

Citizen Scientists Investigating Cookies and App GDPR Compliance



Final Newsletter #12: September 2023



CSI-COP's 12th and final Newsletter presents:

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Project conclusion

CSI-COP project successfully concluded its extended (44-month) project on 31 August 2023 by achieving its specific objectives. This included raising awareness among members of the public across Europe and the world about the rights to data protection accorded in the EU's [general data protection regulation \(GDPR\)](#). 191 citizen scientists joined the project team to investigate beneath websites visited and apps used. The combined efforts realised a classification of the different types of cookies and online tracking tools (CSI-COP [Taxonomy](#)), and a searchable [Repository](#) of the investigated websites and apps. These and other [project results](#) can be accessed from CSI-COP's **privacy-by-design** website here: <https://csi-cop.eu/projectresults/>

For information on the project's legacy please contact CSI-COP's Science Communication and Innovation Lead, Dr. Huma Shah on ab7778@coventry.ac.uk

Free educational resource

CSI-COP's free informal education resource (MOOC) '**Your Right to Privacy Online**', remains available to download as a document in **thirteen** translations from the project website here: <https://csi-cop.eu/informal-education-mooc/>

In five easy-to-follow steps, the course on '**Your Right to Privacy Online**' can be completed in under half-a-day. The course covers:

Step 1 - The concept of 'privacy'.

Step 2 - *What is 'personal data'?*

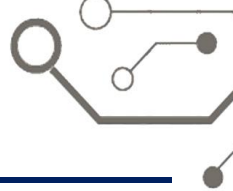
Step 3 - *How are we tracked online?*

Step 4 - What rights do we have to online data protection and privacy?

Step 5 - Free online tools to protect our data-privacy.

This MOOC is also available in English from the [EU-Citizen.Science](#) platform, from here: <https://moodle.eu-citizen.science/>





Project updates:

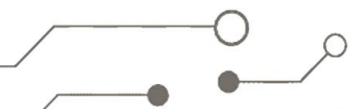
CSI-COP: CU & IB presence in Memento Museum Auch, South-west France

[Dr. Huma Shah](#) was invited to Memento Museum in Auch, South-west France by its Director, Karine Matthieu, and resident artist, Nicolas Puyjalon, to experience the museum's 'Emotional Intelligence' exhibition. Huma tied in the French translation of CSI-COP's MOOC and the 'emotions arising from the lack of privacy online' with Memento museum's exhibition. CSI-COP partner Immer Besser's [Dr Tiberius Ignat](#) and [Adriana Ignat](#) joined Huma and CU's [Jaimz Winter](#) explaining the project's data protection/GDPR compliance investigations to museum visitors of all ages. CSI-COP hosted a table in the museum distributing free copies of the French translated MOOC 'You Right to Privacy Online'. Goodie bags with pens and notepads, and eatable/no-tracking cookies were also available!

Tiberius Ignat along with Memento's team explained CSI-COP project's purpose in French to visitors open-minded and interested to discuss how they felt about their and their family's personal data protection privacy online.



Young visitors sat and read through the French MOOC document. Others played the free online [cookies consent speed run game](#) on a tablet to try and avoid all unnecessary cookies in the shortest time possible. The museum activity helped to spread CSI-COP's message to seek 'reject' or 'manage' cookie options on websites, and to restrict permissions to necessary functions for apps in mobile devices.

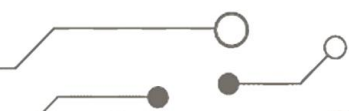




CSI-COP: NaTE & CU presence in 2023 Sziget Festival Budapest, Hungary

CSI-COP partner, NaTE/Association of Hungarian Women in Science organised CSI-COP's presence in the [2023 Sziget Festival](#) 10-15 August on Óbudai-sziget island on the Danube river in Budapest. NaTE's [Fruzsina Kara-Szabó](#) collaborated with Coventry University's Dr. Huma Shah to create a space for festival-goers to learn about 'women in science' and data protection/online privacy while they enjoyed all Sziget Festival's offerings of music and culture.

The CSI-COP tent was located in the midst of activities with a constant stream of Sziget Festival 2023 visitors from all over the world. CSI-COP were nearby the main stage where international acts played in the evenings ([Imagine Dragons](#) on Day2 Friday 11 August; [Billie Eilish](#) on final day, Tuesday 15 August 2023). CSI-COP tent was easy to find on the festival island opposite the space occupied by Europe's mobility super-app [Bolt](#), and right in front where the Catalan human tower was erected on Sunday 13 August (picture overleaf).





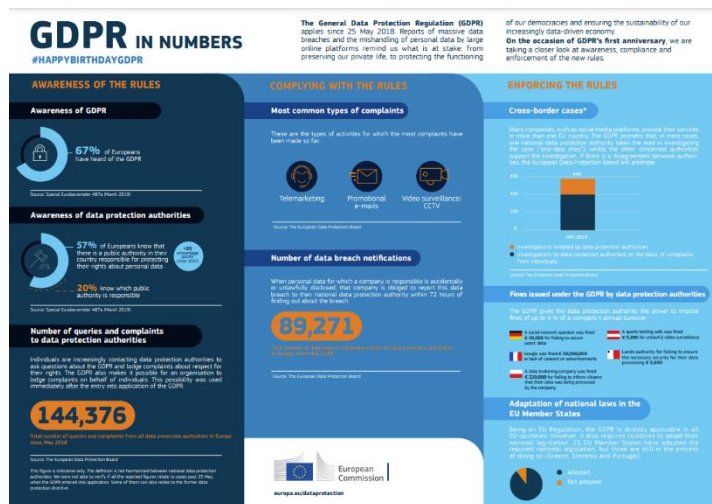
Attendees popping into the CSI-COP tent were happy to receive their free CSI-COP festival bottle and tote bag after playing the cookies consent speed run game. They included a variety of stakeholders: medical doctors, Rotary International, young start-up investors, cyber-security professionals, data protection officers (DPO), software developers, AI solutions technologists, bit-coin crypto-currency privacy knowledge-holders, medical students, PhD students, masters students in data science, artists, Catalan human tower performers, and many others interested in learning about avoiding 'tracking cookies'.



Festival-goers' map of countries illustrated through a wall of coloured post-it notes in the project tent (overleaf) showed the spread of CSI-COP's message of protecting personal data online and rights accorded in the [general data protection regulation](#) (GDPR). Visitors to Sziget Festival 2023 in Budapest came from as far afield as Brazil and Guatemala in Latin America, to New Zealand. Many other countries were represented, including people from CSI-COP partner countries - UK (Wales, Scotland), Greece (Thessaloniki), Germany, Israel, Romania, Hungary, Spain.



The wall of country post-it notes is shown above. Visitors to CSI-COP's tent in the Sziget Festival in Budapest proudly shared their appreciation of the EU funded project's efforts to raise important issues affecting everyone who uses the Internet for work and play through a coloured post-it note.



CSI-COP partner effort has contributed to increasing awareness of the GDPR since its first anniversary in 2019. [EU infographic](https://commission.europa.eu/system/files/2019-10/infographic-gdpr_in_numbers.pdf) (left) available to download from here:

https://commission.europa.eu/system/files/2019-10/infographic-gdpr_in_numbers.pdf





Partner Activities:

In June, Coventry University's Dr. Huma Shah participated as a panellist in the British Computer Society (BCS) 2023 Karen Spärck Jones Lecture in London. This can be watched on YouTube here: [BCS Karen Spärck Jones Lecture 2023 - YouTube](#) and here: <https://shorturl.ac/7aubo>

In July, CTU's [Professor Olga Stepankova](#) and PhD student/certified ethical hacker (white hat) [Deniz Ozdemir](#) hosted Erasmus students from French universities in Prague. The importance of data protection and online privacy was included as part of their summer learning in a CSI-COP workshop. More information on CTU's activity can be found on the blog page on CSI-COP website: <https://csi-cop.eu/csiblog/>

CSI-COP partners wish to thank everyone who shared their precious time and showed interest in the project, especially during the COVID-19 years. We wish to share three simple steps to protecting your personal data online:

- Use a privacy-by-design browser when using the Internet.
- Visiting websites: try to avoid convenience and seek information from a website that offers options to 'reject' unnecessary/third-party cookies, and 'object' to all *legitimate interest*
- Using apps: only allow necessary permissions to apps on your mobile device. A transport information app does not need access to your contacts, your photos, or your messages.

CSI-COP project results page offers downloadable documents and searchable databases from here: <https://csi-cop.eu/projectresults/>

Surf safe and secure across the Internet in the knowledge that you have rights to personal data protection and online privacy.



CSI-COP Partners



Coordinator



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