

Key differences between GDPR and NIS2 (comparative analysis)

GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation) and **NIS2 (Network and Information Security Directive 2)** both focus on cybersecurity and data protection in the EU, but they serve different purposes and apply to different areas. The table below presents a comparative analysis of the key differences between the two legal regulations.

Aspect	GDPR (2018) 	NIS2 (2023) 
Purpose	Protects personal data and privacy of individuals	Ensures cybersecurity and resilience of critical infrastructure and services
Scope	Applies to all organizations processing personal data of EU residents	Applies to essential & important entities in key sectors (energy, healthcare, finance, digital infrastructure, etc.)
Focus	Personal data protection, processing, and privacy rights	Network & information security, risk management, and incident response
Regulated Entities	Any organization handling EU citizens' personal data, including global companies	Critical infrastructure, digital services, and supply chain providers in the EU.
Security Requirements	Requires data protection measures (encryption, access controls, DPIAs, etc.)	Enforces cybersecurity risk management (incident response, business continuity, supply chain security)
Incident reporting	72-hour deadline to report personal data breaches	24-hour notification for major cyber incidents
Accountability	Organizations must appoint a Data Protection Officer (DPO)	Board & executives are accountable for cybersecurity compliance
Penalties	Fines up to €20M or 4% of global turnover	Fines up to €10M or 2% of global turnover
Enforcement	National Data Protection Authorities (DPAs)	National cybersecurity authorities & EU cooperation

How GDPR & NIS2 Work Together?

- ❖ If your company processes personal data → Follow GDPR
- ❖ If your company operates in critical infrastructure → Follow NIS2
- ❖ If you fall under both, you must comply with both frameworks
- ❖ If your company is involved in a supply chain → Ensure compliance with GDPR's data processing rules and NIS2's supply chain security requirements

Get in touch. We are happy to support.

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