



GlobeLeaks & WhistleblowingPA

Open-source framework for internal and external reporting channels
Commission expert group (E03709) on Directive (EU) 2019/1937 - 30 November 2022

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What is GlobalLeaks 1/2

GlobalLeaks is a project started in 2011 to support the development of whistleblowing best practices.

Today GlobalLeaks is a **omni-comprehensive whistleblowing framework** result of the experimentation in **10 years** by more than **10.000 organizations worldwide** using the methodology for whistleblowing projects in highly sensitive initiatives protecting at-risk communities in 4 major fields of application:

- Anti-Corruption
- Corporate Compliance
- Human Rights Protection
- Investigative Journalism

What is GlobaLeaks 2/2

The initial project idea was to merge security with usability.

For this reason the software:

- Is built in full adherence with ISO27001, ISO37002 and GDPR and features privacy, security and anonymity configurations by design and by default;
- Embeds whistleblowing workflow logics and case management features in continuous development and improvement by the whistleblowing community;
- Features wide-range internationalization and localization with translations in 93 languages including all the official EU languages and a large set of languages spoken by European citizenships (protecting minorities like Uyghurs and Tatars).

Why GlobaLeaks is fully compliant with the Directive 1/2

Article 4, Personal Scope

GL is designed with usability and internationalization in mind to maximize accessibility.

Article 8, Obligation to establish internal reporting channels

GL is suitable for all kinds of organisations, for price (potentially free) and for its high possibility of customization.

Article 9, Procedures for internal reporting and follow-up

GL works for initial reporting, follow-up, enables configuration of multiple recipients and custom workflows, is suitable for anonymous or confidential reporting; prevents from external access.

Article 10 and 15, Reporting through external reporting channels

GL is designed to be used for both internal and external reporting.

Why GlobaLeaks is fully compliant with the Directive 2/2

Article 16, Duty of confidentiality

GL features advanced protection of the confidentiality of the reporting and protection of the identity of the source and features integration with the Tor technology that is the state of the art open source technology that enable anonymous communication. GL as well is designed to not exclude any third party to possibly intercept the reporting.

Article 17, Processing of personal data

GL is fully designed in compliance with GDPR.

Article 18, Record keeping of the reports

GL features configurable data retention policies supporting organizations' compliance with the directive.

A Digital Public Good

The GlobaLeaks framework is recognized as a Digital Public Good by the Digital Public Good Alliance

The alliance includes UNDP, UNICEF, Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development of Germany (BMZ), Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad) and GitHUB and other international organizations

<https://digitalpublicgoods.net/registry/globaleaks.html>

The meaning of “Free and Open-Source”

Free: there is no cost of license to use it

Open-Source: everyone has access to any project detail enabling large peer-review

We consider that **any whistleblowing software should be open source** to maximize public auditing and enable the whistleblowing protection community at large to contribute improve whistleblowers' protection

GlobaLeaks is both Free and Open-Source.

Relevant users by field of application: Anticorruption

Italy: National Authority for Anti-corruption (ANAC), Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Defense, AgID and 4.000 other italian organisations.

Europe: Barcelona City Hall, Valencia Anti-fraud Authority and many other ~400 orgs.

Worldwide: Madagascar Anti-Corruption Authority (BIANCO), Government of Mexico, Government of Maldives.

Transparency International chapters (EU): Bulgaria, France, Ireland, Italy, Kosovo, Latvia, Macedonia, Montenegro, Portugal, Serbia, Slovenia.

Transparency International chapters (world): Chile, Ghana, Pakistan.

Relevant users by field of application: Compliance

Italy: Fiorentina football club, Angelini pharmaceutical company, Edison energy company, Rai national television, Enav air traffic control company and more than ~1.000 other companies.

World: Many chambers of commerce implement GlobalLeaks and serve ~100 companies each, around 20 software providers serve around ~100 customers each.

Relevant users by field of application: Human Rights

The International Criminal Court (ICC) runs 2 pilot projects for reporting war crimes in Central African Republic II and Libya.

Amnesty International ran a human rights violations' reporting project in Pakistan and Saudi Arabia.

More than 200 NGOs and networks of whistleblowing protection worldwide run projects based on the GlobaLeaks framework (e.g. PPLAAF in Africa, LatamLeaks in Latin America, etc.)

Relevant users by field of application: Journalism

Several media outlets worldwide use GlobalLeaks to receive tips for investigative journalism:

- LeMonde
- Radio Free Asia
- Radio Free Europe
- WIRED: WiredLeaks
- Investigative Reporting Project Italy (IRPI): IrpiLeaks
- RE-CHECK
- Earth League International: WildLeaks
- Arab Reporters for Investigative Journalism (ARIJ): IARIJ

WhistleblowingPA

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Introduction to the project

[WhistleblowingPA](#) is a project created in 2018 by Transparency International Italia and GlobaLeaks offering to all Italian Public Administrations a free and ready to use digital reporting channel for whistleblowing.



Digital whistleblowing platforms in Italy

Since 2013 Transparency International Italia and GlobaLeaks have been active in promoting:

- the value of digital reporting platforms: security and confidentiality of the whistleblower as a concern and a priority to address with adequate technological solutions as a first step;
- pilot projects implementing the GlobaLeaks software in some Italian Public Administrations (e.g. Chambers of Commerce in Lombardy, 10 healthcare structures, some municipalities).

Result:

Italian law on whistleblowing approved (n.179/2017) which includes, first and only case worldwide, the obligation for all public organisations to set up encrypted reporting platforms.

Italy's context in 2017

Before the law was approved in 2017, in the Italian context there were no institutional or private suppliers or promoters of digital whistleblowing tools.

As the law entered into force, consultancy companies entered the market with high-price technological solutions.

The project WhistleblowingPA was created to improve this situation and ensure the efficacy of the law provisions.

First needs to address

Why WhistleblowingPA was needed and what were the objectives?

- Promote whistleblowing in the fight against corruption
- Promote open source technologies for whistleblowing
- Contrast the perception of whistleblowing as an expensive tool
- Contrast the cultural framework and the approach towards anti-corruption procedures as administrative burdens
- Give support to small public entities which usually lack human and economic resources, anti-corruption expertise and capabilities

Characteristics of the project

- Digital encrypted reporting platform available for all public administrations which is free, standardised, Italian-law and EU-directive compliant
- Tool ready to use in few minutes
- Customisation of the platform on request and upon payment of a yearly fee (customised platforms support the entire project)
- Management of the platforms is outsourced to Globaleaks and TI-IT (PAs only need to act as recipients of reports)
- Supporting documents for internal compliance (e.g. on data protection)
- Daily assistance on software, policy and legislation
- Training and communication materials available
- Forum for users and FAQs

Current impact and future developments

+1.700 Public Organisations joining the project (average of 15 new entries per month)

Important national and regional public institutions (eg. Sardinia Region, Friuli-Venezia Giulia Region, RAI, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Culture, etc.)

Impact on the market of digital whistleblowing platforms in terms of price and solutions.

Sustainability and replicability:

- The start-up of the project was partially funded by OSIFE and then became sustainable thanks to customised platforms
- [Speak Up Project](#) (EU-funded, DG-Home) was developed to create a package including documentation and tools to replicate the project in all EU countries (a pilot project is ongoing in Slovenia with TI-Slovenia and TI-Secretariat)

Further readings

- [GlobaLeaks documentation](#) featuring complete [threat model](#) specification, list of implemented [security measures](#) and a set of [independent security audits](#) received over the years
- [Pitfalls of Closed-Source Whistleblowing Software](#) by GlobaLeaks for the Whistleblowing International Network
- [Overview of Whistleblowing Software](#) by Transparency International
- [Smart Reporting Channel policy recommendation](#) provided by the AspenTech Policy Hub to the US Federal Trade Commission
- [Tor](#) free and open source anonymity technology integrated in GlobaLeaks
- The site of the [Whistleblowing International Network](#) (WIN) that connects and strengthens civil society organisations that defend and support whistleblowers

Thank you for your attention

For further information:

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Websites:

GlobaLeaks: www.globaleaks.org

Transparency International Italia: www.transparency.it

WhistleblowingPA: www.whistleblowing.it