



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL  
DEVELOPMENT

Directorate D. CAP Strategic Plans II  
**D.1. Rural areas and networks**

### **PROTECTION OF YOUR PERSONAL DATA**

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

**Processing operation:** EIP-AGRI project database

**Data Controller:** Directorate General Agriculture and Rural Development, Directorate D – CAP Strategic Plans II, Unit D1 – Rural areas and networks, hereafter AGRI D.1

**Record reference:** DPR-EC-01489

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## **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 EIP-AGRI project database undertaken by AGRI D.1 assisted by its contractors (processors) is presented below.

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

Purpose of the processing operation: AGRI D.1, assisted by its contractors, collects and uses your personal information in the context of the ‘EIP-AGRI Project Database’ of the EU CAP Network. The EIP-AGRI Project Database is an online database freely available at the official website of the EU CAP Network <sup>(1)</sup>. The database includes data on projects of EIP<sup>(2)</sup> Operational Groups <sup>(3)</sup> submitted by Member States to the European Commission.

The former EIP-AGRI network (Article 53 of Regulation (EU) 1305/2013) was integrated into the new EU CAP Network in October 2022 (Article 126 of Regulation (EU) 2021/2115). The activities of the former EIP-AGRI network in the programming period of 2014-2020(2022) were covered by previous versions of this record. As of 2023, part of the activities that were carried out under this record in the past (as well as all of the personal information collected within these activities) are now covered by the following corporate records:

- [DPR-EC-01063](#) – Processing of personal data linked to meetings and events
- [DPR-EC-03928](#) – Management of subscriptions to receive information
- [DPR-EC-01011](#) – Targeted consultation activities (including surveys, interviews and focus groups)

For each of the activities now carried out under these corporate records, if they impact the management of your data, you will have received an updated privacy statement informing you of the details of the processing of your data.

In the context of this reviewed privacy statement on the EIP-AGRI project database, the following tools are used to collect the required data:

- Shared Fund Management Common System (SFC) – The IT tool for electronic exchange of information between Member States and the European Commission. The data on OGs projects are submitted to SFC and transferred to the EU CAP Network website.
- Submission of any additional data on EIP OGs project through email.

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<sup>(1)</sup> [eu-capnetwork.ec.europa.eu](http://eu-capnetwork.ec.europa.eu)

<sup>(2)</sup> European Innovation Partnership for agricultural and productivity and sustainability (EIP) funds innovative cooperation which follows the interactive innovation model, and is defined by Article 127 in (EU) 2021/2115.

<sup>(3)</sup> EIP Operational Groups (OGs) intends to bring together multiple actors to advance innovation in the agricultural and forestry sectors, as stipulated in Article 127(3).

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 compliance with a legal obligation to which the controller is subject;

The basis for the processing referred to in points (a) and (b) above has been laid down in Art. 126(4)(d) and Art. 127 of Regulation (EU) 2021/2115 for the CAP programming period 2023-2027:

- a) As stipulated in Article 127(3), EIP Operational Groups shall disseminate plans and results of their projects, in particular through the national and European CAP networks.
- b) The national and European CAP networks shall disseminate collected information on EIP OGs projects in order to share good examples and support the networking of funded projects, as laid down in Article 126(4)(d).

For the CAP programming period 2014-2020, the basis for the processing referred to in points (a) and (b) are stipulated in Art. 53 (a) (b) (d) and Art. 57 (3) of Regulation (EU) 1305/2013.

Additionally, according to recital 58 of Commission Regulation (EU) 2022/2472, the knowledge sharing that takes place in connection to EIP projects is fundamental for excluding an impact of these funds of competition, from the point of view of state aid rules.

The processing of data is necessary for ensuring the dissemination of EIP OGs projects in the EIP-AGRI project database, in line with the legal obligations described above. The collected data is based on Annex VI to Regulation (EU) 2022/1475 on data rules on EIP OGs, which lays down the type of data Member States are obliged to report to the Commission. For the purpose of disseminating project data and enabling networking, the data categories described in Annex VI will be published in the EIP-AGRI project database with some exceptions to personal data (see section 4.) This dissemination of project data strongly contributes to the purpose of the EIP which is to stimulate innovation and improve knowledge exchange across the EU. If you object to the processing of your personal data in the manner described above (and in the rest of this privacy statement), you can object to the processing by contacting AGRI D.1 at [agri-eucapnetwork@ec.europa.eu](mailto:agri-eucapnetwork@ec.europa.eu).

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

In order to carry out this processing operation, AGRI D.1 collects data on EIP OGs following the data categorisation in Annex VI to Regulation (EU) 2022/1475.

In line with Annex VI, all EIP-AGRI OG projects must report 1) project coordinator and 2) project partners. On the basis of EIP's task of supporting networking and knowledge exchange, project coordinator and project partners will be published on the EIP-AGRI project database. You can object to this processing by contacting AGRI D.1 at [agri-eucapnetwork@ec.europa.eu](mailto:agri-eucapnetwork@ec.europa.eu).

From the data that is collected through SFC, the following categories of personal data is collected, transferred to the website, and published:

- **Project coordinator** <sup>(4)</sup>: name and email
- **Project partner** <sup>(4)</sup>: name, email and type of partner

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<sup>(4)</sup> The reported project coordinator / project partner may also be a legal entity. Legal entities are not covered by this privacy statement.

We will also collect login details for people who will need to access the system directly (such as staff of contractors and staff of the European Commission). This data is collected directly from users, and is necessary to allow them to access the system. Access to the system is managed via EU Login; if you want more detail on its operation, you can find the corresponding record in the DPO's public register: [DPR-EC-03187](#).

Other type of personal data submitted via SFC is not transferred to the database and processed for this operation.

If you are a project coordinator or project partner, we have obtained your personal data from the managing authority of your Member State, via the official electronic data exchange system (SFC) established between Member State and the Commission.

#### **5. How long do we keep your personal data?**

The Data Controller i.e. AGRI D.1, and its processors, only keep your personal data for the time necessary to fulfil the purpose of collection, and this for a period of max. 10 years after the end of the project (SEC(2022)400, Section 7.1). This retention period is set to accommodate the foreseen duration of the EU CAP network's activities and takes into account the normal EU programming cycle and the Common Commission-Level Retention List (SEC(2022)400). The retention period of 10 years does not apply to personal data of database users; the login details are deleted from the system once a user no longer needs to retain access to it.

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

All personal data in electronic format (e-mails, documents, database entries, uploaded batches of data, etc.) are stored either on the servers of the European Commission or 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 (processors) 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.

Our processors/contractors are:

- ✓ Contractor 1 : Community for Europe, Avenue des Arts 43/8, 1040 Bruxelles, Belgium  
*'Communication and Logistical Support team' (CL Support) for the EU CAP Network*
- ✓ Contractor 2 : VLM - Vlaamse Landmaatschappij, Boulevard Roi Albert II15, 1210 Brussels, Belgium. *'Support Facility for Innovation and Knowledge exchange including EIP-AGRI (EIP-AGRI SF)' for the EU CAP Network*

Access to your data is provided to the EIP-AGRI SF and CL Support whose activities are equally covered by this Privacy Statement and the General Data Protection Regulation in the EU Member States ('GDPR' [Regulation \(EU\) 2016/679](#)).

As mentioned previously, personal data of the project coordinators and partners will be published online. This publication is carried out in the public interest, and you may object to it if you wish (see more detail in section 9).

The information we collect will not be given to any other third party, except to the extent and for the purpose we may be required to do so by law.

## **8. Cookies/third party tools**

The EU CAP Network website <sup>(5)</sup> use cookies as defined by the official Commission websites cookies policy notice: [https://ec.europa.eu/info/cookies\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/cookies_en).

The EIP-AGRI SF and CL Support may use third party IT tools to inform about and promote various projects through widely used communication channels, including the social media (Facebook, Instagram).

You can watch our videos, which we also upload to our website and follow links from our website to EU CAP Network social media platforms.

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 privacy policies of the relevant social media platforms 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.

## **9. 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) on grounds relating to your particular situation.

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.

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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.

## **10. 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: DG Agriculture and Rural Development, Unit D.1. – Rural areas and networks, [agri-eucapnetwork@ec.europa.eu](mailto:agri-eucapnetwork@ec.europa.eu).

You may contact the Data Protection Officer ([DATA-PROTECTION-OFFICER@ec.europa.eu](mailto: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](mailto: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.

## **11. 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-01489**.