

ELECTRONIC PLATFORM PARTNERING SYSTEM (EPPS) GENERAL DATA PROTECTION POLICY



1. Introduction

The Water4All Partnership is a European partnership under the European Commission's Research & Innovation Framework Programme Horizon Europe, that supports international research & innovation projects through transnational co-funded Calls. This EPPS Data Protection Policy shows how the Water4All Partnership is committed to protecting and respecting the privacy of Applicants, Researchers and any general users of the EPPS.

This EPPS Data Protection Policy and associated policies are designed to be compliant with the EU's General Data Protection Regulation (2016/679) (GDPR), management of joint calls, including the evaluation of proposals, as well as the design, and learning process in Joint Calls require the processing of personal data, including those of persons in the non-EU countries.

The EPPS Data Protection Policy is a transparent statement that explains the reason for the collection and processing of your personal data, the way we protect the personal data provided and what rights you may exercise in relation to your data (the right to transparency, information, access, rectification and erasure, portability, object, block etc.).

This EPPS Data Protection Policy concerns the processes associated with:

- partner / project search tool (1),
- general use of the EPPS (2).

The EPPS is supported by an Estonian contractor, Taavi Tiirik. The data input by users from all over the globe are received directly into Estonian Research Council's (ETAg) servers in Estonia, which are maintained by EENet (Estonian Education and Research Network of Information Technology Foundation for Education) using industry best practices for data security. The Water4All Partnership is hereby making the benefits of these GDPR compliant policies available to all users regardless of geographic location. The EPPS maintains data related to Joint Calls and associated processes detailed in Annex 1. Changes to this Annex do not constitute a change to the EPPS Data Protection.

2. Why do we proceed your data

PURPOSE OF THE PROCESSING

The data provided to us and the purpose of our processing of these data are different for (1) partner / project search tool, (2) general use of the EPPS. The purpose of processing the data for each of these roles are as follows:

Partner / Project search tool (by users of the tool)

The data you provided as a user of the Partner / Project search tool are used to:

- Publish your partner / project search request and help you find potential partners for your project or a project you could join as partner
- Collect your feedbacks on the tool

General use of the EPSS (by any users of the EPPS)

The data you provided as a user of the EPSS are used to:

- ensure the security of the EPPS
- ensure the proper functioning of the EPPS

LAWFULNESS OF THE PROCESSING

The Water4All Partnership has a legitimate interest in processing these data to meet obligations laid down by law in funding countries, including non-European Union Member countries, meeting obligations to which the Water4All Partnership is subject, and the necessity for the performance of a contract to which the data subject is a party. (This basis is described in GDPR 2016/679 Art. 6-1-b, GDPR 2016/679 Art. 6-1-C, in GDPR 2016/679 Art. 6-1-f for personal data of application evaluation by external review only). The organisations providing resources and funding for the Joint Calls are subject to obligations laid down by law for the application, review, and award processes. The Water4All Partnership and the EPPS processor are directly linked to these obligations.

The EPPS is contracted by the Project Management Agency Karlsruhe (KIT-PTKA) as Call Secretariate.

3. Which data do we collect and process?

The data we collect and process are different for (1) partner / project search tool, (2) general use of the EPPS. The purpose of processing the data through the EPPS system are as follows:

Partner / Project search tool (by users of the tool)

The data subject are:

- The users of the partner / project search tool. Collected personal data: Title, first and last name, country, organisation and department, e-mail address, phone number, personal webpage, link to research gate webpage (or equivalent), expertise, skills and disciplines.

General use of the EPPS (provided by any user of the EPPS)

The data subjects are:

- **all the users of the EPPS who uses the following pages of the EPPS:** submitting a new partner / project search entry, new user registration, login page, lost your password page.

Collected personal data: evidences that the user of the EPPS is not a robot.

In all cases above, "organisation" information includes the organisation's name, website, street address, city/town, state, country, and postal code.

The EPPS will not collect or process sensible personal data revealing racial or ethnic origin, political opinions, religious or philosophical beliefs, trade union membership, genetic data, biometric data for the purpose of uniquely identifying a natural person, data concerning health, data concerning a natural person's sex life or sexual orientation, ideological views or activities, information on social security measures, or administrative or criminal proceedings and sanctions, which are treated outside pending proceedings. (These are "special categories" of data under GDPR Article 9 and are not collected or processed by the EPPS and the Water4All Partnership).

4. How long do we keep your data?

Partner / Project search tool (by users of the tool)

The data subject are:

The users of the partner / project search tool: personal data are kept for one year after the closure of the application.

General use of the EPPS (provided by any user of the EPPS)

The data subjects are:

All the users of the EPPS who uses the following pages of the EPPS: project search entry, new user registration, login page, lost your password page: personal data are kept for up to 5 years after the closure of the call except for applicants selected for funding (15 years).

Anonymised data can be retained for a longer period and further processed for historical, statistical, or scientific purposes.

5. How do we protect your data?

All data in the EPPS are stored on the Estonian Research Council's (ETAg) servers in Tartu, Estonia, which are maintained by EENet (Estonian Education and Research Network of Information Technology Foundation for Education). The operations of these services comply with industry best practices and the EU's General Data Protection Regulation (2016/679) (GDPR) appropriate measures. Any development computers / environments that are involved in building and testing the EPPS outside the server room, are using strongly encrypted storage media, to further reduce the risk of unauthorised access to the data.

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

Sharing of Your Information

Your data will be accessible to the Joint Call Secretariat, and the contractor supporting the EPPS system. (EPPS is supported by Taavi Tiirik).

Future Sharing of Your Information

We do not currently share your personal information with companies, organisations, or individuals outside the ones mentioned in section 6.1. If the need arises, we may share your information in the following cases:

Future Sharing with your consent:

We will share personal information outside of the Water4All Partnership when we have your consent. We will ask for your explicit consent to share any sensitive personal information.

Future Sharing for external processing:

We would provide personal information to our affiliates and other trusted businesses or persons to process it for us, based on our instructions and in compliance with our Privacy Policy and any other appropriate confidentiality and security measures.

Future Sharing for legal reasons:

We will share personal information outside of the Water4All Partnership if we have a good-faith belief that access, use, preservation, or disclosure of the information is reasonably necessary to:

- Meet any applicable law, regulation, legal process, or enforceable governmental request.
- Enforce applicable Terms of Service, including investigation of potential violations.
- Detect, prevent, or otherwise address fraud, security, or technical issues.
- Protect against harm to the rights, property or safety of the Water4All Partnership, our users, or the public as required or permitted by law.

Export of data to non-EU countries

The data we collect and process are different for (1) partner / project search tool, (2) general use of the EPPS. Please note, that some of the personal data you provide us will be exported to non-EU countries participating to the call (see Call Announcement).

Partner / Project search tool (data provided by users of the tool)

These data **will not be exported** to non-EU countries (third countries) and will remain on the servers of the EPPS (check section 5 for more information).

General use of the EPPS (provided by any user of the EPPS)

The data will not be shared with non-EU countries (third countries).

Please note that no special categories of personal data, as defined by article 9 of the General Data Protection Regulation 2016/679 will be transferred to non-EU countries (third countries). Your personal data transferred to non-EU countries will not be used for commercial reasons.

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

The rights granted by the EU's [General Data Protection Regulation \(2016/679\)](#) can be exercised on the EPPS. Namely, you are entitled to access your personal data and rectify/block or erase them in case the data are inaccurate or incomplete. You can exercise your rights by emailing water4all.call2024@ptka.kit.edu (Joint Call Secretariat) or the Data Protection Officer (DPO) of your funding organisation.

Each will reply to requests within one month of receipt of the request

8. Notices for EPPS Users

Providing Others' Personal Data

Do not provide personal data about others unless you are authorised or required to do so by contract or applicable law.

User Responsibilities

EPPS system users must comply with this statement and may not take any actions to subvert the processes associated with this statement. Those with access to these data are reminded of their obligation to process the personal data provided to them only for the purposes for which they were transmitted.

Contact information

If you have comments or questions, any concerns or complaints regarding the collection and use of your personal data, please feel free to contact the Joint Call Secretariat at water4all.call2024@ptka.kit.edu or the Data Protection Officer of your funding organisation.

Persons in European Union Member countries may also contact their supervisory authority established in a relevant Member State or other national office responsible for GDPR compliance.