



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

PROTECTION OF YOUR PERSONAL DATA

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

Processing operation: REGIOSTARS awards

Data Controller: European Commission, Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy (DG REGIO), Directorate for Budget, Communication and General Affairs, Communication unit A.2.

Record: DPR-EC-31488

Table of Contents

- 1. Introduction**
- 2. Why and how do we process your personal data?**
- 3. On what legal ground(s) do we process your personal data?**
- 4. Which personal data do we collect and further process?**
- 5. How long do we keep your personal data?**
- 6. How do we protect and safeguard your personal data?**
- 7. Who has access to your personal data and to whom is it disclosed?**
- 8. What are your rights and how can you exercise them?**
- 9. Contact information**
- 10. Where to find more detailed information?**

1. Introduction

The European Commission (hereafter ‘the 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 of 23 October 2018 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 (repealing Regulation (EC) No 45/2001).

This privacy statement explains the reason for the processing of your personal data, 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 “REGIOSTARS awards” is presented below. REGIOSTARS is the yearly competition for the best cohesion policy projects undertaken by DG REGIO. The contest progresses in three main stages reflected in this privacy statement: the first stage concerns the submission the applications and evaluation by the jury to decide up to 25 finalists; the second stage concerns the second-evaluation phase and award ceremony organised in the context of the #EURegionsWeek taking place in-person in Brussels; and the final, third stage, which concerns the mini-campaigns organised for the winners. The evaluation and selection of finalists and winners is conducted by an independent jury recomposed yearly. REGIOSTARS is a communication exercise and thus participating projects and different phases of the competition are made widely public in the Commission channels.

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

Purpose of the processing operation: DG REGIO collects and uses your personal information for the following purposes:

- **Application form**

Data collected via the application form on EUSurvey is used to ensure an adequate organisation, management, and follow-up of the REGIOSTARS contest, including communication with applicants throughout the selection process.

The applications are submitted via EUSurvey. For further details on EU-survey processing, please refer the notification of EUSurvey platform: DPR-EC-01488 “EUSurvey” by European Commission.

The application form on the EUSurvey relies on EU-login for authentication. For further details on EU-Login processing, please refer to the notification of EU-Login system: DPR-EC-03187 "Identity & Access Management Service (IAMS)" by DG DIGIT, European Commission.

- **Jury**

The data collected on jury is used to ensure an adequate organisation, management, and follow-up of the REGIOSTARS evaluation as agreed in the AMI-expert contract.

- **Second selection phase**

The data collected on the finalists and jury members for the participation to the second selection phase is used to ensure an adequate organisation, management, and follow-up of the second phase of the REGIOSTARS contest and the award ceremony organised

as part of the EURegionsWeek in Brussels, including organisation of communication training, travel and accommodation, and communication with the finalists.

In order to participate the in-person event on-site, the participants are requested register on the EURegionsWeek platform, and provide additional data for security and travel and accommodation arrangements. For further details on the EURegionsWeek data processing please refer to the notification of EURegionsWeek: DPR-EC-01266 "European Week of Regions and Cities" by DG REGIO.

- **Winners**

The data collected on winners is used to an adequate organisation, management, and follow-up of the REGIOSTARS mini campaigns for the winners of the REGIOSTARS contest.

- **Communication**

The data collected on participating projects and their representatives during the second selection phase, including the award ceremony and other related activities, is used to promote the REGIOSTARS awards, and cohesion policy, through publication of photos, videos, live web streaming in the European Commission channels, etc. (including showing faces in recognisable manner).

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

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

We process your personal data, because:

- (a) 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;
- (b) processing is necessary for the performance of a contract to which the data subject (a jury member) is party or in order to take steps at the request of the data subject prior to entering into a contract;
- (c) the data subject (applications, participants to the second selection phase and ceremony, winners) has given consent to the processing of his or her personal data for one or more specific purposes

Regarding point (a), the Article 58(2) (d) of the EU Financial Regulation: The Coordination and promotion of awareness on development issues appropriations are implemented without a basic act by virtue of tasks deriving from the Commission's institutional prerogatives, as provided for by Article 58(2) (d) Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/10461 in line with the Commission's political priorities, and DG Reginal and Urban Policy.

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

In order to carry out this processing operation DG REGIO collects the following categories of personal data:

Application

- Contact details: First name, Last name, Email, Function
- Organisation details: Name of the organisation, Address of the organisation

- Photos of projects which may contain personal data of the data subjects or others.

As optional data:

- Gender (or prefer not to reply)
- Phone number
- Website and social media of the organisation (or project in question)

Jury

- Contact details: First name, Last name, Email, Function
- Organisation details: Name of the organisation
- Gender
- Description of academic profile and publish articles as available online

The jury members are contracted through the European Commission AMI expert list. The jury members should refer to the [AMI expert privacy statement/record](#) for further details on the personal data required as part of that process.

In-person participation to the second selection phase

- Contact details: First name, Last name, Email, Function
- Organisation details: Name of the organisation
- Photographs and video recordings will be taken during the event for communication and promotion purposes.

In-person participation to the second selection phase organised as part of the EURegionsWeek requires participants to register to the EURegionsWeek online platform, and provide additional personal data used for security purposes and to process possible travel arrangements. Participants are requested to refer to the EURegionsWeek privacy statement/record for further details.

Winners

- Contact details: First name, Last name, Email, Function
- Organisation details: Name of the organisation, Address of the organisation, website and social media of the organisation (or project in question)
- Photos or videos of projects which may contain personal data of the data subjects or others.

As optional data:

- Gender (or prefer not to reply)
- Phone number

If the applicant or a jury member wants to take part in REGIOSTARS, the provision of mandatory data is compulsory.

To establish the jury, we have obtained your personal data from publicly available online.

5. How long do we keep your personal data?

DG REGIO 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 may be processed, please find below the retention details and the reference to the relevant record of processing:

Personal data of applicants including contact details, social media data if relevant, photos and videos submitted via the application form will be retained for 2 years, starting from the end of the calendar year of the contest that the applicant applied.

Personal data of finalists, winners and jury members including contact details, social media data if relevant, photos and videos submitted via the application form or as recorded as part of the second selection phase and mini-campaigns will be kept for as long as follow-up actions to the contest are necessary, however not exceeding 10 years after the closure of the file.

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 either on the servers of the European Commission and of its contractors. All processing operations are carried out pursuant to the [Commission Decision \(EU, Euratom\) 2017/46](#) of 10 January 2017 on the security of communication and information systems in the European Commission.

The Commission's contractors are bound by a specific contractual clause for any processing operations of your data on behalf of the Commission, and by the confidentiality obligations deriving from the transposition of the General Data Protection Regulation in the EU Member States 'GDPR' [Regulation \(EU\) 2016/679](#).

In order to protect your personal data, the Commission has put in place a number of technical and organisational measures in place. 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.

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 authorised staff according to the "need to know" principle. Such staff abide by statutory, and when required, additional confidentiality agreements.

Third parties, such as external service providers having signed a service contract with the Commission, may also have access to the data, where necessary for the purposes outlined above.

The project descriptions and related images as provided in the application form, and photos or recordings taken during the second selection phase and the ceremony, as well as winners' communication content will be made public as part of the communication efforts as described above.

Third party IT tools, including Social Media

We use third party IT tools to inform about and promote REGIOSTARS through widely used communication channels, including the 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). Furthermore, selected meetings and online trainings will be carried out using third-party online meeting/conferencing tools.

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 the third-party IT tools 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.

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).

The main communication of REGIOSTARS takes place via a Commission website. The cookies employed by the Commission on the registrant’s device for that purpose will be covered by the cookie policy of the Commission, which is available here: https://ec.europa.eu/info/cookies_en.

Cookies are stored by Europa Analytics, the corporate service which measures the effectiveness and efficiency of the European Commission’s websites on EUROPA. More information is available in the Record of Processing DPR-EC-00685 (Europa Analytics).

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 consented to provide your personal data to DG REGIO for the present processing operation. You can withdraw your consent at any time by notifying the Data Controller. The withdrawal 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, REGIO.A2 REGIO-REGIOSTARS@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 Commission, which have been documented and notified to him. You may access the register via the following link: <http://ec.europa.eu/dpo-register>.

This specific processing operation has been included in the DPO's public register with the following Record reference: [DPR-EC-31488](#)