



2020 STATISTICAL REPORT OF PRIVACY SANCTIONS IN EUROPE

edited by the Osservatorio of Federprivacy

This study, realized by the **Osservatorio of Federprivacy**, is analyzing official sources from 30 countries in the European Economic Area (EEA), with the goal to create a **statistical framework of the sanctions issued during the year 2020** because of violations of the Gdpr and of the national rules and regulations about personal data protection according to different variables as time, amount, kind of infringement and specific sector.

1. Monthly Statistic of the Sanctions Imposed During 2020

The following statistics show the number of sanctions, month by month, that have been imposed during 2020 and their specific amount. **Altogether the fines within the EEA have been 341 (table 1) amount to € 307,923,725**, of which € 148,156,645 just in December, the toughest month (48% of the total). As average, 11,3 sanctions have been imposed in each one of the 30 countries of EEA, and each country has imposed fines for an average of €10,264,124. In the **extra EEA countries** we can see the following outstanding actions:

- **In US** the \$80,000,000 sanction imposed to Capital One bank in August 2020, because a main data breach
- **In San Marino** 2 fines have been imposed by the Authority that guarantees privacy in the Titan Republic during 2020, with the amount of €2,000.
- **In Turkey** during December 2020 different sanctions amounting to €3,800,000 to Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, Periscope, e TikTok by Turkey's Information and Communications Technologies Authority (BTK) because it was not appointed a local representative pursuant of national policy related to data protection, amounting in total to \$22,800,000
- **In France** the sanction of €50,000 imposed to Google in 2019 by CNIL, has been confirmed in June 2020 after the appeal to the French State Council
- **In Canada** the sanction of \$9,500.000 imposed to Facebook for false and deceptive statements about privacy and Canada citizen personal data processing.
- **In the Island of Man** the first sanction of the Department of Home Affairs for insufficient feedback about the right of involved people, amounting to €13,500

The following overview is a summary that indicates, month by month, the number (*fig. 3 & 4*) and amount (*fig. 1 & 2*) of sanctions, both cumulative and noncumulative.

Table1 – List of legal actions, month by month, specifying the number, the amount, the average and the monthly percentage of the total

Month	Number of sanctions	Amount (€)	% of the total In 2020	Average amount of sanctions (€)
January	17	28,705,160	9,32%	1,68,539
February	29	814,090	0,26%	2,072
March	37	8,450,600	2,74%	228,395
April	7	77,925	0,03%	11,132
May	14	549,121	0,18%	39,223
June	46	2,166,502	0,70%	47,098
July	49	20,678,960	6,72%	422,020
August	22	690,800	0,22%	31,400
September	23	1,010,563	0,33%	43,938
October	27	78,097,158	25,36%	2,892,487
November	29	18,518,901	6,01%	638,583
December	41	148,163,945	48,12%	3,613,755
Total 2020	341	307,923,725	100,00%	903,002



As we can see by fig.1, the majority of the 2020 sanctions have been imposed in the 2nd semester (86,7%), while in the 1st semester only the 13,3% of the sanctions has been imposed

The value of the fines imposed in the month of December 2020 only (fig.2) is the 48% of the year total (€307,900,000).

April has been the month with less sanctions, a total of €77,925, namely the 0,03% of the yearly total (fig.2)

Fig. 1 – Cumulative value of the sanctions by month (in millions of €)

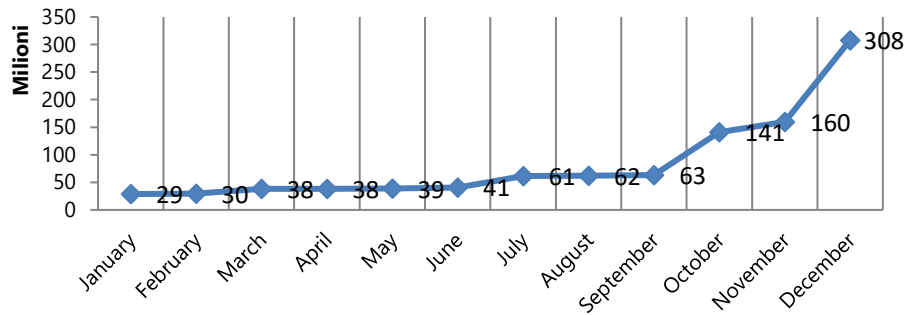


Fig. 2 – Noncumulative value of the sanctions by month (in millions of €)

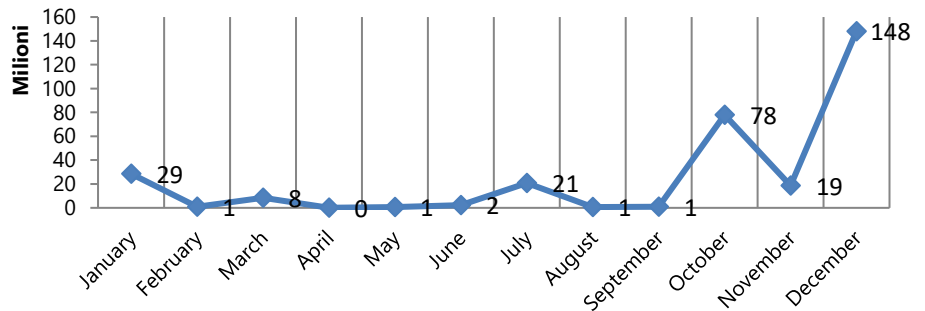


fig. 3 – Cumulative number of sanctions by month

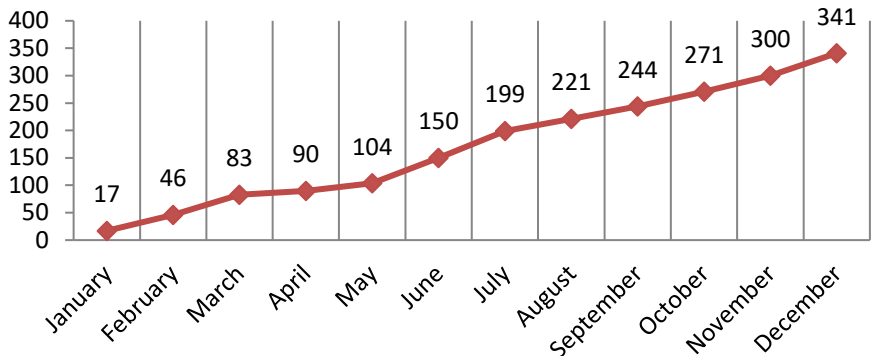
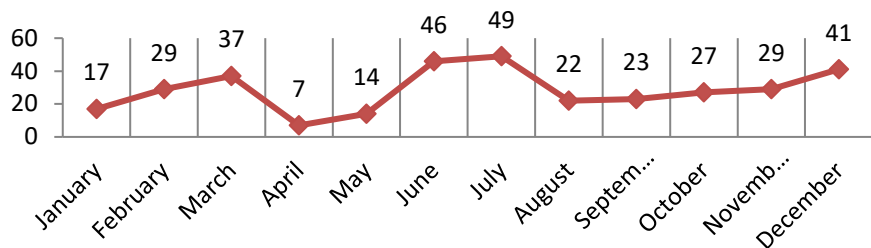


fig. 4 – Noncumulative number of sanctions by month



If we see the number of sanctions and not the amounts, the percentage of the volume in the first semester (fig.3) represents the 43,9% of the total in the year (150 on 341), and that of the second semester is the 56,1% (191 on 341).

If we see instead the noncumulative numbers (fig.4), June (46) and July (49) were the months with more actions in 2020.

April (17) has been the month with less sanctions, during the Covid-19 period.



2. Statistic of the sanctions per country

If we analyze the figures of the Countries that have undertaken legal actions (*table 2*), we see that the authority in France (CNIL) was the strictest: it has imposed € 138,316,300 of fines, which constitutes 44,9% of the total of all the analyzed countries. In the list of the authorities that have been more active (*fig.6*), the third one was the authority in Romania (ANSPDCP), with 26 imposed sanctions, the second was the one in Italy (GDPD) with 35, and the first was the one in Spain (AEPD) with 133.

The strictest authority was the one in France (*fig. 5*), It has imposed € 138,000,000 fines, that is 44,9% of the total

fig .5 – Countries with biggest amount of sanctions (in millions of €)

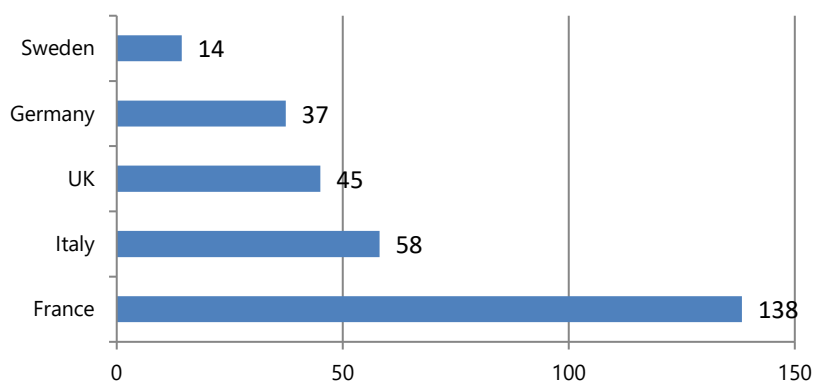


Table 2 – List of sanctions per Country, according to the value of the sanctions

France	138,316,300	8	17,289,539
Italy	58,176,601	35	1,662,188
UK	45,067,000	5	9,013,400
Germany	37,398,708	3	12,466,236
Sweden	14,278,800	15	951,920
Spain	8,080,710	133	60,757
Netherlands	1,355,725	3	451,908
Hungary	1,002,525	13	77,117
Norway	805,200	11	73,200
Belgium	798,000	14	57,000
Ireland	630,000	4	157,500
Poland	531,698	9	59,078
Czech Republic	312,178	8	39,022
Finland	207,500	5	41,500
Denmark	202,300	6	33,717
Romania	184,650	26	7,102
Estonia	148,500	3	49,500
Slovakia	107,000	4	26,750
Austria	100,750	3	33,583
Malta	64,500	11	5,864
Greece	45,000	7	6,429
Cyprus	32,000	5	6,400
Iceland	29,600	2	14,800
Latvia	21,250	2	10,625
Lithuania	15,000	1	15,000
Bulgaria	12,230	4	3,058
Croatia	N.D.	1	N.D.
Portugal	0	0	0
Slovenia	0	0	0
Liechtenstein	0	0	0
Luxembourg	0	0	0
Total 2020	307,923,725	341	903,002



The authority that has been more active is the Spanish one (fig.6) with 133 sanctions in the 2020, namely the 39% of the total.

The other 4 authorities that have been more active (Italy, Romania, Sweden and Belgium) have imposed altogether 90 sanctions, namely the 26% of the total.

If we consider the number of sanctions, 65% of actions (223 on 341) have been imposed by 5 countries (fig. 6 and fig.7) with more activity in the second semester than in the first, 135 vs. 88, 75 of these by the Spanish authority (fig.8).

fig .6 –Countries with biggest number of sanctions

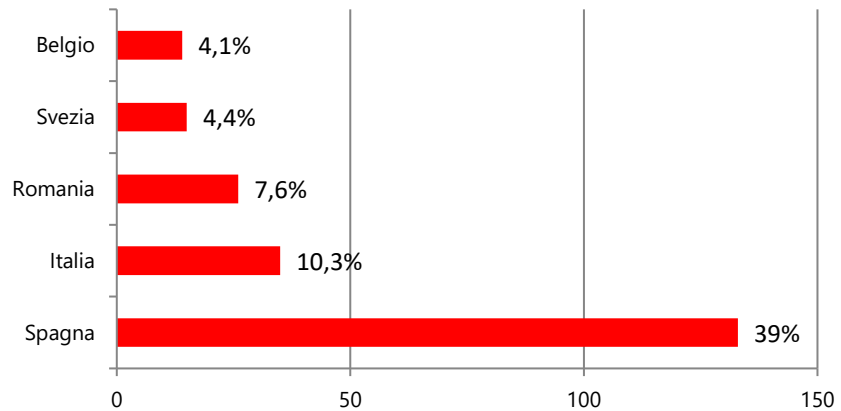


fig.7 – Cumulative number of the sanctions in the countries with more actions

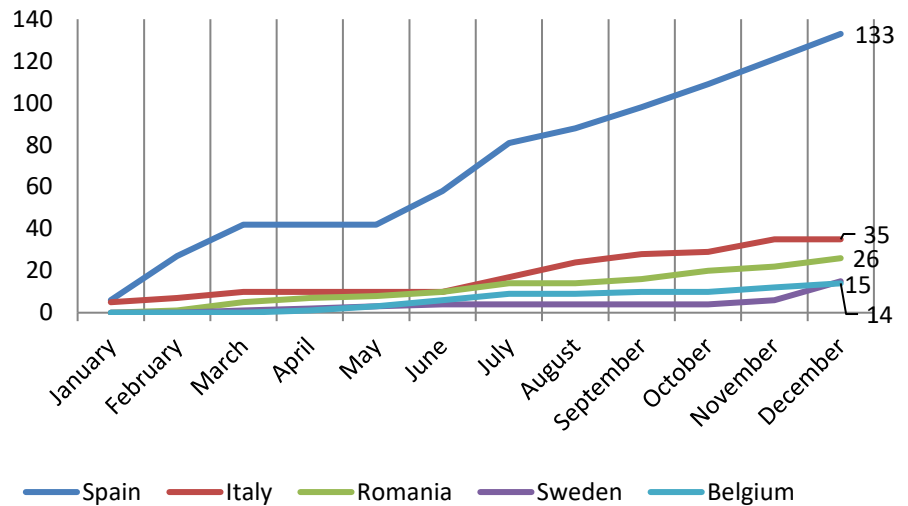
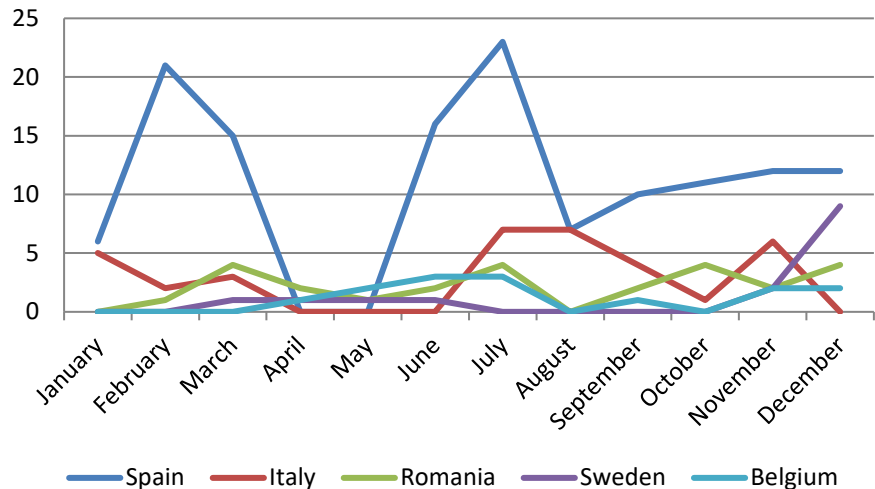


fig.8 – Noncumulative number of sanctions in the Countries with more actions



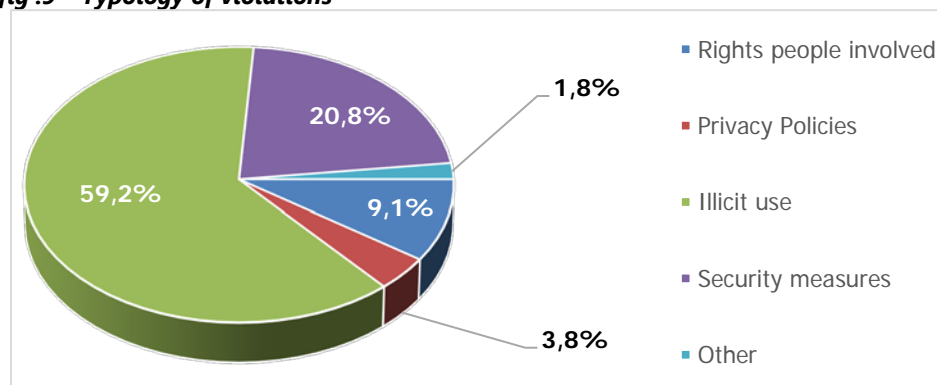
tab.3 – List of sanctions per Country, according to the number of the sanctions

Country	Number of Sanctions	Amount (€)	Average of single sanction(€)
Spain	133	8.080.710	60.757
Italy	35	58.176.601	1.662.188
Romania	26	184.650	7.102
Sweden	15	14.278.800	951.920
Belgium	14	798.000	57.000
Hungary	13	1.002.525	77.117
Norway	11	805.200	73.200
Malta	11	64.500	5.864
Poland	9	531.698	59.078
France	8	138.316.300	17.289.539
Czech Republic	8	312.178	39.022
Greece	7	45.000	6.429
Danmark	6	202.300	33.717
UK	5	45.067.000	9.013.400
Finland	5	207.500	41.500
Cyprus	5	32.000	6.400
Ireland	4	630.000	157.500
Slovakia	4	107.000	26.750
Bulgaria	4	12.230	3.058
Germany	3	37.398.708	12.466.236
Netherlands	3	1.355.725	451.908
Estonia	3	148.500	49.500
Austria	3	100.750	33.583
Iceland	2	29.600	14.800
Latvia	2	21.250	10.625
Lithuania	1	15.000	15.000
Croatia	1	N.D.	N.D.
Portugal	0	0	0
Slovenia	0	0	0
Liechtenstein	0	0	0
Luxemburg	0	0	0
Total	341	307.923.725	903.002

3. Statistic related to the kind of violations and to the specific sector

The following statistics show the kind of infringements and the different sectors where the fines have been imposed. The section that has been targeted the most in the number of sanctions is the telecommunication one, while if we see the amount of the sanctions, the most targeted is the internet and e-commerce one (fig. 10 & 11) In table 4 the relation between the amount sanctions and the kind of violations. Finally in tab.5 you will find the summary of all sectors, with the number of imposed sanctions, the average amount and the total amount.

fig .9 – Typology of violations



If we analyze fig.9, we see that the 59,2% of the sanctions are related to illicit use of personal data, the 20.8% are motivated by poor safety, the 9.1% from lack of respect of the rights of the people involved, while the violations of the privacy policies are the 3.8% of the total.



tab.4 – Different kinds of violation. How do they affect economically

Kind of violation	Number of sanctions	Amount per kind(€)	% on totale
Illicit use	202	249,857,221	81,1%
Security measures	71	55,350,505	18%
Rights of involved people	31	1,908,821	0,6%
Privacy Policies	13	51,280	0,1%
Other	24	755,898	0,2%
Total	341	307,923,725	100%

In the first 10 sections that have been fined the most (fig.10) , the one that has received more sanctions in the year 2020 has been the telecommunications one with 69 fines; then the services and the business, respectively with 47 and 45 sanctions, while public administration has received 41 fines from the controlling authority.

If we observe the total economic value of the sanctions (fig.11), the sections sanctioned the most has been internet and e-commerce with €144,900,000 (47% of the total), then telecommunications with 62,400,000 and business with 38,100,000

fig .10 – Number of imposed sanctions in the first 10 sections

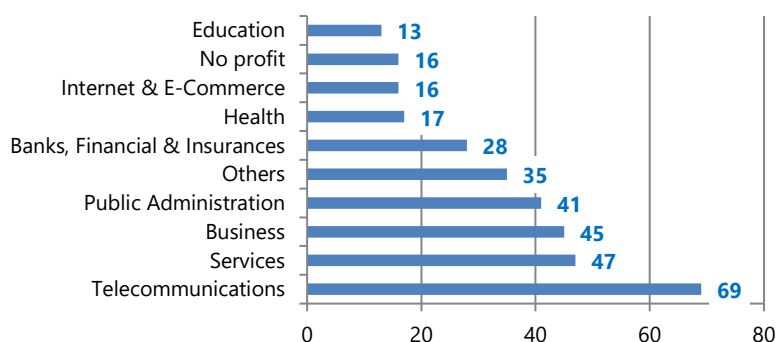
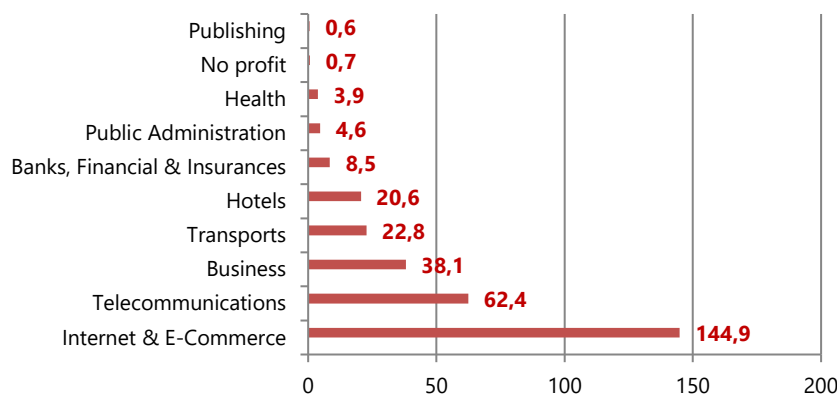


fig.11 – Number of imposed sanctions in the first 10 sections (millions of €)



tab.5 – List of the sanctions per sector in alphabetical order

Settore	Number of sanctions	Amount (€)	Average of single sanction(€)
Hotels	4	20,614,800	5,153,700
Banks, Financial & Insurances	28	8,466,160	302,363
Business	45	38,131,134	847,359
Publishing	2	570,000	285,000
Internet & E-Commerce	16	144,850,821	9,053,176
Education	13	152,800	11,754
No Profit	16	670,500	41,906
Public Administration	41	4,610,132	112,442
Health	17	3,852,600	226,624
Services	47	498,155	10,599
Telecommunications	69	62,448,436	905,050
Transports	8	22,778,000	2,847,250
Others	35	280,187	8.005
Total	341	307,923,725	903,002

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Research Sources: Control Authorities for Data Protection official websites, as Protection Data Commission and other governmental websites. The data might not be complete because of material that has been published after this report has been issued



