A RESPONSIBLE AND LEGALLY CONFORM WAY TO TRANSMIT AND SHARE DATA OF PERSONS REGISTERED IN THE PES WITH OTHER PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION BODIES IN ORDER TO PREVENT THE ABUSE OF STATE SUPPORT.

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A large gap exists between strict regulations on data protection in Germany and requests from different public administrations to share data with and use data from other authorities. Neither the public administration as such nor the single institutions operating in the field of social security form an "informational unit", each authority is generally responsible for its own data processing and must observe GDPR and legal requirements at the national and regional levels when transmitting and sharing data on individuals.

Name of the PES	Bundesagentur für Arbeit (BA) / Federal Employment Agency
Scope of measure (a pilot project or a national reform)	Implementation of legal guidelines at the national level.
When was the practice implemented?	Entry into force of the regulations of the Social Code X (2nd chapter / social data protection) on 01 January 1981
What was the driver for introducing the practice? Was it internal or external?	Other authorities (especially law enforcement agencies, institutions from the social security system, public administration responsible for disbursing social benefits etc.) often have the need to get information about the employment status of individuals and/or benefits disbursed to customers registered at the BA. The BA receives numerous requests every day; these have to be processed by taking into account all legal requirements on data protection.
Which organisation was involved in its implementation?	▸ BA's Data Protection Unit and Data Protection Officers.
Which groups were targeted by the practice?	▸ PES staff (directly targeted) ▸ People registered at the German PES (indirectly targeted).
What were the practice's main objectives?	▸ Detecting cases of benefit abuse ▸ Increasing awareness of the staff in the local offices (employment agencies and jobcentres) on data protection, increasing staff competences for processing data requests from other public administration bodies and for correct application of data protection regulations.

What activities were carried out?	▶ Automated data comparison with other authorities (carried out on a quarterly basis) for the purpose of detecting benefit abuse. ▶ Preparation and provision of numerous directives, work manuals and guidelines on social data protection (provided by Data Protection Unit of the PES). ▶ Regular training sessions on data protection for the staff in local offices by the BA's Data Protection Unit. ▶ Informing PES staff about current data protection topics during staff meetings. ▶ Nomination of a data protection officer in each local office.
What resources and other relevant organisational aspects were involved?	▶ Central IT (used by all local offices) ▶ Common data stock (shared by all organisational units of the BA and the local offices) ▶ Continuous staff information on developments in data protection
What were the source(s) of funding?	PES budget.
What were the outputs of the practice: people reached and products?	96,000 employees of the Federal Employment Agency.
What outcomes have been identified?	There is no central evaluation.
What are the lessons learnt and success factors?	Not measurable, as no central evaluation takes place.

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