



W4C GR CYBERSECURITY WOMAN PROFILE OF THE MONTH

INTERVIEW WITH GEORGIA!

Name: Georgia Voudoulaki

Job Position: Senior Legal Counsel, Attorney in Private Practice, and University Lecturer

Current Employer: Robert Bosch GmbH

Cybersecurity areas of expertise: AI governance (EU AI Act), data protection (GDPR), risk-based compliance architecture, human oversight design, accountability frameworks for automated decision-making, cybersecurity governance

Previous careers: Legal advisory roles across data protection, IT law, compliance, digital transformation and AI governance

Educational background: Legal studies; specialization in data protection and IT law; Certified Compliance Officer; ongoing academic engagement in AI governance

Other interests/hobbies (if you want to share): Public speaking, long-form writing, literature, structured debate

Favourite quote: "Giving up is not an option."

For me, this reflects intellectual persistence, especially when navigating regulatory and technological complexity.

Network with me: [Georgia Voudoulaki](#) | [LinkedIn](#)

Intro & Inspirational

1. Which values are guiding your life and work?

Responsibility, clarity and intellectual discipline. In AI and data-driven environments, decisions scale. If governance is weak, harm scales with it. That awareness shapes my work.

2. What's the most important life lesson you've learned?

Complexity is not a reason to retreat. It is a reason to think more rigorously.

3. How do you define success? And what's the best advice that you can give about success?

Success means building trust where decisions matter. Visibility may open doors, but credibility, judgment and structured thinking are what endure.

4. Do you think your job makes a difference? How?

Yes, it definitely does. AI systems increasingly shape access to services, employment and public resources. My work helps ensure that innovation is not only efficient, but also accountable, legally sound and institutionally legitimate.

5. What is the best and the worst piece of advice you received? (+How did you unlearn the latter or use it to your favour?)

Best: "Think structurally."

Worst: "Don't be too direct."

Precision is not harshness. It is respect for complexity.

6. Can you name a book that has influenced your journey?

Goethe's Faust. It explores ambition, knowledge and consequence. A tension that feels strikingly relevant in the age of artificial intelligence.

Cybersecurity General

7. How can someone stand out in a competitive cybersecurity job market?

By understanding that cybersecurity, data protection and AI governance are interconnected governance disciplines. The professionals who stand out can translate technical risk into institutional responsibility.

8. What trends in the technology & cybersecurity industry are you keeping an eye on for the future?

EU AI Act implementation and enforcement practice, GDPR supervisory developments related to AI systems, increasing board-level accountability for automated decision-making, and the convergence of cybersecurity and AI governance.

9. What is the most common mistake someone could make when applying for a role in the cybersecurity industry? What do you believe makes a successful candidate/application?

A common mistake is focusing only on tools or certifications. Strong candidates show structured reasoning, curiosity and the ability to connect technical risk with legal, organizational and ethical responsibility.

10. Do you believe that there are misconceptions people make about working in the cybersecurity industry?

Yes, indeed. It is often perceived as purely technical. In reality, cybersecurity protects infrastructure, data protection safeguards individual rights, and AI governance structures responsibility. Without integrating all three, organizations underestimate systemic risk.

11. Which concrete recommendations would you give to women who want to change career and join cybersecurity?

Do not wait to feel fully ready. Analytical thinking, structured communication and regulatory literacy are powerful assets in cybersecurity. Diverse perspectives strengthen the field, especially where risk, governance and decision-making intersect.

12. And any tips for those who are still very young and might be considering it? Can they start “preparing” somehow from early on?

Yes, of course! They can start by developing critical thinking, digital literacy and risk awareness early. Technology will keep evolving, but the ability to ask the right questions and reason under uncertainty is a lasting advantage.

13. What skills do you think are not “most important”, as this is very limiting, but skills that are key for a career in cybersecurity no matter the specific profile?

Structured reasoning, risk literacy, the ability to explain complex issues clearly to decision-makers, and ethical judgment under uncertainty.

14. Do you (or did you) have a mentor or someone who guided you? What is your opinion on mentoring as well as on getting a start via an internship/traineeship? Are you planning to mentor or coach others in the future, or have you been mentoring already?

I have been guided less by one formal mentor and more by people who challenged and trusted me at key stages of my career. I believe mentoring is especially valuable in fields like cybersecurity, data protection and AI governance, where career paths are often non-linear. Through teaching, speaking and professional exchange, I already support others and would be glad to continue doing so in a more structured way.

You & Your job

15. What was your childhood dream job (and why you liked it)?

As a child, I wanted to become a teacher. I was fascinated by explaining complex ideas clearly. Later, I chose law because I was drawn to responsibility and decision-making. Today I combine both: structuring governance frameworks and teaching future professionals.

16. Did peer pressure, trends or other factors play a role in your choosing cybersecurity and particularly your specific field of work in it?

No, not at all. I was drawn to accountability structures long before AI governance became mainstream.

17. Did you face any challenges related to your gender, race, visual appearance, or background, or any stereotypical biases? How have you overcome these?

At times, yes. In technology-driven and regulatory environments, authority is not always granted equally. I learned that preparation, consistency and clarity build credibility over time and that substance matters more than stereotypes.

18. Do (did) you ever experience imposter syndrome and self-doubt about your career and skills?

Yes, especially when entering new international policy environments. Preparation and substance are the antidote.

19. What has been your most exciting role to date?

Designing governance structures for AI-driven systems where deployment decisions had legal, ethical and reputational consequences.

20. What is the best and worst experience you have had in your career?

Best: being able to shape structural compliance and governance architecture rather than just reviewing outcomes after the fact.

Worst: seeing governance reduced to box-ticking, without understanding the human and institutional consequences behind it.

21. Do you enjoy your work, and why? What's your favourite and least favourite part of your job?

I enjoy strategic discussions about accountability allocation in automated environments. My least favourite aspect is AI hype that ignores regulatory and societal implications.

22. What role has networking played in your skill development?

Networking has been important because it sharpens perspective. It challenges assumptions, expands regulatory understanding and creates the kind of exchange that improves judgment over time.

23. What's the next big milestone you're working towards (if you can and want to share)?

Further international engagement in AI governance, combined with more writing and publishing on responsibility allocation in AI systems.

24. Do you have any passion or side-projects you're focusing on?

Yes, I focus on research, writing and teaching on AI governance, data protection and responsibility in AI-driven decision-making.

Other

25. How do you handle criticism?

By evaluating the argument, not the tone. If it strengthens the structure, I adjust.

26. How do you manage stress?

Through preparation and strategic selectivity. Not every opportunity deserves attention.

27. Cybersecurity is considered a very demanding and “intrusive” career in someone’s life (takes a lot of hours, lots of learning constantly, you are “seeing” cybersecurity triggers everywhere even outside of work). How do you balance work and personal life?

I create cognitive boundaries and protect time for rest. In governance work, clarity is part of the job and clarity depends on distance as much as engagement.

28. What do you do to prevent burnout in such a demanding line of work?

I focus on long-term impact, protect time for reflection and resist the pressure of constant visibility.

29. How do you set boundaries in the workplace?

By defining roles and expectations clearly. Governance starts with responsibility allocation, even in everyday collaboration.