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When the new GDPR (DSGVO) terms go into effect in Germany, many industries will be affected. The industries we tend to think of first in this connection are large businesses and industries with sophisticated data processing design and cloud services. We hear a lot of stories concerning the health care business and can appreciate the risks of patient data being stolen or misused.

Effects of the new GDPR terms for EU countries on education are not really on most users' radar. Nonetheless, serious discussions about the use of private computers by teachers and others in education (eg, administrators) are already taking place.

Private computers are used by teachers to develop courses, make notes and store information about their classes. Because schools very seldom provide computers, laptops or other devices to the teachers, provisions have often not been made for storing data on a secure network. Typically, data for educational and personal use for students, teachers, parents, etc are all stored on personal computers.

Under the new DSGVO terms, which will take effect starting May 2018, the German government will allow teachers to use private computers and smartphones for educational purposes, but with strict limitations. For instance, NRW has developed an eleven-page form to instruct teachers as to the rules and procedures they will be required to follow. As an example, storing sensitive or confidential student data on USB sticks or WhatsApp will be prohibited.

The lack of IT support in many schools will make it necessary for many teachers to significantly change their behavior in many respects. It will no longer be permitted to indiscriminately save lecture notes, student evaluations, etc on a USB stick from their private laptop and later upload it all to a school computer. So will schools provide teachers with a proper, secure IT environment? Or will teachers write everything down on paper and laboriously type it into school computers later? Or will teachers simply ignore the new rules and hope for the best? Time will tell.

Many teachers also invest time and effort in sport and other extra-curricular activities with their students. If the new rules mean that teachers will have to invest more time and effort in meeting new security requirements, will such activities suffer?

If many school systems are unwilling and/or unable to adequately support teachers in obeying the new rules, which frankly seems quite likely, undesirable consequences are to be expected.

[Datenschutz bremst Lehrer aus - NRW 26.3.2018](#)

[Datenschutz bremst Lehrer aus: Vorwärts in die Vergangenheit - WN 6.4.2018](#)