



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

PROTECTION OF YOUR PERSONAL DATA

This privacy statement provides information about the processing and the protection of your personal data.

Processing operation: “Friends of EU Research & Innovation and Community Platform”

Data Controller: European Commission, *DG Research & Innovation (RTD)*.

Record reference: [DPR-EC-01063](#)

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1. Introduction

The European Commission is committed to protect your personal data and to respect your privacy. The Commission collects and further processes personal data pursuant to [Regulation \(EU\) 2018/1725](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by the Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies and on the free movement of such data.

This privacy statement explains the reason for the processing of your personal data in the context of your subscription to the Research and Innovation Community platform (mentioned as “the platform” hereafter). It explains the way we collect, handle and ensure protection of all personal data provided, how that information is used and what rights you have in relation to your personal data. It also specifies the contact details of the responsible Data Controller with whom you may exercise your rights, the Data Protection Officer and the European Data Protection Supervisor.

The information in relation to processing operation of the Friends of EU Research & Innovation and Community Platform, undertaken by the Directorate-General for Research & Innovation (DG RTD), is presented below.

2. Why and how do we process your personal data?

Purpose of the processing operation: The controller collects and further processes your personal data to provide you with information about EU Research and Innovation events and campaigns (before, during and after), as well as to process your application for participation in events hosted at the EU R&I Community Platform.

Live web-streaming, audio-visual recording and photographs of the participants, speakers and organisers may be taken and published in the context of the events on online resources of the European Commission, such as the YouTube account of DG RTD (at: <https://www.youtube.com/c/EUScienceInnovation>), other YouTube accounts managed by the European Commission and websites under Europa.eu domain.

Your personal data will not be used for any automated decision-making including profiling.

The data controller shall not be held accountable for any processing of personal data that you might carry out on your own initiative at the platform, during or after the event. For instance, if you decide to take photographs/audio-visual recordings of participants of the event/platform and/or publish them online, you assume full responsibility for these actions.

3. On what legal ground(s) do we process your personal data?

The processing operations on personal data, linked to the organisation, management, follow-up and promotion of events (including web-streaming, photos, audio-visual recording) are necessary for the management and functioning of the Commission, as mandated by the Treaties. Those provisions are in particular, the communication actions to promote the activities and results of the programme as explained in Article 28 of the General Provisions of [Framework Regulation](#) for H2020 and Article 11 of the Treaty on European Union and Article 15 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

Consequently, those processing operations are lawful under Article 5(1)(a) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 (processing is necessary for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest or in the exercise of official authority vested in the Union institution or body).

Your consent is required for:

- The processing of your personal data relating to the creation of your online account;
- The sharing of the participants list containing your name and affiliation with other participants for networking purposes solely within the community platform;
- The sharing of the participants list containing your name and affiliation with other participants, in order to create working groups to continue online and offline the collaborative work launched at the community platform;
- The processing of your personal data for inviting you to future events the data controller may organise;
- The processing of your personal data for inviting you to promote EU Research and Innovation campaigns to help build and inspire the EU R&I community.
- The processing of your personal data for managing your subscription to a newsletter of the data controller.

4. Which personal data do we collect and further process?

The following personal data will be processed:

- Mandatory for registration on the platform: first name, last name, e-mail address, organisation type, work/current location, topics of interest (via predefined list).
- Optional for monitoring and communication purposes: Title, Year of birth, Nationality, Phone number, Organisation name, Position, Biography, Social media profile links (Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter), URL of website, Photograph.

5. How long do we keep your personal data?

The Data Controller only keeps your personal data for the time necessary to fulfil the purpose of collection or further processing.

For each of the categories of personal data that is processed, please find below the retention details and the reference to the relevant record of processing:

- All mandatory personal data provided during registration will remain on the platform until the account deletion or modification by the user, removing this data from the mandatory fields in the profile;
- All optional data provided during registration will remain on the platform until the account deletion or modification by the user, removing this data from the optional fields in the profile;
- In case of audio-visual recording of an event, the recordings will be stored on online resources and social media platforms managed by of the European Commission for an undetermined period. These resources include websites under Europa.eu domain, and social media platforms such as the YouTube account of DG RTD (<https://www.youtube.com/c/EUScienceInnovation>). More information is available in the Record of Processing DPR-EC-01937 (Audio-visual recording of meetings).

6. How do we protect and safeguard your personal data?

All personal data in electronic format (e-mails, documents, databases, uploaded batches of data, etc.) are stored on the servers of the European Commission. All processing operations are carried out pursuant to [Commission Decision \(EU, Euratom\) 2017/46](#) of 10 January 2017 on the security of communication and information systems in the European Commission.

In order to protect your personal data, the Commission has put in place a number of technical and organisational measures. Technical measures include appropriate actions to address online security, risk of data loss, alteration of data or unauthorised access, taking into consideration the risk presented by the processing and the nature of the personal data being processed. Organisational measures include restricting access to the personal data solely to authorised persons with a legitimate need to know for the purposes of this processing operation.

The Commission's contractors are bound by specific contractual clauses for any processing operations of your personal data on behalf of the Commission, and by the confidentiality obligations deriving from the General Data Protection Regulation ('GDPR' - Regulation (EU) 2016/679).

7. Who has access to your personal data and to whom is it disclosed?

Access to your personal data is provided to the Commission staff responsible for carrying out this processing operation and to other authorised Commission staff according to the "need to know" principle. Such staff abide by statutory, and when required, additional confidentiality agreements.

Where necessary, we may also share your information with service providers for the purposes of organising events and content under the platform:

- VO Europe SA (Communication Agency);
- VO Event SA (Communication Agency);
- Eyes On GmbH (video conferencing tool);
- DeadSimple Chat (chat);
- Talk JS (networking tool);
- Calendly (book a Meeting tool);
- Contentfull (CMS – Speaker names);
- Cisco Systems (Slido - Sirius Collaboration – Cisco collaboration partner);
- VideoHouse (Media agency);

Third party IT tools, including Social Media

We use third party IT tools to inform about and promote the Friends of EU Research & Innovation, its community platform and related events (e.g. Sli.do), which may collect personal data and have their own cookies and privacy policies. The use of a third party IT tool, does not in any way imply that the Agency or European Commission endorses them or their privacy policies. In the event that one or more third party IT tools are occasionally unavailable, we accept no responsibility for lack of service due to their downtime.

For information on how Sli.do uses cookies and processes personal data, please consult this [link](#).

We use third party IT tools to inform about and promote the event through widely used communication channels, including social media. For detailed information about the use of social media by the European Commission, see the Record of Processing DPR-EC-00073 (Social Media Use by the European Commission).

You can watch audiovisual material on the platform, which is hosted via third parties such as the DG Research and Innovation account on YouTube channel ([YouTube](#)).

In order to protect your privacy, our use of third party IT tools to connect to those services does not set cookies when our website pages are loaded on your computer (or other devices), nor are you immediately redirected to those social media or other websites. Only in the event that you click on a button or “play” on a video to watch it, a cookie of the social media company concerned will be installed on your device. If you do not click on any social media buttons or videos, no cookies will be installed on your device by third parties.

In order to view such third-party content on our websites, a message will alert you that you need to accept those third parties’ specific Terms and Conditions, including their cookie policies, over which the Commission has no control.

We recommend that users read the relevant privacy policies of [Youtube](#), [Facebook](#), and [Twitter](#), carefully before using them. These explain each company’s policy of personal data collection and further processing, their use of data, users' rights and the ways in which users can protect their privacy when using those services.

The use of a third party IT tool does not in any way imply that the European Commission endorses them or their privacy policies. In the event that one or more third party IT tools are occasionally unavailable, we accept no responsibility for lack of service due to their downtime.

Use of cookies

Cookies are short text files stored on a user’s device (such as a computer, tablet or phone) by a website. Cookies are used for the technical functioning of a website (functional cookies) or for gathering statistics (analytical cookies).

When you visit the website(s) of the platform and when you register, we will keep the browser history of your visit for a maximum of 2 years. This information will then be deleted. The collection, aggregation and anonymising operations are performed in the data centre of the European Commission under adequate security measures.

Enabling these cookies is not strictly necessary for the website to work but it will provide you with a better browsing experience. You can delete or block these cookies, but if you do that, some features of the meeting/event website may not work as intended.

The cookie-related information is not used to identify data subjects personally and the pattern data is fully under the Commission’s control. These cookies are not used for any purpose other than those described here.

Should you wish to opt your personal data out of our anonymised, aggregated statistics, you can do so on our cookies page. In particular, you can control and/or delete those cookies as you wish.

8. What are your rights and how can you exercise them?

You have specific rights as a ‘data subject’ under Chapter III (Articles 14-25) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1725, in particular the right to access, your personal data and to rectify them in case your personal data are inaccurate or incomplete. Where applicable, you have the right to erase your personal data, to restrict the processing of your personal data, to object to the processing, and the right to data portability.

You have the right to object to the processing of your personal data, which is lawfully carried out pursuant to Article 5(1)(a) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 on grounds relating to your particular situation.

The data will ensure that the data subjects can exercise their right to object to processing whenever possible by the organisers of the meeting/event.

You have consented to provide your personal data to the data controller for the present processing operations. You can withdraw your consent at any time by notifying the data controller. The withdrawal of your consent will not affect the lawfulness of the processing carried out before you have withdrawn the consent.

You can exercise your rights by contacting the data controller, or in case of conflict the Data Protection Officer. If necessary, you can also address the European Data Protection Supervisor.

Their contact information is given under Heading 9 below.

Where you wish to exercise your rights in the context of one or several specific processing operations, please provide their description (i.e. their Record reference(s) as specified under Heading 10 below) in your request.

9. Contact information

- The Data Controller

If you would like to exercise your rights under Regulation (EU) 2018/1725, or if you have comments, questions or concerns, or if you would like to submit a complaint regarding the collection and use of your personal data, please feel free to contact the Data Controller, RTD-WEB-TEAM@ec.europa.eu.

- The Data Protection Officer (DPO) of the Commission

You may contact the Data Protection Officer (DATA-PROTECTION-OFFICER@ec.europa.eu) with regard to issues related to the processing of your personal data under Regulation (EU) 2018/1725.

- The European Data Protection Supervisor (EDPS)

You have the right to have recourse (i.e. you can lodge a complaint) to the European Data Protection Supervisor (edps@edps.europa.eu) if you consider that your rights under Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 have been infringed as a result of the processing of your personal data by the data controller.

10. Where to find more detailed information?

The Commission Data Protection Officer (DPO) publishes the register of all processing operations on personal data by the European Commission, which have been documented and notified to him. You may access the register via the following Record reference: [DPR-EC-01063](#).