

Case Study

Folkuniversitetet

How a National Educational Institution overcame its GDPR difficulties and used DPOrganizer to get in control of their Data Management.

We had the pleasure to speak to FolkUniversitet's CEO Peter Mikulic, and Karin Wennbo, head of IT and GDPR Project Manager.

We discussed their compliance journey, how it has impacted their organization, and how DPOrganizer is helping them achieve their data protection goals.

What is Folkuniversitet? What does it do?

Peter: Folkuniversitet is one of Sweden's largest educational institutions, focusing on continual education for adults, as well as on specialized secondary education. Our mission is to facilitate lifelong learning in all areas of study and culture. Many people come to Folkuniversitet to study anything from French, to pottery or modern dance, all in the spirit of self-development and lifelong learning.

We have over 40 centers in Sweden and in 4 other learning centers throughout Europe.

What has been your greatest GDPR challenge so far?

Peter: Our greatest GDPR challenge has to do with our organizational structure. We are not very centralized: our departments and schools enjoy a high degree of autonomy; decisions are taken collectively in a decentralized manner. To implement GDPR we have had to be more unified on our approach.

Karin: From a GDPR perspective, I think we have quite a large variety of data subjects categories, data processors and vendors to manage. It was also realizing that personal data and data protection affects almost every aspect of our business.



Industry
Education

Company Size
1 500 employees

Location(s)
40 schools in Sweden, plus
4 international offices

**Type of personal data
they manage:**

- Employee data
- Student profiles
- Partners (vendors)

**Favourite DPOrganizer
features:**

- Transparency Widget
- Input Wizard

How has your GDPR compliance project impacted your organization?

Peter: I think this gave us an opportunity to look at the way we organize our business as a whole. We also educated ourselves as an organization on the importance of data protection and how it impacts our day to day activities.

Karin: We are also doing a lot of work to reassure our students and employees about their privacy. We want to make everyone feel confident and trust that we are handling their personal data responsibly in their best interests.

How do you communicate with your students, clients and employees about GDPR?

Karin: We are working to create a GDPR page for our public website. We will also be installing the Transparency Widget onto our page so that data subjects can automatically obtain a detailed report about what information we hold, why we hold it and for how long.

What made you choose DPOrganizer?

Peter: GDPR is huge undertaking. We quickly knew we needed to have the right tools for the task at hand. We started our data mapping on Excel and soon realized we needed more functionality and ease of use. Above all, we made a decision based on the long term demands of data protection management. GDPR requires an ongoing maintenance, so we wanted tool that would help us maintain compliance into the future and DPOrganizer delivered with their practical solutions for scheduling reviews and automating tasks.

Karin: The first thing we noticed about DPOrganizer how easy and intuitive the process was. During our mapping, we were guided with questions along the way that helped us understand what we were doing. With detailed explanations and definitions available, we felt more confident and sure that we were on the right track with our compliance project.

Do you have any tips for a company that is about to start its own GDPR project?

Karin: I think that taking the time to conduct internal surveys is a great starting point. It not only lets you understand where personal data is used, it also puts you touch with key individuals in the organization that you may not have had contact previously.

Educating the organization and key people in the organization is also key. Getting the top management on board was key for providing the support one needs to move forward with your project.