

Markets for Connected Space Sharing (MaCs)



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INTRODUCTION

The MaCs project connects technological and legal aspects to make better use of shared workspaces and strike the balance between the privacy of building occupants and smart building innovations.

AIM

The project aims to develop a novel shared space data management platform, co-designed with our partner Creative Space Management, and which integrates data anonymisation processes. Consequently, we investigate the legal aspects of smart buildings to develop a data protection and privacy guideline for smart building data collection with the primary toolkit design on Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA).

WHY

The project focusses on work settings where connected spaces are shared between different users or organisations, and where freely given consent can be made challenging due to power imbalances. Uncertainty and privacy concerns can hamper the efficient usage of such spaces, which are increasingly prevalent. There is a fundamental challenge in understanding how to manage and best utilise smart shared space, from the technological and legal aspects.

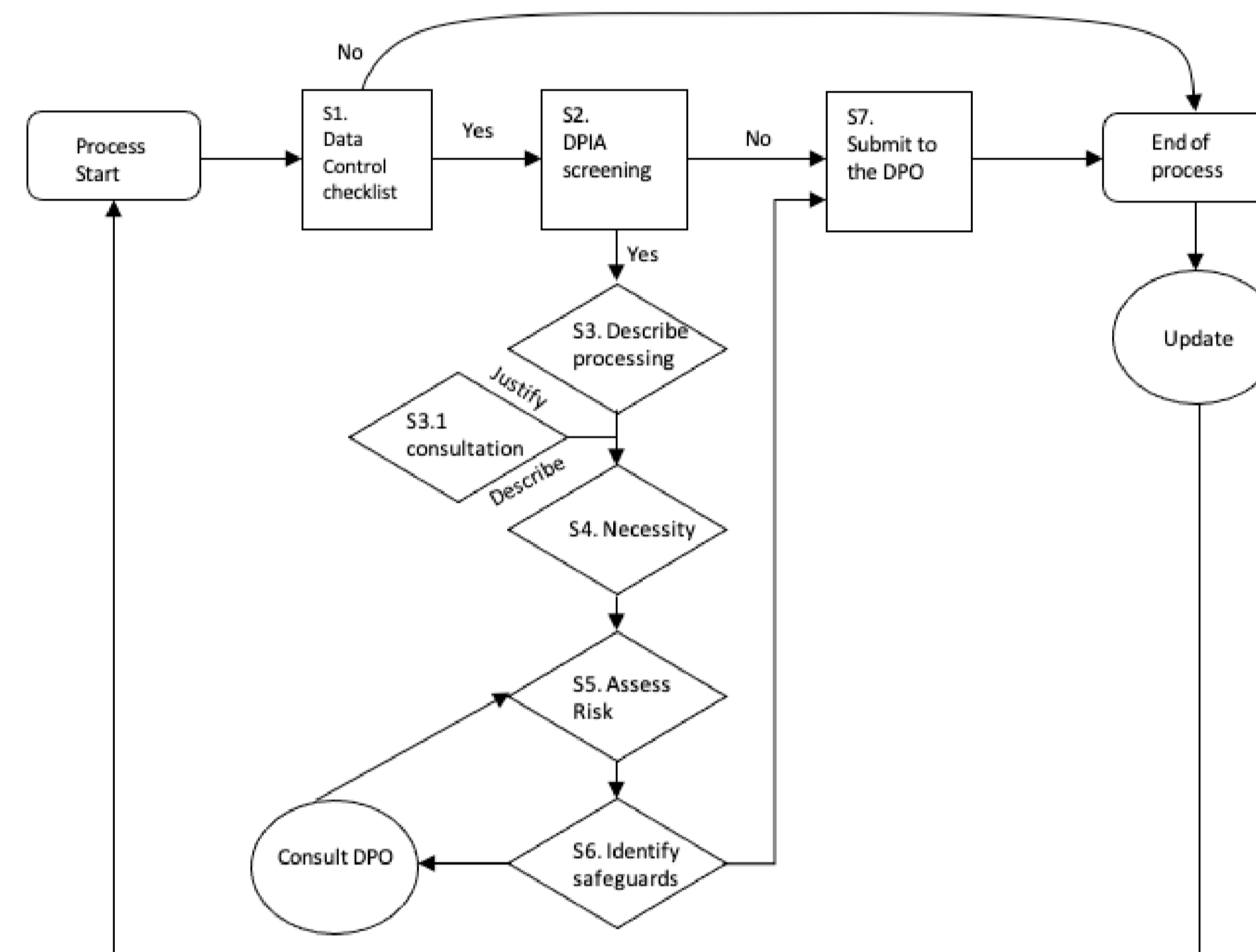


Figure 1

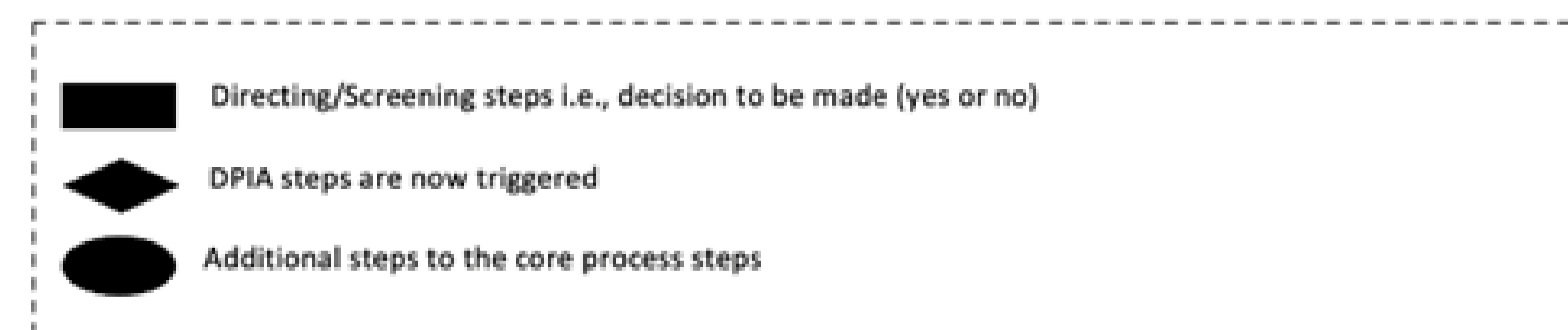


Figure 2

METHODOLOGY

We reviewed different approaches to DPIA of the similar spaces such as smart cities and smart campus to form the basis of the guideline design. Recognising the unique characteristics of smart buildings and connected space, we tailor the guideline to highlight these areas where we apply them into a series of questionnaires to help assess the level of compliance and actions to take.

EXPECTED IMPACT

The guideline is intended for any personnel who will be using data collected from the smart buildings for any purposes e.g., research, building management, contractual obligations, etc. Smart buildings hold great potential in facilitating comfortable and safe environment for occupants particularly when connected with other applications. However, greater connectivity equates to higher privacy and data protection risks, therefore, the deliverables of this project will help foster innovations and research by supporting designers in navigating potential complex ethical and legal implications arising from their innovation and to help mitigate such challenges and impacts.

PROJECT TIMELINE

Finish date: 31 August 2022