EUROPEAN COMMISSION

PROTECTION OF YOUR PERSONAL DATA

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

Processing operation: Western Balkans Investment Framework (WBIF) website.

Data Controller: *Directorate-General for Enlargement and Eastern Neighbourhood (DG ENEST), ENEST.B Western Balkans, ENEST.B.1 regional Strategy and Investments*

Record reference: *DPR-EC-43108*

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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 *of the WBIF website* undertaken by *the Data Controller* is presented below.

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

Purpose of the processing operation: The Data Controller, with support from the International Financial Institutions Coordination Office (IFICO), collects and uses your personal information to facilitate effective communication, distribute information regarding the WBIF initiative, manage inquiries, administer newsletter subscriptions, and process event registrations so that you can receive information that you have requested on important developments, activities, events, initiatives or thematic issues, in particular through articles, reports, interviews, newsletters as well as visual content.

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

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

1. *The 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*, in accordance with *(Article 5(1)(a) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1725.*

   The basis for the processing is laid down by the following Union law:

   Article 11 of the consolidated European Treaty on the European Union states: "The institutions shall, by appropriate means, give citizens and representative associations the opportunity to make known and publicly exchange their views in all areas of Union action. The institutions shall maintain an open, transparent and regular dialogue with representative associations and civil society".

   Article 21(1) of the Treaty on European Union (TEU): overall mandate and guiding principles in the field of EU development cooperation;

   Articles 4(4) and 208 to 211 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU).

   Informing the broad public is a task resulting from the European Commission's own prerogatives at institutional level, as provided for in Article 58(2) (d) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 September 2024 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union (recast) PE/99/2023/REV/1. In addition, the processing is necessary for the fulfilment of the European Commission's obligation to ensure visibility of the Union's financial support, as stipulated in

- recital 28, Article 46(2), (3) and (4) of Regulation (EU) 2021/947 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 June 2021 establishing the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe, amending and repealing Decision No 466/2014/EU and repealing Regulation (EU) 2017/1601 and Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 480/2009, OJ L 209, 14.6.2021.

- Article 32 of the Regulation (EU) 2024/1449 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 May 2024 on establishing the Reform and Growth Facility for the Western Balkans stipulates that the Commission shall engage in communication activities to ensure the visibility of the Union funding for the financial support envisaged in the Reform Agendas, including through joint communication activities with the beneficiaries […] Actions financed under the Facility shall be carried out in accordance with communication and visibility requirements in Union-financed external actions and in other relevant guidelines.

2. *The data subject has given consent to the processing of his or her personal data for one or more specific purposes (Article 5 (d) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1725):*

You have subscribed to receive the information on important developments, activities, events, initiatives or thematic issues regarding the WBIF initiative.

We process your personal data, because you have given your consent to the processing of your personal data for the purpose of receiving the requested information.

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

In order to carry out this processing operation *the Data Controller* collects the following categories of personal data:

Registration to participate to meetings/events

- First name and last name
- Organization
- E-mail address

Personal data related to participation to meetings/events are processed in line with the Record of Processing DPR-EC-01063 - Processing of personal data linked to meetings and events.

Newsletter

- E-mail address

Personal data shared with the data controller for receiving newsletters are processed in line with the Record of Processing DPR-EC-03928 (Management of subscriptions to receive information

The provision of personal data is not mandatory. If you do not provide your personal data, we may be unable to provide you access to newsletter subscription.

Website visitors

- IP address

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, namely for as long as you remain subscribed.

Registration to participate to meetings/events:

Personal data related to participation to meetings/events are processed in line with the Record of Processing DPR-EC-01063 - Processing of personal data linked to meetings and events.

Newsletter subscribers

Personal data shared with the data controller for future mailing purposes (e.g., for receiving newsletters, participating in working groups 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.
Depending on the technical solutions available, you can either write to the dedicated functional mailbox and ask to be unsubscribed from the mailing list or follow the unsubscribe link in the information email you have received. Appropriate action should be taken within a week of receiving the request.

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 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.

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 processors (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.

The website uses cookies.

Cookies are pieces of text generated by the web services that a user has visited; these text files can be set on the users' devices by the website they are currently visiting ("first party persistent cookies") or by a different website to the one they are currently visiting ("third party cookies"). To facilitate the functioning of our website we may – subject to visitors' consent – place small data files called cookies on your device. They enable the website to remember your actions and preferences (such as login, language, and font size and other display preferences) over a period of time, so you do not have to keep re-entering them whenever you come back to the site or browse from one page to another.

Types of cookies
- First party persistent cookies
- Technical session cookies
- Third party cookies
- Third party cookies from the Share widget. On this promotional website, the following types of cookies are used: 'first- party persistent cookies', and 'session cookies.

'First party persistent cookies' enable the tracking of the following information about the visitors to our website:
• IP address (anonymised)

• Site Search
• Events

The collected data will not be shared with any other organisations for marketing, market research or commercial purposes. Moreover, the abovementioned data cannot be used to identify a particular visitor.

'First party persistent cookies' are created by this website and enable:
• proper functioning of the website;
• social media sharing functions.

'First party persistent' cookies expire after thirteen months (13), after which they are automatically removed from the users' device. 'Technical Session' cookies do not contain any data - they are placed for the duration of a user session (time spent browsing the website).

These cookies are necessary to keep the visitor's choice selection when the website is accessed. Once the visitor leaves the website, the session cookie is deleted.

'Third party cookies' are detailed below. 'Third party cookies' from the Share widget are placed on the computer - if the user opted-in - in order to allow users to share content on social media.

The website does not set cookies with the display of links to our social media when you are browsing our website

OPTING-IN
When the website is accessed first, the website visitor is provided with a choice to accept ("OK, I agree") or refuse ("Decline cookies") the placement of cookies.
Accept cookies: By clicking this option, the visitor gives consent to the placement of all the cookies for the:
• Optimal functioning of the website
• Social media sharing function
Decline cookies: By clicking this option, the visitor does not give consent to the placement of any of the abovementioned cookies. In this case, only a session cookie is placed; this is a technical cookie, the main purpose of which is to remember the visitors' selection choice. This cookie is placed for the duration of a user session (time spent browsing the website) and will automatically be deleted when said session expires. Choosing not to accept cookies does not hinder your navigation experience on the website. No selection made: If a visitor neither accepts nor refuses cookies, the website treats this as a refusal to the placement of cookies and all related functions are on hold until a selection is made.

No cookies shall be placed on visitors' devices, unless consent has been given by clicking on the "OK, I agree" option.

OPTING-OUT

In case a visitor has opted-in to the placement of cookies, it is always possible to change this decision and opt-out. In order to opt-out, visitors need to delete all the cookies from their browser. If you do this, however, you may have to manually adjust some preferences every time you visit a site and some services and functionalities may not work.

To learn about how to clear cookies in different browsers, visit: https://www.aboutcookies.org/

DO NOT TRACK OPTION

Do Not Track is a technology that enables visitors to opt out from being tracked by websites for whatever purpose, including the use of analytics services, advertising networks and social platforms. You can enable the 'Do not track' option directly in your web browser.

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.

The Data controller shares your information with its processors for the purpose of managing your subscription to receive information.

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.

The information we collect will not be shared with any third party, except when required by law and solely for the necessary purposes outlined.

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.

You have consented to provide your personal data to the controller for the present processing operation when subscribed to the newsletter. You can withdraw your consent at any time, as described under point 3.

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, *DG ENEST, ENEST.B.1 Regional Strategy & Investments Email: ENEST-WBIF@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-43108***