

**GPDP**GARANTE
PER LA PROTEZIONE
DEI DATI PERSONALI

SERVIZIO RELAZIONI ESTERNE E MEDIA

PRESS RELEASE

LINKEDIN: ITALIAN DPA INVESTIGATES SOCIAL NETWORK FOLLOWING THE DATA BREACH AND RECALLS THAT USING THE LEAKED DATA IS AGAINST THE LAW

Users urged to watch out for unusual events regarding their cellphones or accounts

The Italian data protection supervisory authority (Garante per la protezione dei dati personali) started an investigation into LinkedIn following the breach into the social network's systems that caused users' data to be leaked – including IDs, full names, email accounts, phone numbers, links to other user profiles on LinkedIn and other social media, professional qualifications and other job-related information users had posted on their profiles.

The Italian DPA also adopted a decision to remind any entity holding leaked personal data that using such data is in breach of personal data protection law because the information derives from unlawful processing activities. The Italian DPA recalled that using those data entails consequences including the imposition of penalties.

Given additionally that Italy is one of the European countries with the highest number of registered users, the Italian DPA urged all users affected by the breach to watch out in the coming weeks for unusual events regarding their phone numbers and accounts.

The leaked data might be used for unlawful activities ranging from unsolicited calls and messages to serious threats such as online fraud or identity theft, up to the so-called 'SIM swapping' – which allows breaching into certain online services that use cellphone numbers for authentication purposes.

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