



book review

NORDIC DATA PROTECTION

*By Peter Blume (Editor),
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Schartum, Peter Seipel
DJFF Publishing 2001,
ISBN 87 574 0068 7
Reviewed by Sandra Kelman*

Nordic countries share a long data protection tradition, and between 1998 and 2000 have implemented the EU Data Protection Directive into national legislation.

While the starting point for each of the national laws is the EU Directive, each country has interpreted the directive within the framework of its own national and legal traditions. *Nordic Data Protection* attempts to explain the laws and to illustrate how the individual Acts fit into the national and legal cultures. Leading national experts examine the laws in Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden.

Peter Blume, Professor of Legal Informatics at the Faculty of Law, University of Copenhagen, outlines the background and history of data protection legislation in Denmark and presents the various provisions and requirements

of the Processing of Personal Data Act (2000). In a separate section entitled "Specific Issues", Dr Blume comments on several topics which have been discussed in connection with Denmark's implementation of the EU Data Protection Directive. These topics include e-commerce and direct marketing, national identification numbers, data matching and transborder data flows.

Ahti Saarenpää, Professor of Private Law and part time Professor of Legal Informatics at the University of Lapland, examines Finland's data protection legislation in addition to discussing the issues – such as national identification numbers and digital identity cards – which have shaped the formation of the data protection regime in Finland.

Dag Wiese Schartum, Professor and Head of the Section for Information Technology and Administrative System (SITAS) at the University of Oslo looks at the development of privacy concepts in Norway's data protection law – the Personal Data Act.

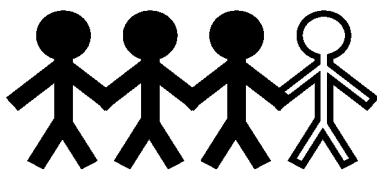
Peter Seipel, Professor of Law and Informatics at the Faculty of Law,

Stockholm University, looks at the evolution of privacy and freedom of information in Sweden, the Personal Data Act of 1988, and the "issues and conflicting interests" relating to developments in Swedish data protection.

Nearly half of the book consists of the reproduction of the EU Data Protection Directive and the data protection legislation of the countries involved. Therefore, none of the chapters has the space to be overly complex. While this makes for easier perusal – the reader is not overwhelmed with information – each chapter gives only a brief overview of the data protection legislative regimes in each of the Nordic countries. Although I admit that this is a particular preoccupation of mine, I found it frustrating that the book contains no index.

While this is not an encyclopaedic publication, the combined expertise is impressive and it provides a great starting point for those who wish to find out about data protection legislation in the Nordic region.

*For further information:
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