



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
Directorate General for Research and Innovation

PROTECTION OF YOUR PERSONAL DATA

This Data Protection Notice (DPN) provides information about the processing and the protection of your personal data.

Processing operation: Processing of personal data linked to meetings and events /*Ministerial Meeting of the Western Balkan Steering Platform on Research and Innovation (22 October 2026, Brussels, Belgium)*

Data Controller: European Commission, Directorate-General for Research and Innovation (DG RTD), unit RTD.03 “International Cooperation – Europe and Americas”

Record reference: [DPR-EC-001063](#)

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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 Data Protection Notice (*DPN*) explains the reason for the processing of your personal data in the context of *Ministerial Meeting of the Western Balkan Steering Platform on Research and Innovation (22 October 2026, Brussels, Belgium)*. 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 *Ministerial Meeting of the Western Balkan Steering Platform on Research and Innovation (22 October 2026, Brussels, Belgium)*, undertaken by the Directorate-General for Research and Innovation (*DG RTD*) of the European Commission, 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 the Ministerial Meeting of the Western Balkan Steering Platform on Research and Innovation (*22 October 2026, Brussels, Belgium*) (*before, during and after*) and to process your application for participation in that Ministerial Meeting of the Western Balkan Steering Platform on Research and Innovation (*22 October 2026, Brussels, Belgium*).

Photographs of the speakers and panoramic photographs of participants and organisers will be taken and published in the context of the *Ministerial Meeting of the Western Balkan Steering Platform on Research and Innovation (22 October 2026, Brussels, Belgium)* as specified in the consent forms associated with this meeting. The audience of non-speaker participants are not photographed individually or in groups. They may however appear on panoramic photographs of the whole event/audience.

We will request your consent for any publishing activities, providing you with clear information prior to the meeting. You will have the right to withdraw consent at any time.

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 during or after the event. For instance, if you decide to take photographs/audio-visual recordings of participants of the Ministerial Meeting of the Western Balkan Steering Platform on Research and Innovation (*22 October 2026, Brussels, Belgium*) 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 the Ministerial Meeting of the Western Balkan Steering Platform on Research and Innovation (*22 October 2026, Brussels, Belgium*) (*including photos*) are necessary for the management and functioning of the Commission, as mandated by the Treaties. Those provisions are in particular Article 11 of the Treaty on European Union and Article 15 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

The Ministerial Meeting of the Western Balkans Steering Platform on Research and Innovation is part of the implementation of the Western Balkans Agenda on Innovation, Research, Culture, Youth and Sport. It contributes to the European Union's engagement with the Western Balkans in support of the enlargement process, building on the Stabilisation and Association Process and the Stabilisation and Association Agreements, which provide the contractual framework for relations with the partners in the region.

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 your dietary requirements and/or access requirements.
- ☐ The transfer of your personal data relating to the booking of your travel, hotel room, to the travel agency /hotel in Belgium, applicable only to sponsored participants;
- ☐ The sharing of the Ministerial Meeting of the Western Balkan Steering Platform on Research and Innovation (*22 October 2026, Brussels, Belgium*) participants list containing your name and affiliation with other participants e.g. for the purpose of organisation of bilateral meetings, preparatory discussions and future collaboration of certain participants];
- ☐ the processing of your personal data for inviting you to future events the data controller may organise;

If you opt-in, you are giving us your explicit consent under Article 5(1)(d) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 to process your personal data for those specific purposes. You can give your consent via a clear affirmative act by ticking the box(es) on the online registration form.

Your consent for any of these services can be withdrawn at any time, by sending an email to the contact point of the Controller indicated in Heading 9.

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

The following personal data will be processed:

- Identity (*function/title, first name, last name, name of organisation, city, country*);
- Contact details (*e-mail address, telephone number*);
- Nationality, passport or identity card number and its date of issue and expiry date may be collected, so that the data subjects may obtain access to the premises where the meeting/event is held;
- Dietary requests or specific access requirements.

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 personal data related to the organisation and management of the Ministerial Meeting of the Western Balkan Steering Platform on Research and Innovation (*22 October 2026, Brussels, Belgium*) (*this includes the information given during the registration, before, during or after the event*) will be deleted **one year** after the last action in relation to the Ministerial Meeting of the Western Balkan Steering Platform on Research and Innovation (*22 October 2026, Brussels, Belgium*);
- ☐ Sensitive personal data relating to dietary and/or access requirements will be deleted as soon as they are no longer necessary for the purpose for which they have been collected in the framework of the Ministerial Meeting of the Western Balkan Steering Platform on Research and Innovation (*22 October 2026, Brussels, Belgium*), but no later than within **1 month** after the end of the *event*;
- ☐ Recordings from the web-streamed Ministerial Meeting of the Western Balkan Steering Platform on Research and Innovation (*22 October 2026, Brussels, Belgium*) will be kept for **2 years** before being deleted. More information is available in the Record of Processing [DPR-EC-00306](#) (*Web-streaming of Commission events*);
- ☐ Photos (and videos) for which consent was obtained through duly completed and signed Consent Form(s) for the Event will be kept for **2 years**. Their publication in the channels identified in the Consent Form will follow the longevity of the content posted therein, unless consent was redrawn at an earlier stage. In case of audio-visual recording of the

Ministerial Meeting of the Western Balkan Steering Platform on Research and Innovation (22 October 2026, Brussels, Belgium) the recordings will be kept for **5 years** after the event before being deleted. More information is available in the Record of Processing [DPR-EC-01937](#) (Audio-visual recording of meetings);

- Personal data shared with the Directorate-General for Human Resources and Security of the European Commission for the participants to gain access to Commission buildings is kept for **6 months** after the termination of the link between the data subject and the Commission. More information is available in the Record of Processing [DPR-EC-00655](#) (Commission Physical Access Control System (PACS));
- Personal data shared with the controller for future mailing purposes (e.g. for receiving newsletters or invitations to similar events) are processed in line with the Record of Processing [DPR-EC-03928](#) (Management of subscriptions to receive information) and the specific privacy statement prepared by the organising Commission service);
- Selected service providers for organisational purposes (such as caterers, travel agents or event management organisations) are contractually bound to process personal data on behalf of and in line with the instructions of the data controller, keep confidential any data they process and protect it from unauthorised access, use and retention.

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 (and of its contractors if contractors are engaged to assist the controller in the organisation and management of this meeting/event).

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 given processing operations.

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. As the controller uses (a) service provider(s) (processor(s)) to assist in the organisation of this event, the controller also shares your information with this/these service provider(s) for the purposes of organising this event.

The service providers are listed here:

POLICY ENLARGE project (Grant Agreement No. 101289627)

c/o Regional Centre for Information and Scientific Development (RCISD)

Hűvösvölgyi út 54. V/1., Budapest, Hungary H-1021

(contact info@rcisd.eu; +36 30 500 3278)

and

c/o ZSI GmbH

Linke Wienzeile 246 – 1150 Vienna, Austria

(contact institut@zsi.at; +43-1-4950442-0)

Jet Travel Kft (under contracting by POLICY ENLARGE - tbd)

Address: 1113 Budapest, Bocskai út 77-79. B. épület 3. emelet

(contact +36 1 209 2110)

Hotel NH Brussels EU Berlaymont (contracted by POLICY ENLARGE)
Bd Charlemagne 11/19, 1000 Bruxelles, Belgium
(contact +32 2 231 09 09)

Third party IT tools, including Social Media

We use third party IT tools to inform about and promote the Ministerial Meeting of the Western Balkan Steering Platform on Research and Innovation (*22 October 2026, Brussels, Belgium*) through widely used communication channels (i.e. those of the Enlargement Info Hub by the POLICY ENLARGE project), 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*).

The registration for the event will take place via the platform Konfeo (www.konfeo.com). The respective Privacy policy could be found here: <https://www.konfeo.com/en/privacy-policy/> and the cookies policy here <https://www.konfeo.com/en/cookies-policy/>.

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, a cookie of the social media company/ website concerned will be installed on your device. If you do not click on any buttons, 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 social media tools used. 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.

International transfers

The European Commission may transfer your personal data to recipients in the Western Balkans (i.e. Cabinets of Ministers) solely for the purpose of sharing information on attendance level. Western Balkans economies are outside the EU/EEA. In absence of an adequacy decision and of appropriate safeguards, those economies may not offer the same level of protection of personal data as the EU. The operational controller will make sure to share only a limited amount of personal data to a specific recipient in these third countries with the sole purpose of facilitating attendance and policy dialogue. This transfer is in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2018/1725.

Please note that pursuant to Article 3(13) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 public authorities (e.g. Court of Auditors, EU Court of Justice) which may receive personal data in the framework of a particular inquiry in accordance with Union or Member State law shall not be regarded as recipients. The further processing of those data by those public authorities shall be in compliance with the applicable data protection rules according to the purposes of the processing.

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

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 controller will ensure that the data subjects can exercise their right to object to processing whenever possible by the organisers of the meeting/event (for example, on the spot by indicating a non-web streamed seat if requested; or ex-post, by deleting a specific sequence from the online video/voice recording).

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: European Commission, Directorate-General for Research and Innovation (*DG RTD*), *RTD.03 "International cooperation – Europe and Americas"* at EU-Western-Balkans-R-I@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) 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 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 link: <http://ec.europa.eu/dpo-register>.

These specific processing operations have been included in the DPO's public register with the following Record reference: [DPR-EC-01063](#).