

Summary of the doctoral dissertation

„Supervision of cross-border personal data processing - legal and administrative problems“

Karolina Gałężowska, MA in Law

The subject of this dissertation revolves around the issue of supervising international (cross-border) personal data processing processes, specifically focusing on assuring compliance of data transferred beyond the EEA territory to so-called third countries. This topic is of utmost importance, as on one hand, transfers are essential for fostering international cooperation, be it economic, scientific, or other; while on the other hand, they present significant challenges for administrative law. The primary research question was whether data subjects, in the case of their data being transferred to a third country, are entitled to the same level of protection as when processing data within the EEA territory, and what possible solutions could enhance this protection.

Several research methods were used in the dissertation, including the doctrinal method, review of legal literature, and judgments of the Court of Justice of the European Union. Additionally, the comparative and historical methods were utilized selectively.

In Chapter I, an introduction to the issues of privacy protection and personal data protection was presented, outlining their historical significance and their essence in the modern world. The chapter also discussed the importance of the concept of public rights and compared administrative legal protection with civil legal protection.

Chapter II conducted a review of legal acts concerning privacy protection and personal data protection, showcasing their development and a clear tendency toward the adoption of administrative legal protective measures.

In Chapter III, the principles of transferring data to third countries were thoroughly discussed, encompassing both historical practices and the regulations currently in force. These principles vary depending on whether data is being transferred to EEA or non-EEA countries.

Chapter IV analyzed the significance of institutional protection, as the existence of an empowered and independent supervisory authority for data protection plays a crucial role in safeguarding data subjects.

In Chapter V, the material-legal protection measures available to data subjects in case of data transfer were discussed.

Chapter VI was dedicated to evaluating international cooperation for data protection and considering the direction of its future development. Ensuring personal data protection in transfers necessitates collaboration with partners within the EEA territory and other countries. Currently, this cooperation is comprehensive from the perspective of the political goals set by the EU, but still insufficient according to the assessment of the Court of Justice.

The dissertation culminated in a concise summary of conclusions and challenges, along with a bibliography. The accomplishment of the set research objectives formed the basis for evaluating the existing model of data subjects' protection in transfer scenarios and formulating recommendations *de lege ferenda* and *de sententia ferenda*. The conducted analysis confirmed the thesis of the dissertation regarding the lack of adequate protection measures for data transfers and pointed out the necessity to revisit the foundations of the European personal data protection system.