Data Privacy and Protection  
A Project for Italy

Project Sponsor:  
United States Department of State  
International Visitor Leadership Program

Program Administrator (NPA):  
Meridian International

Local Program arranged by WorldBoston:  
Ms. Emily Canner

November 20th – 22nd, 2014

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

This International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) project for three Italian government personnel and one educator addresses the foreign policy goal of fostering global prosperity and security. The group will examine the implementation of Safe Harbor principles in the U.S. and assess issues related to data exchange between the U.S. and the EU within the framework of international trade and the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) in particular. The project will take place in Washington, DC; Boston, MA and New York, NY.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

The Department of State has outlined the following objectives for the project:

- Open data policy: U.S. Government policy to protecting sensitive information
- Cybersecurity-Internet Freedom: cooperation between Italy-U.S.-EU at Governments' level, 'independent' regulators', security agencies' level.
- Protection of rights, in particular with regards to the laws pertaining to data protection for US citizens vs. non-US citizens.
- Data exchange between US and the EU within the framework of international trade and within TTIP in particular.
- Safe Harbor principles: the state of the program, administration of legal divergences between US and EU rules, issues relating to sanctions when Safe harbor principles are not respected.
- Consumer protection laws pertaining to use of personal data, in particular for ICTs, over-the-tops, payments and trade sectors.
• President Obama’s reform of national security (Presidential Policy Directive - 17 January 2014). In particular, about the principles governing the collection of intelligence activities.
• Problems relating to police operations regarding use of sensitive data (personal or business confidential as is often the case in white collar investigations)

PARTICIPANT LIST

Name: Mr. Amos BOLIS  
Present Position: “Guardia di Finanza” Tax Police Unit - Venice - OC Investigation Group  
Head of investigation unit at the Guardia di Finanza (Italian Law Enforcement Agency dealing with financial crime and smuggling)

Name: Col. Maurizio BORTOLETTI  
Present Position: Colonel of Carabinieri (Italian Military police corps dealing with law enforcement)

Name: Prof. Maurizio MENSI  
Present Position: Full Professor of Public Economic Law, Superior School of Economics and Finance, Rome

Name: Mr. Francesco VITALI  
Present Position: Italian Data Protection Authority Communications and Media Officer

BOSTON VISIT

During delegates’ one-day visit in Boston the group requested a meeting with Professor Noushin Ashrafi to discuss her research on data privacy and protection. The meeting was arranged by WorldBoston and took place at University of Massachusetts Boston on 11/21. Areas of shared interests between the group members and Dr. Ashrafi were discussed and an agreement was made to work on a collaborative research focusing on “Consumer protection laws pertaining to use of personal data, in particular for ICTs, over-the-tops, payments and trade sectors” and “Open data policy: U.S. Government policy to protecting sensitive information.”

NOUSHIN ASHRAFI

Noushin Ashrafi is a full professor of information systems in the College of Management at UMB and will be visiting Johannes Kepler University Linz in Austria as a Fulbright Scholar Exchange in Spring 2015. Dr. Ashrafi will teach and conduct research on the topic of ‘Privacy Paradox: Conflicting values in the age of Big Data.’ This is her second participation in Fulbright Scholar Exchange; she spent Spring 2011 semester in Athens, Greece working on ‘privacy issues in healthcare’ with colleagues at Piraeus University. She is also the recipient of Fulbright Specialist award that permits her to spend a maximum of 6 weeks in a country where her expertise in Big Data and Privacy are sought by a host institution. She is currently in the process of negotiating time and duration of visits to Portugal, Brazil, and France to do similar work.