# Italy blocks access to DeepSeek over data protection concerns



Italy’s data protection authority, known as Garante, has taken decisive action by blocking access to the Chinese AI application DeepSeek in a bid to safeguard user data. This move, announced on Thursday, highlights the ongoing scrutiny faced by AI technologies, especially from foreign entities operating within Europe.

The Garante's concerns stem from an unsatisfactory response from the developers behind DeepSeek regarding their data practices. In particular, the authority queried the company about the types of personal data they collect, the storage locations of this data, and how users are informed about these practices. In response, the companies associated with DeepSeek claimed to operate outside of Italy, asserting that European regulations do not apply to them. However, the Garante firmly countered this position by emphasising that the app had amassed millions of downloads globally within a matter of days, indicating significant user engagement in Italy.

DeepSeek's advanced chatbot functionality has escalated the competition in the field of AI technologies, positioning itself as a formidable contender against established American generative AI platforms, and doing so at a fraction of the associated costs. This development in the AI technology race is notable, given the significant market dynamics that are shifting as new players enter the field.

As investigations proceed, the implications for user privacy and the operational frameworks of AI companies in Europe remain a focal point. The Garante’s actions underscore the importance of compliance with local data protection laws and the potential challenges faced by international tech firms in navigating these regulations.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://www.securityweek.com/italy-blocks-access-to-the-chinese-ai-application-deepseek-to-protect-users-data/> - This URL corroborates the claim that Italy's data protection authority blocked access to DeepSeek to protect user data. It provides details on the action taken by the authority.
* <https://www.garanteprivacy.it/en> - This is the official website of Italy's data protection authority, Garante, which would provide information on their actions and policies regarding data protection.
* <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32016R0679> - This URL provides access to the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), which is relevant to the data protection concerns mentioned in the article.
* <https://www.bbc.com/news/technology-64243361> - This URL could potentially provide additional news coverage on AI technologies and their regulatory challenges in Europe, although it is not specific to DeepSeek.
* <https://www.reuters.com/technology/ai> - This URL offers news and updates on AI technologies, including developments and challenges faced by AI companies globally.
* <https://www.euractiv.com/section/digital/> - This URL provides coverage on digital policy and regulations in Europe, which includes data protection and AI technologies.
* <https://www.politico.eu/article/eu-ai-regulation/> - This URL discusses EU regulations on AI, which are relevant to the challenges faced by international tech firms operating in Europe.
* <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2023-12-14/eu-ai-regulations-aim-to-rein-in-tech-giants> - This URL provides information on EU efforts to regulate AI technologies, highlighting the regulatory environment for AI companies.
* <https://www.cnbc.com/2023/12/14/eu-ai-regulations-what-you-need-to-know.html> - This URL offers an overview of EU AI regulations and their implications for tech companies, including those from outside Europe.