

Michał Serzycki (1971 – 2016)



Michał Serzycki was born on July 3, 1971 in Warsaw. He was a graduate of the Faculty of Law and Administration of the Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University. He also completed postgraduate studies in public administration management, destined for the administrative managerial staff at the Kozminski University.

Michał Serzycki worked, among others, at the State Fund for Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons, where he held managerial positions. In the years 2002 – 2006 he was the Deputy Mayor of the Wola District in Warsaw.

As the Inspector General for Personal Data Protection (GIODO), in the years 2006 – 2010, he attached great importance to educational activities. He considered raising citizens' awareness and disseminating knowledge on the protection of personal data and the right to privacy as one of his priorities.

It was inter alia for this reason that – on the initiative of the late Michał Serzycki – a separate organizational unit was created within the structure of the office – the Social Education and International Cooperation Department. The implementation of many educational and information initiatives aimed at a wide group of recipients both in Poland and abroad was started as well.

One of the first initiatives, continued until today, was the involvement of GIODO in 2007 in the organization of the Data Protection Day. On this occasion, in Warsaw a scientific conference took place, and in Brussels – a meeting with MEPs, which was an opportunity to exchange views on the international arena.

It was also during the term of office of the late Michał Serzycki that the first agreements on cooperation with various industry organizations and creation of the so-called codes of good practice were concluded.

The late Michał Serzycki was also the originator and initiator of the GIODO's national educational program for schools "Your data – Your concern. Effective protection of personal data. Educational activity addressed to students and teachers", which is carried out to this day under the honorary patronage of the Minister of National Education and the Ombudsman for Children. Currently, about 300 educational institutions, nearly 4000 teachers and almost 40 000 students participate in it annually. The activities undertaken by them involve not only the entire school community (students, teachers, parents), but also the local community (residents of cities and communes and numerous authorities all around Poland).

Among other educational initiatives, it is worth mentioning the publication of a series of 6 information brochures "ABC of personal data protection" in cooperation with the Sejm Publishing House, presenting these issues to a wide audience, or initiating postgraduate studies in this field.

From February 15, 2010, the late Michał Serzycki was the Vice-Chairman of the Art. 29 Working Party – an independent European advisory body of the European Commission in the field of personal data protection and privacy.

At the time of his death, he was the director of the Pension Office of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Administration. He died suddenly on September 3, 2016.