Several hot topics of European law and legal policy come thus into focus: how to deal with whistleblower, and especially the importance of the interplay of legal and technical solutions, as well as the importance of a reorganization of the European data protection legislation for the protection of basic rights. The European data protection law should finally be put into a status that protects the fundamental rights of Europeans efficiently and captures the technical, economic and political realities adequately. Over-regulation is to be avoided just as much as being blind to the possibilities of data analysis.

The issue currently occupies, among others, the European Parliament, the European Commission and also inner-German Politics. It is not only due to PRISM very timely. Rather, for months now Europe discusses available standard data protection regulations, which will replace the current privacy policy guidelines. The trend towards more and more available information, identified under the keywords “Big Data”, will further increase its relevance.

The significance of the practiced interplay between technical, legal and socio-scientific research, is emphasized thus by scientists at the L3S: data security and data protection measures can neither be fully regulated nor can they be guaranteed on a purely technical basis. Corresponding research is available in Europe and at the L3S. The goal must especially be to capture the subject as a “big challenge” which can only be met by an interdisciplinary and European approach that combines basic research with applied science.


PRISM, NSA and European Data Privacy Laws - a Comment from the L3S