








# L09 | Data Protection Laws in the Western Balkans



## Map Legend – Existing Data Protection Laws

-  Data protection law enforced
-  Data protection law passed
-  Data protection bill introduced
-  Direct application of a foreign law (e.g., GDPR)

## Map Legend – Progress in Alignment to the GDPR

-  GDPR-aligned data protection law enforced
-  GDPR-aligned data protection law passed
-  GDPR-like data protection bill introduced

## Map of the EU

*(Highlighted are the 6 non-EU Western Balkans)*

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## List of Existing Data Protection Laws in the Western Balkans

Kosovo, North Macedonia and Serbia have recently adopted new data protection laws which are modeled after the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro have not aligned their existing data protection laws with the GDPR yet, but new laws are expected to be adopted. This prospect is due to the fact that WB states are on the path to EU membership, their accession being conditional on the alignment of legislation to the *acquis communautaire*.

State	Official designation of the law	Translation / short title	Law officially adopted	DPA established (name)	Enforcement commenced	GDPR-aligned
Albania	<a href="#">LIGJ nr. 9887, datë 10.3.2008 „Për mbrojtjen e të dhënave personale“ (ndryshuar me ligjin,nr.120/2014, f.z 160)</a>	Law on protection of personal data no. 9887 (as amended by the Law No.120/2014)	10.03.2008 (last amended: 26.04.2014)	yes <a href="#">Information and Data Protection Commissioner</a>	<b>10.04.2008</b>	No
Bosnia & Herzegovina	<a href="#">Zakon o zaštiti ličnih podataka („Sl. glasnik BiH“, br. 49/2006, 76/2011 i 89/2011 - ispr.)</a>	Law on Protection of Personal Data („Official Gazette of Bosnia and Herzegovina“ 49/06)	23.05.2005 (last amended: 14.09.2011)	yes <a href="#">Personal Data Protection Agency in Bosnia and Herzegovina</a>	<b>25.05.2006</b>	No
Kosovo	<a href="#">Ligji nr. 06/I-082 Për mbrojtjen e të dhënave personale</a>	Law 06/L-082 on Personal Data Protection	14.02.2019	yes <a href="#">Information and Privacy Agency</a>	<b>12.03.2019</b>	Yes
Montenegro	<a href="#">Zakon o zaštiti podataka o ličnosti („Sl. list CG“, br. 79/2008, 70/2009, 44/2012 i 22/2017)</a>	Personal Data Protection Law	22.12.2008 (last amended: 2017)	yes <a href="#">Agency for Personal Data Protection and Free Access to Information</a>	01.01.2009 (with 6 months alignment period – <b>01.06.2009</b> )	No
North Macedonia	<a href="#">Закон за заштита на личните податоци („Службен весник на Република Северна Македонија“ бр. 42/20)</a>	Law on Protection of Personal Data no. 42/20	16.02.2020	yes <a href="#">Personal Data Protection Agency</a>	24.02.2020 (with 18 months alignment period – <b>24.08. 2021</b> )	Yes
Serbia	<a href="#">Zakon o zaštiti podataka o ličnosti („Sl. glasnik RS“, br. 87/2018)</a>	Law on Personal Data Protection	13.11.2018	yes <a href="#">Commissioner for Information of Public Importance and Personal Data Protection</a>	21.11.2018 (with 9 months alignment period – <b>21.08.2019</b> )	Yes



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## List of Data Protection Bills in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Montenegro

State	State of play of introducing a new data protection law	Designation of the bill	Translation / short title	Date	DPA established (name)
Albania	<a href="#">Draft law has been prepared</a>	<a href="#">Projektligj për mbrojtjen e të dhënave personale</a>	Draft Law on personal data protection-	December 2021	YES <a href="#">Information and Data Protection Commissioner</a>
Bosnia & Herzegovina	<a href="#">Proposal law has been prepared</a>	<a href="#">Prijedlog Zakona o zaštiti ličnih podataka</a>	Proposal for Law on Personal Data Protection	January 2020	YES <a href="#">Personal Data Protection Agency in Bosnia and Herzegovina</a>
Montenegro	<a href="#">The bill passed public debate</a>	<a href="#">Nacrt Zakona o zaštiti podataka o ličnosti</a>	Draft Law on Personal Data Protection	July 2019	YES <a href="#">Agency for Personal Data Protection and Free Access to Information</a>

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## References and further resources

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6. [Compliance of Legal Framework in the Western Balkans Economies With the General Data Protection Regulation \(GDPR\) Requirements](#), Regional Cooperation Council (December 2020)
7. [The European Commission's Country Report Albania 2020](#) (October 2020), 30 pp.
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12. [The European Commission's Country Report Serbia 2020](#) (October 2020), 32 pp.
13. [Zejnullahu, N. „Personal Data Protection in Kosovo, Three Years of Failure“, \*European Data Protection Law Review\*, Volume 6, Issue 2 \(2020\) 308 – 313 pp.](#)