

Round table “Academic Freedom and Inclusion in the Digital Age”

16/10/2025 | Rui Mendes | Director of International Affairs | IST/Técnico Lisboa | Universidade de Lisboa



DIGIUIHI



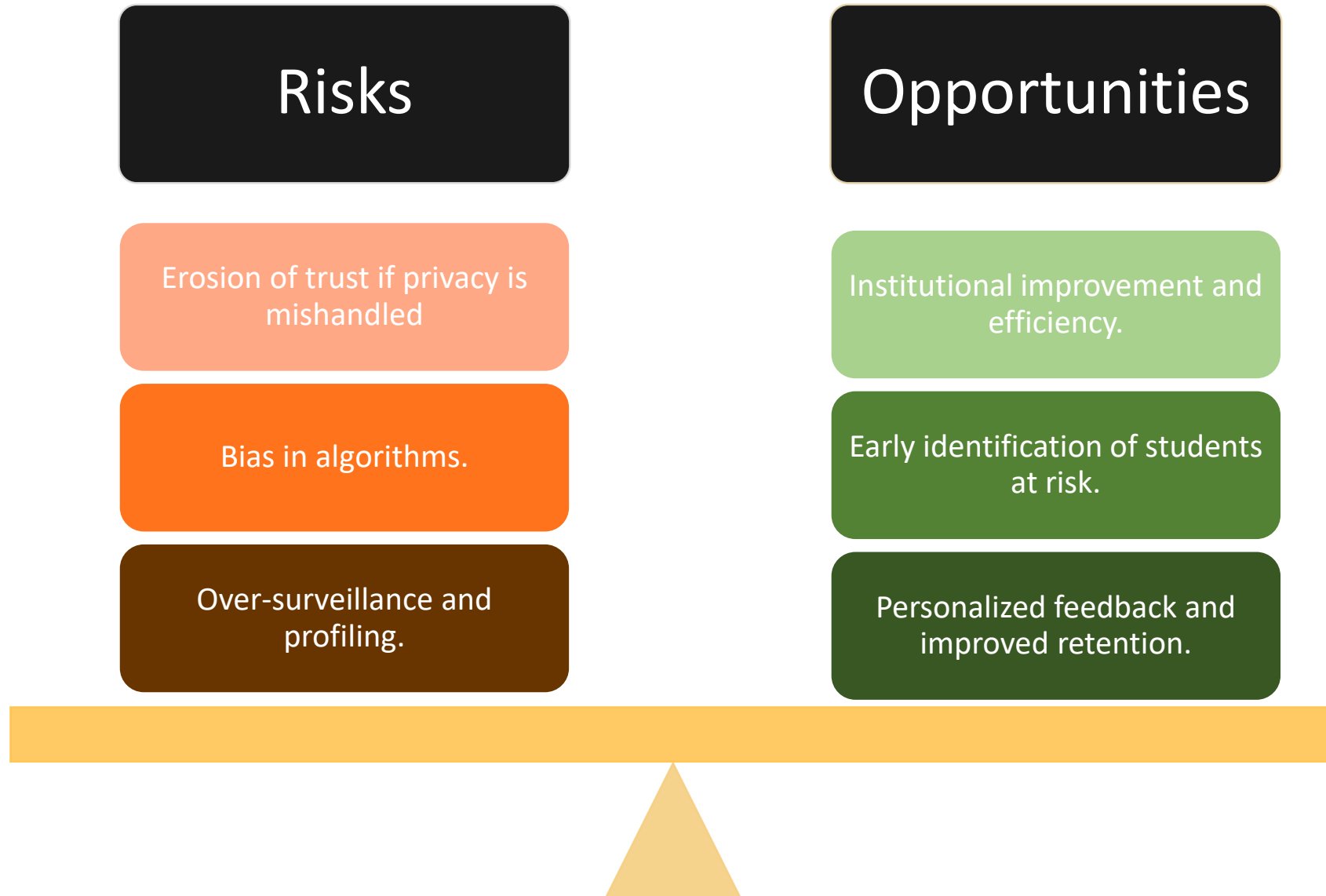
Intro Speech: Learning Analytics, Privacy & Trust

ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE | «Economic Development and Legacy by Simon Kuznets»

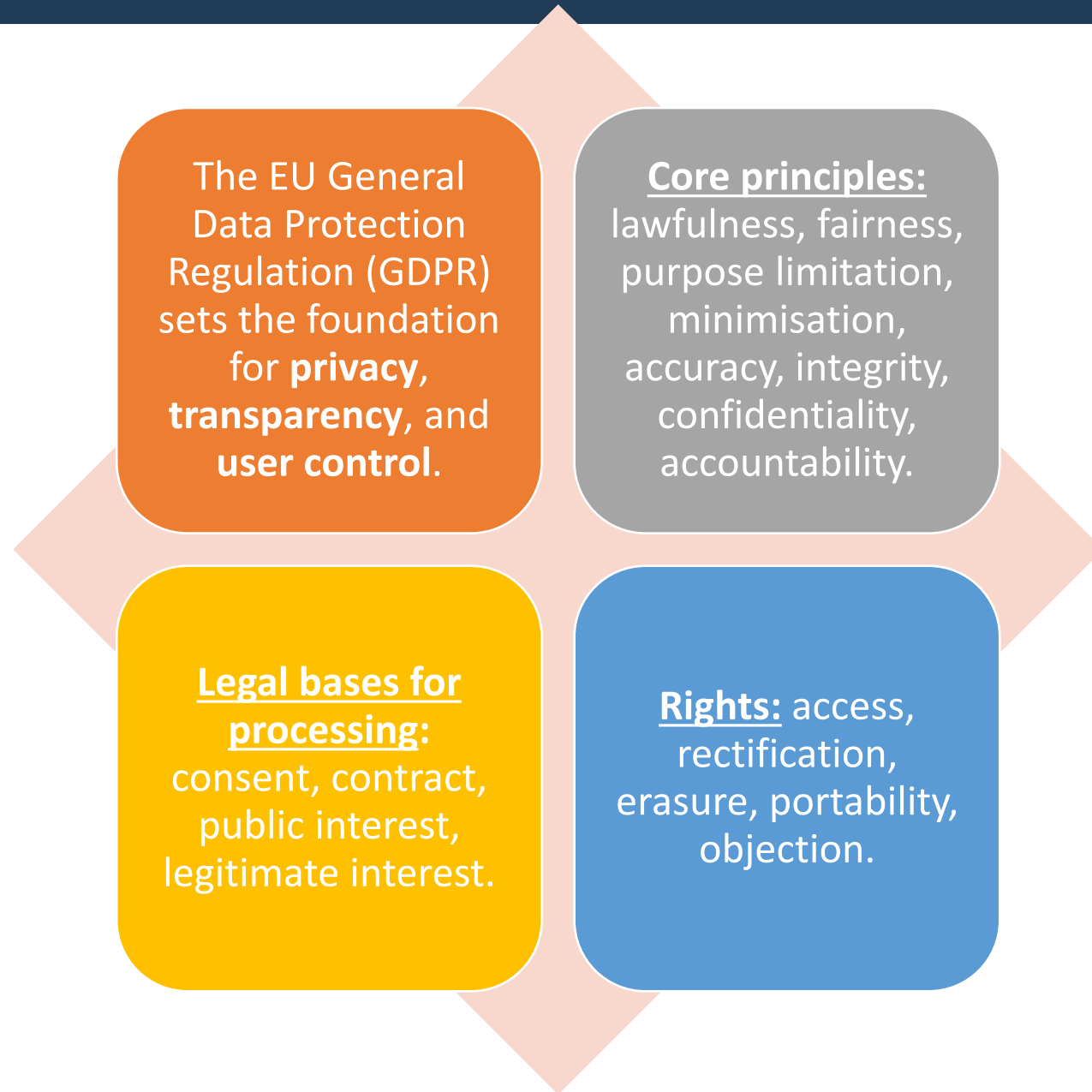
Context: Learning Analytics in Higher Education

1. Learning Analytics (LA) refers to the collection and analysis of student data to improve learning and teaching.
2. Used for: progress monitoring, adaptive learning, early alerts, and evidence-based decision making.
3. Emerging field with both great potential, ethical challenges and introduction of regulatory aspects as GDPR and data protection.

Opportunities and Risks of Learning Analytics



EU Regulatory Framework – GDPR



GDPR Enforcement Tracker in Portugal

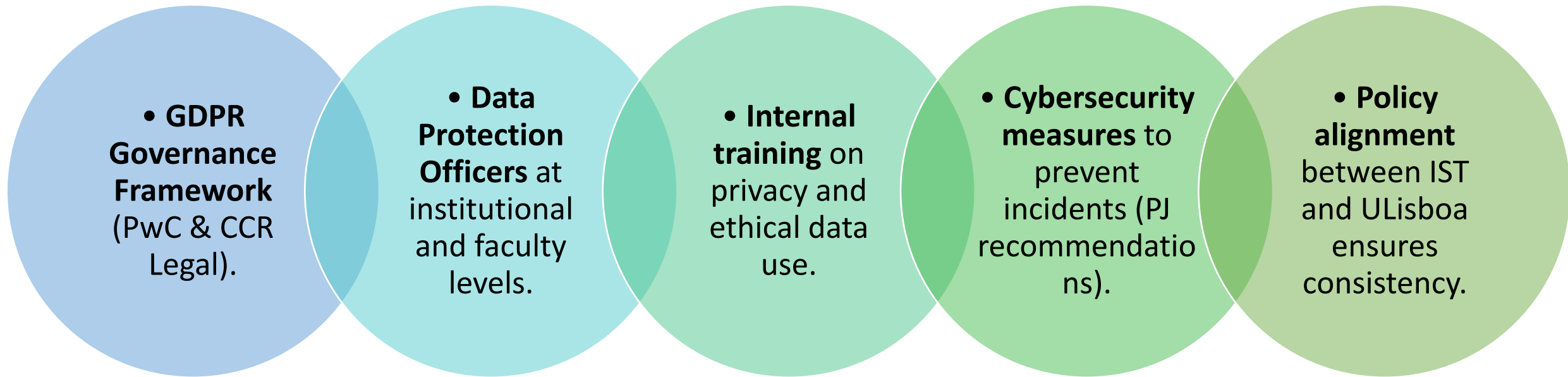


GDPR Enforcement Tracker

<https://www.enforcementtracker.com/>

+	ETid-1524	 PORTUGAL	2022-11-02	4,300,000	Portuguese National Statistical Institute	Art. 5 (1) a) GDPR, Art. 9 (1) GDPR, Art. 12 GDPR, Art. 13 GDPR, Art. 28 (1), (6), (7) GDPR, Art. 35 (1), (2), (3) b) GDPR, Art. 44 GDPR, Art. 46 (2) GDPR	Non-compliance with general data processing principles	link link
+	ETid-1498	 PORTUGAL	2022-11-02	180,000	Setúbal municipality	Art. 5 (1) e), f) GDPR, Art. 13 (1), (2) GDPR, Art. 37 (1), (7) GDPR	Non-compliance with general data processing principles	link link
+	ETid-995	 PORTUGAL	2021-12-21	1,250,000	Lisbon City Council	Art. 5 (1) a), c), e) GDPR, Art. 6 GDPR, Art. 9 (1) a) GDPR, Art. 13 (1), (2) GDPR, Art. 35 (3) GDPR	Insufficient legal basis for data processing	link
+	ETid-108	 PORTUGAL	2019-03-19	2,000	Unknown	Art. 13 GDPR	Insufficient fulfilment of information obligations	link
+	ETid-77	 PORTUGAL	2019-03-25	2,000	Unknown	Art. 13 GDPR	Insufficient fulfilment of information obligations	link
+	ETid-76	 PORTUGAL	2019-02-05	20,000	Unknown	Art. 15 GDPR	Insufficient fulfilment of data subjects rights	link
+	ETid-45	 PORTUGAL	2018-07-17	400,000	Public Hospital	Art. 5 (1) f) GDPR, Art. 32 GDPR	Insufficient technical and organisational measures to ensure information security	link

IST / ULisboa Privacy Ecosystem



IST / ULisboa Privacy Ecosystem

- IST reached 'Moderate' maturity; goal: 'High'.
- Strengths: clear governance, privacy structure, internal policies.
- Gaps: incident reporting, consent documentation, privacy-by-design.
- Recommendations:
 - Implement DPIA (Data Protection Impact Assessment) for analytics systems.
 - Strengthen data minimisation and transparency.
- Mature privacy culture fosters trust and inclusion.

Framework da PwC ao RGPD



Learning Analytics, Privacy & Trust | Inclusion & Accessibility

Integration of Accessibility & Inclusion in QA systems.

Emphasis on universal design and equal access to digital learning.

Ethical use of Learning Analytics: anonymisation and pseudonymisation.

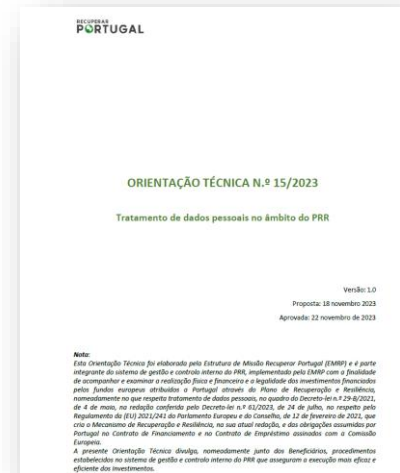
Institutional accountability through DPOs, audits, and privacy training.

Transparent communication to build student trust.

Show Case 1: PRR (PT Recovery and Resilience Plan)

Technical Guideline 15/2023 (Data Processing in EU-funded Projects)

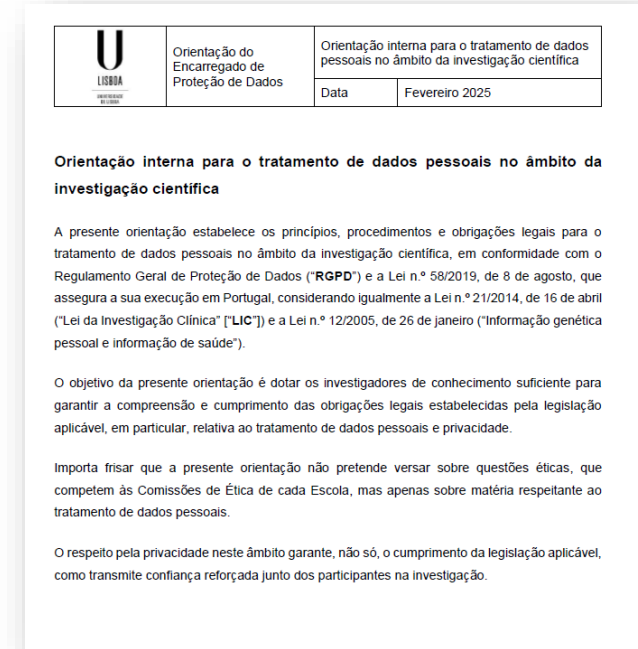
- Defines legal and procedural framework for handling personal data within the Portuguese Recovery and Resilience Plan (PRR).
- Emphasises accountability, transparency, and risk-based governance of data.
- Mandates privacy notices, informed consent, and data protection clauses in all beneficiary agreements.
- Relevance to IST: learning analytics and monitoring systems under PRR must comply with GDPR and data minimisation principles.
 - Promotes equitable and ethical data use to ensure digital inclusion across beneficiaries.



Show Case 2: Data Protection in Scientific Research

IST/UL Internal Guideline (2025) – Data Protection in Scientific Research

- Defines how to process personal, pseudonymised, and anonymous data in research contexts.
- Establishes researchers' responsibilities: data controllers, processors, and joint controllers.
- Requires pseudonymisation, secure storage, and minimisation of personal identifiers.
- Reinforces consent collection and data lifecycle management (collection → storage → deletion).
- Promotes research integrity and trust through ethical handling of participants' information.



Show Case 3: Artificial Intelligence & Data Protection

ULisboa Guidance (2024) – Artificial Intelligence & Data Protection

- Applies to all AI systems processing personal data within ULisboa.
- Requires a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) for high-risk AI use cases.
- Ensures compliance with GDPR principles: accuracy, minimisation, and fairness.
- Prohibits fully automated decision-making without human oversight.
- Mandates bias monitoring and documentation to prevent discrimination.
- Ensures responsible and inclusive use of AI in learning analytics and digital education.

Trust, Transparency & Digital Inclusion

Thematic Area	IST/UL Practice	GDPR Principle	Relevance to Learning Analytics	Inclusion Impact
Governance	DPO structure, PwC maturity model	Accountability	Ensures oversight of LA systems	Builds trust, enables participation
Data Minimisation	IST Research Guideline, AI orientation	Minimisation, Purpose limitation	Only necessary educational data processed	Protects vulnerable groups
Transparency	IST Privacy Policy	Transparency	Students informed about data use	Encourages usage & trust
Risk Assessment	AI & PRR guidelines	DPIA requirement	Identifies potential misuse of LA data	Mitigates bias & discrimination
Digital Inclusion	EU Best Practices	Accessibility, Equality	Universal design in platforms	Reduces barriers for disabled or digitally limited users

Trust, Transparency & Digital Inclusion

