

Data Protection

Audio Transcript

Principle 5: Integrity

[Danielle Kaufmann]: When we want to process data, this data must be *accurate* and *complete*. This means two things: on the one hand, we are required to make sure that the data is accurate and to correct it otherwise. On the other hand, the affected individual has the right to demand that information collected about them is accurate. So they can demand that the public institution correct any inaccurate information.

The principle of integrity, and thus the expectation that data must be accurate, follows from the principle of proportionality. Remember: data processing is proportionate when it is *appropriate* and *necessary*. If the data collected is not accurate, then its processing is neither appropriate nor required to fulfill the corresponding legal task. Thus proportionality is no longer guaranteed. It is also in our interest that the personal data we are working with is accurate, so that we can properly fulfill our duties.

This means that we are obliged to ensure the accuracy of data. We don't have to check *continually* whether our information resources are accurate, but especially when we are processing the data further and doing something else with it, for example checking eligibility for social welfare or conducting further research with the data. If the data is exposed as inaccurate, then we must take all appropriate measures to correct it.

A sixth principle of data protection law is closely connected to the principle of integrity, which is why we are introducing it here. It is the principle of information security. Information security means that we must protect information by means of appropriate technical and organizational measures. To do this, we can focus on three security goals.

First, we protect the confidentiality of the data so that unauthorized parties cannot access it and make note of it.

Second, we protect the integrity of the data so that unauthorized parties cannot alter it. *Third*, we protect the availability of the data so that it is there when needed.

The security goals are set out in § 8 of the Information and Data Protection Act. The principle of information security is implemented via technical and organizational measures in the system and via precautionary measures that we must maintain when processing data. The integrity of the data can only be guaranteed if we also protect it appropriately.

With integrity and information security, we are now familiar with all the principles that are subject of this chapter. In the next step, we will summarize what we have learned.