

# *Legal Aspects of Anonymization and Pseudonymization*

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## Module 1: Overview of the GDPR

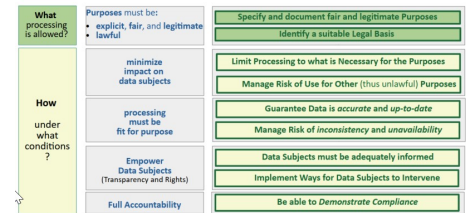
Bud P. Bruegger



# Outline Module 1

## Overview of the GDPR

- Intro and Context
- Requirements of the GDPR (Pt.of View of controllers)
- Approach: GDPR as a Sequence of Steps: (aka a “map”)



- **Structure** is useful for understanding and communicating:
  - define **context** or **scope** of a discussion (which of the risks?)
  - **locate concepts** “on the map” (principles, risks, ..)

# Simplifying Terminology

**processing** → always of **personal data**  
**data** → always **personal data**  
**use** → use of **personal data**  
**Article** → of the **GDPR**  
etc.

# The *General Data Protection Regulation* or *GDPR* is the main data protection law of Europe



European Economic Area  
(EU 27 + Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein)

# Data Protection is a **fundamental right** in the EU



## Charter of fundamental rights



*Article 7*

**Respect for private and family life**

*Article 8*

**Protection of personal data**

# Some History

Regulation replaces Directive

EU Directive

**Data Protection  
Directive**

very similar  
obligations for  
controllers

EU Regulation

**General  
Data Protection  
Regulation**

- Directives need **implementation in national law**
- Need for **harmonization across Member States**

- **Directly applicable**  
No need for national implementations
- **EU harmonization foreseen**  
e.g. European Data Protection Board

1995

2018

(in force)

(in force) time

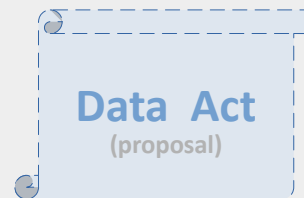
# Context

## Relevant Laws

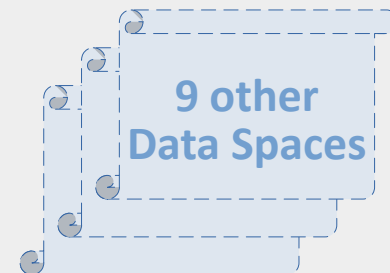


### *EU Strategy for Data*

horizontal:



vertical:



# Importance of the GDPR

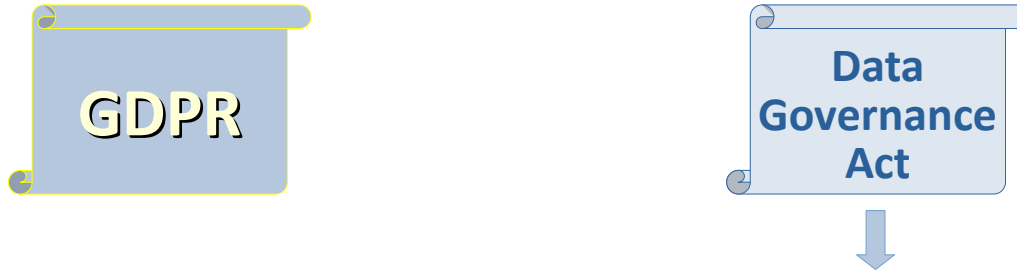


Article 1(3) DGA:

**“In the event of a conflict between this Regulation and” [the GDPR] ,**  
  
**[the GDPR] “shall prevail”.**



# Importance of the GDPR



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# Structure of the GDPR:

## Legal Maxim

**Often in the law:** *Allowed unless (explicitly) forbidden* (freedoms)

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### GDPR:

- **Default:** processing of Personal Data is **not permitted**
  - **unless**
    - fair, legitimate, **lawful**
    - **lawful** = “*explicitly permitted*”: **fits one of six legal basis** (foreseen in Art. 6)

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### Firewall: (analogy)

- **Default Deny** (deny unless explicitly allowed)

# Structure of the GDPR:

## Legal Maxim

**Often in the law:** *Allowed unless explicitly prohibited* (freedom's)

**GDPR:**

often used in Germany:

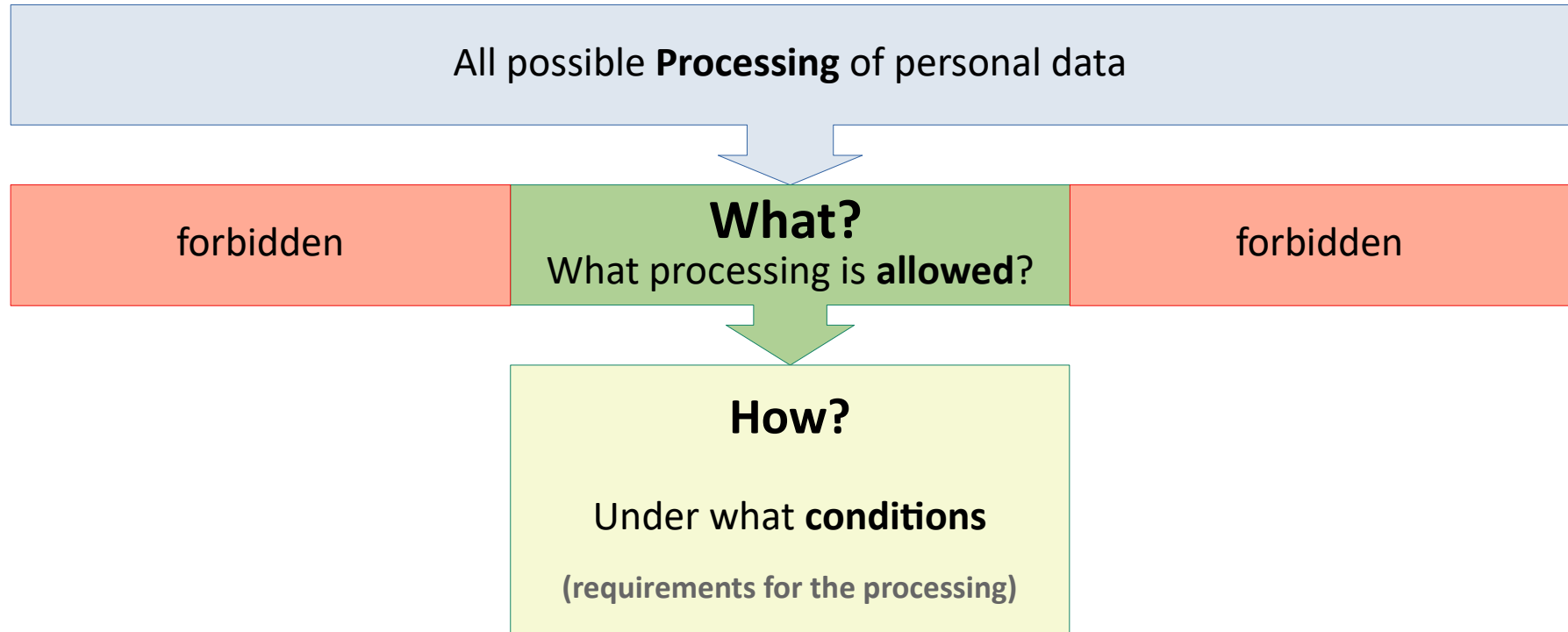
**“Verbot mit  
Erlaubnisvorbehalt”**

“prohibition with the  
possibility of authorization”

**Firewall:** (unauthorized access)

- **Default Deny** (deny unless explicitly allowed)

# Basic Structure of the GDPR

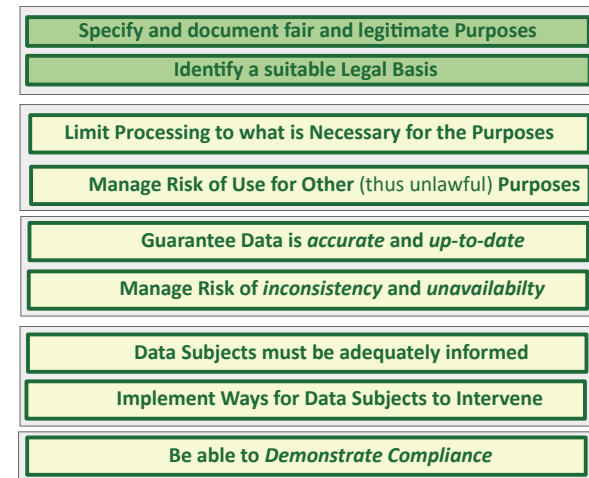


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- The following describes **What** and **How** in more detail..

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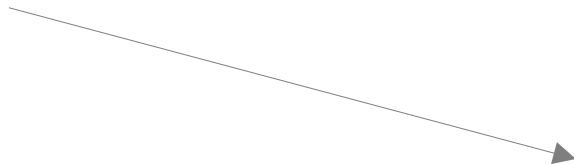
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- ..as a flowchart





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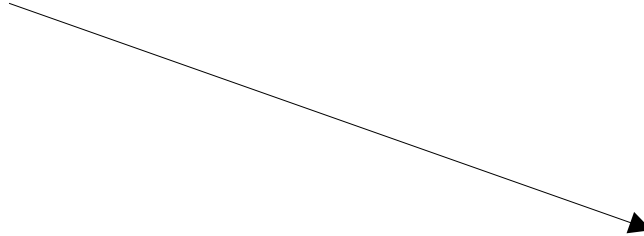


***Disclaimer:*** does **not**:

- guarantee compliance
- replace the GDPR

# Point of View

What a ***Controller*** has to do



- Specify and document fair and legitimate Purposes
- Identify a suitable Legal Basis
- Limit Processing to what is Necessary for the Purposes
- Manage Risk of Use for Other (thus unlawful) Purposes
- Guarantee Data is *accurate* and *up-to-date*
- Manage Risk of *inconsistency* and *unavailability*
- Data Subjects must be adequately informed
- Implement Ways for Data Subjects to Intervene
- Be able to *Demonstrate Compliance*

**What**  
processing  
is allowed?

**Purposes** must be:

- **explicit, fair, and legitimate**
- **lawful**

**How**  
  
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In the beginning was  
the word..

..and the word was  
***Purposes***

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**How**  
  
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- **explicit:** documented in writing
- **fair:** (not well-defined)
- **legitimate:** compliant with..

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- **explicit:** documented in writing
- **fair:** (not well-defined)
- **legitimate:** compliant with:
  - the **GDPR** (in letter and spirit)
  - **other laws**
  - the **values of society**  
(e.g., European **Charter of Fundamental Rights**)
  - the principles of **ethics** (e.g., **Research Ethics Commission**)

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Art 6(1) defines **lawful**:

***“Processing shall be lawful only if ..  
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exceptions  
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- **Consent** *by data subject*
- **Performance of a Contract** *with the data subject*
- **Legal Obligation**
- **Vital Interests** *of the data subject*
- **Task carried out in the Public Interest**
- **Legitimate Interests of the Controller**

What  
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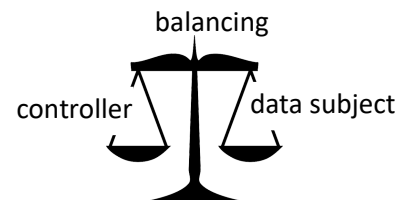
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- **Task carried out in the Public Interest**
- **Legitimate Interests of the Controller**
  - **except where overridden by** *the interests of the data subject*
  - → **“Balancing Test” necessary**



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**minimize  
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- **Processing for the specified Purposes is permitted**
- it always **impacts the Rights and Freedoms of Data Subjects**
- only what is really **necessary** is permitted

→ Note: **Central Role of Purposes**

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**Use for other Purposes:**

- **Breach of Confidentiality:** Attackers can use Data
- **Authorized Personnel pursues other Purposes**  
e.g., recognize neighbor or spouse in data

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**Manage Risk:** through **Technical** and **Organizational Measures (TOMs)**

- **make it less likely** (likelihood)
- **reduce negative impact on data subjects** (severity)

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**Guarantee Data is *accurate* and *up-to-date***

**Data Subjects:**

No negative consequences from *inaccurate* and *out-of-date* data

→ see also data subjects' *right to rectification*

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**Data Subjects:**

No negative consequences from *inconsistency* and *data loss*

→ stated in the context of *information security*

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- **Awareness of Processing**
- **Understand Processing** (opens up processing to scrutiny)
- **Know how to Intervene**

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also:  
**Risk from Data  
Breaches**

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**Implement Ways for Data Subjects to Intervene**

**Data Subject have Rights of:**

- **access**
- **rectification**
- **erasure**

- **restriction of processing**
- **objection**
- **notifications**

- **withdrawal of consent**
- **human intervention**  
(for automatic decision making)
- **data portability** (no lock-in)

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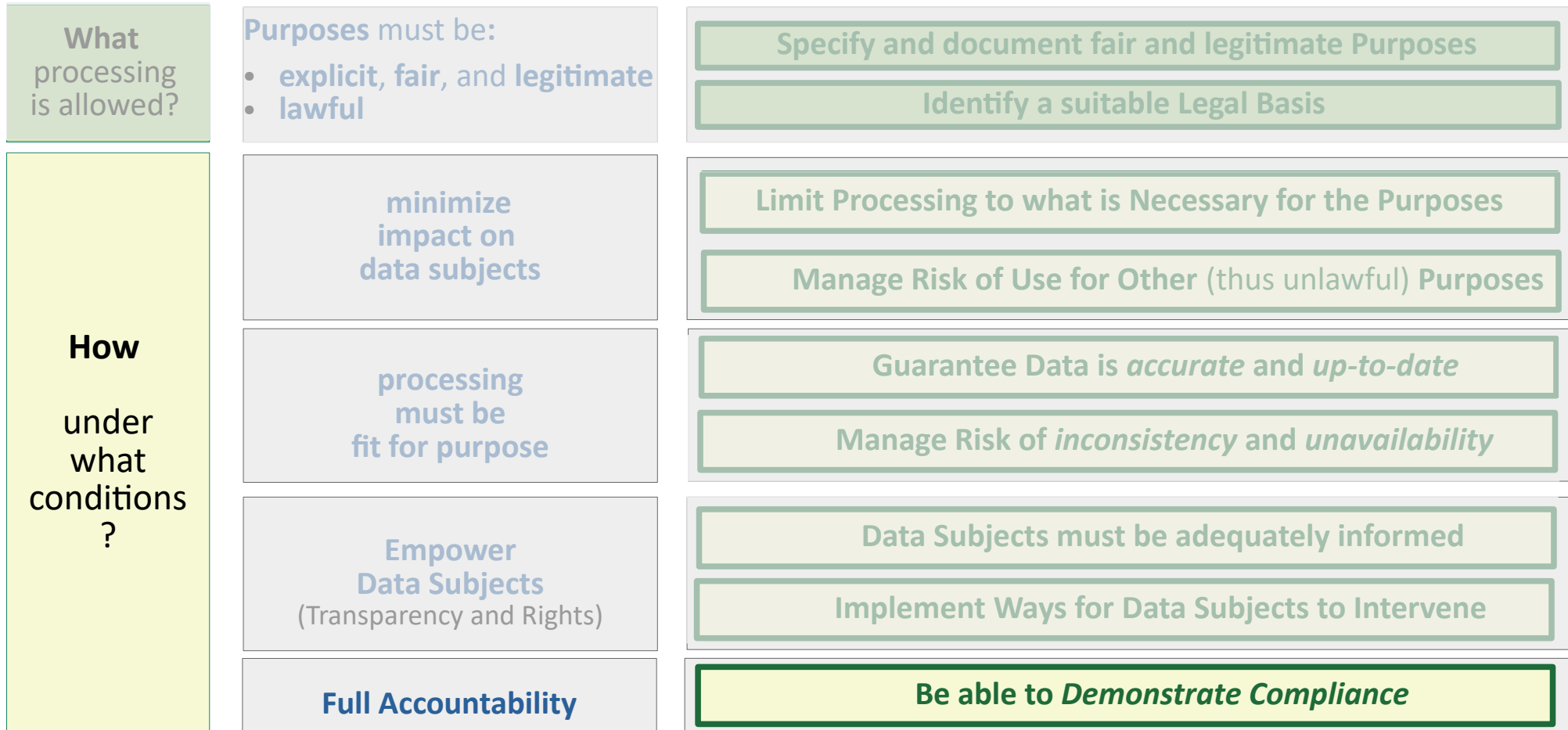
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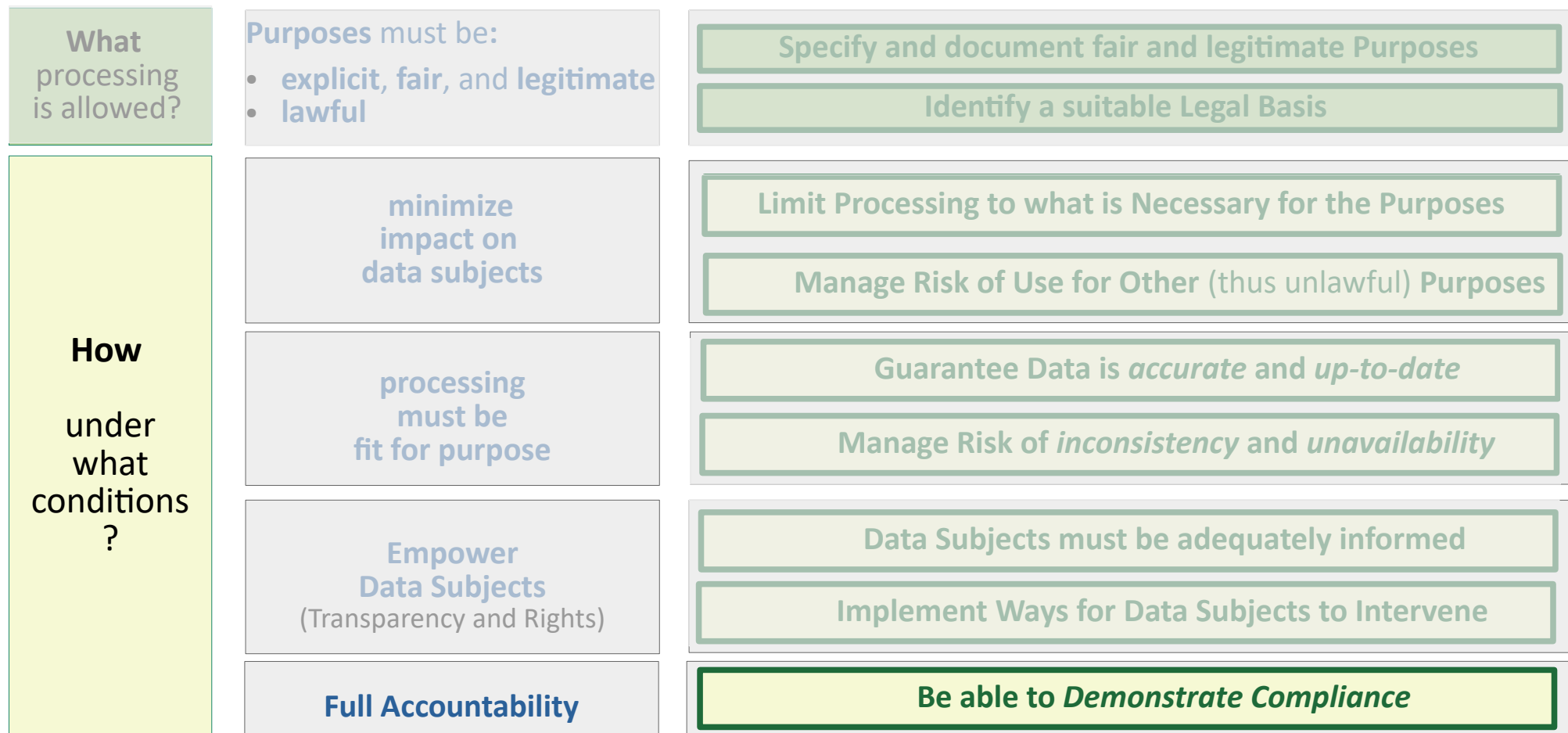
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Implement Ways for Data Subjects to Intervene

**Full Accountability**





- **Mostly towards Supervisory Authorities**
- **Documentation of Processing, Data Protection Impact Assessment, ..**



# Conclusions (Module 1)

- **major obligations of controllers on a single “map”**
- **useful for:**
  - **locate concepts** (module 2: **principles**, module 3: **risks**, ...)
  - **foster understanding** (by making **structure** explicit)
  - **support communications** (e.g., by defining a **scope**)

