



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

PROTECTION OF YOUR PERSONAL DATA

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

Processing operation: Simpl Annual Community Event (30/01/2025)

Data Controller: European Commission, Directorate-General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology, DG Connect (hereinafter referred to as “Data Controller”).

Record reference: DPR-EC-06847.1

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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 privacy statement explains the reason for the processing of your personal data in the context of the Simpl Annual Community Event taking place on 30 January 2025. 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 this processing operation, undertaken by Directorate-General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology, DG CONNECT of the European Commission, is presented below.

The objective of this hybrid event is to bring together stakeholders and practitioners to share best practices, lessons learned on how semantic interoperability ensures data exchange cross border and cross sector.

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

Purpose of the processing operation: Data controller, collects and further processes your personal data to provide you with information about the event (before, during and after) and communication, to process your application for participation in that event and to assist you with any follow-up activities related to Simpl Annual Community Event.

Live web-streaming and audio-visual recording of the speakers, organisers and participants will take place during the event, as well as photographs of the speakers and panoramic photographs of participants and organisers will be taken. During the conference, the organiser will be recording the speakers of the plenary sessions, including any question and question-and-answer sessions or panel discussions. The recordings may be used for creation of post-event material and published on web pages in relation with the event ([SimplAnnualEvent.uevent.eu](#)) and on the current Interoperable Europe page on JoinUp.

Webex is used as a video-conferencing tool only for the speakers, whereas participants will watch a livestream. Webex is approved by the European Data Protection Supervisor (EDPS) as a fully data compliant tool as visible here: <https://www.cisco.com/c/en/us/about/trust-center/gdpr.html#~tab-data-transfer>. Additionally, it is aligned with SCCs so the tool is fully compliant in terms of data retention. For more information, please consult: <https://trustportal.cisco.com/c/dam/r/ctp/docs/dataprotection/cisco-master-data-protection-agreement.pdf>

Online participants that do not wish to be part of the above web-streaming and recording/publishing activities will be informed of the recording and will have the possibility to switch off their camera. In-person participants that do not wish to be part of the above web-streaming and recording/publishing activities will receive an appropriate sticker. All participants have the possibility to withdraw their consent by sending an email to the organising team at cnect-simpl@ec.europa.eu.

During the event, participants will be asked to take part in polls or quizzes or to give ideas or ask questions to the organisers. Personal data will be collected through the polling tool Sli.do, which is covered by the Record DPR-EC-06847.

This information will be collected anonymously, and the processing of personal data is only to ensure that participants have answered once to the question posed and to recuperate the session should there be technical issues. This information will be published in the context of the event at SimplAnnualEvent.uevent.eu.

The data of speakers that come to the event physically will be used by a third-party contractor (Uniglobe Travel) for the purpose of organising their travel and accommodation.

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

DG CONNECT 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 event 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 event (including web-streaming, photos, audio-visual recording, the use of video conferencing services) are a part of the Simpl Annual Community Event activity based on Communication from the Commission COM(2017)134 and 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. 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).

We process your personal data, because as the data subject, you have given consent to the processing of your personal data for one or more specific purposes. Your consent is required for the processing of your personal data for:

- Registering to and managing your subscription to this event;
- Organising travel and accommodation of speakers;
- Organising catering related to the conference
- Processing of your personal data to participate in online polls, sharing of questions or idea or quizzes during the event using the audience participation tool, Sli.do;
- The sharing of your name and surname with other participants when participating in the conference online with other participants.
- processing of your personal data for inviting you to future events the data controller may organise;
- to share content from the conference (i.e. audio-video recording and photos) via communication channels (social media and event website)

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 these services can be withdrawn at any time:

- for unsubscribing from the newsletter, please click on the unsubscribe button in any of our newsletters;
- for withdrawing consent that you have provided in order to benefit from other services, please contact the controller of the event at CNECT-H4@ec.europa.eu.

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

The following personal data will be processed:

- contact details (first name, last name, name of organisation, organisation type, country, e-mail address, dietary requirements) will be collected on the event platform only;
- The following categories of personal data of the participants may also be collected: Participant identifiers; Conference Content (available to participants only at Conference duration); Date of session (determined by user decision, only on anonymised reports) and audio-visual recordings. In case of web streaming or recording, your photograph image is also considered as personal data.
- You can also voluntarily provide your phone number if you wish to be contacted via phone.

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:

- Personal data processed for the purpose of the organisation and management of this event (this includes the information given during the registration, before, during or after the meeting or event) will be deleted one year after the last action in relation to the event, unless the data subject has provided consent for longer period (see below). All personal data related to the organisation and management of the event (this includes the information given during the registration, before, during or after the event) will be deleted **5 years** after the last action in relation to the event.
- The recordings of the Simpl Annual Community Event will be published on Youtube, Social Media, EC-owned websites and will be retained **for 5 years**. More information is available in the Record of Processing DPR-EC-01937 (Audio-visual recording of meetings).
- 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-03928.1 and will be kept until the data subject unsubscribes from the mailing list. 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.

- When using third party IT services during a virtual conference or event, the European Commission keeps your personal data for the time necessary to fulfil the purpose of collection or further processing, namely for the duration of the conference and for an additional period of **up to 5 years** in an anonymised format (Conference identifier, start time and duration), the content of the video/audio conference (documents, links, files etc) will be deleted after the termination of the session.
- Personal data used to enable participants to connect to Sli.do during the event is kept for the time necessary to fulfil the purpose of collection or further processing, namely for the length of the on-line event. More information is available in the Record of Processing [DPR-EC-06687](#) (Sli.do - Audience Interaction Software).
- Dietary information will be deleted 1 month after the end of the conference.

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 [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 personal data on behalf of the Commission, and by the confidentiality obligations deriving from the General Data Protection Regulation ('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. 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 other authorised Commission staff according to the "need to know" principle. Such staff abide by statutory, and when required, additional confidentiality agreements.

Personal data are not processed outside the EU/EEA.

For the purposes of organising the event, we will also share your personal data with service providers, such as Tipik Communication Agency S.A., 270 Avenue de Tervueren, 1150 Brussels, Belgium.

8. Third Party IT Tools during Video Conferencing

Please note that as this is a hybrid meeting, a third party tool developed by Tipik Communication Agency S.A. will be used to run the meeting.

When using third party IT services during a virtual conference or event, the European Commission keeps your personal data for the time necessary to fulfil the purpose of collection or further processing, namely for the duration of the conference and for an additional period of up to 5 years in an anonymised format (Conference identifier, start time and duration).

The content of the video/audio conference (documents, links, files etc.) will be deleted after the termination of the session.

The following categories of personal data of the participants are collected:

- Participant identifier (mainly email address, but potentially some other parameters)
- Conference Content (available to participants only at Conference duration)
- Participants' names list (available to participants only at Conference duration)
- Session identifier (determined by the system, only on anonymised reports)
- Date of session (determined by user decision, only on anonymised reports)
- Duration of the session (determined by user decision, only on anonymised reports)
- Audio-visual recordings
- Photograph image (if available)

The main recipient of the personal data is the conference's organiser. The organiser, by service definition, is part of EC staff. The main organiser can take the decision of a local meeting recording, in such scenario a recording alert is shown to all participants.

For the purpose of organising online participation, **Clevercast**, third party tool under Tipik Communication Agency (contractor)'s responsibility, collects from moderators and speakers the following personal data: title, position, the first name, last name, email address, IP address, website data, geolocation, and browser-generated information, cookies, language settings, operating system used, unique device identifiers or other technologies used to analyse users' activity. Moreover, it hosts the collected personal data on servers in Europe. For information on how **Clevercast** uses cookies and how processes personal data, please see privacy policy [here](#).

Sli.do is a tool that allows for audience interactive participation during either online or live meetings or conferences. The audience can ask questions, respond to polls, take part in quizzes during a webinar or live event. The tool can be used with any of the Commission's audio-conference tools for on-line events.

In order to reply to questions, event participants can scan a QR code or log into the Sli.do website and enter the conference code. The replies can be anonymous or linked to a person's name depending on the event. The processing of personal data is done to ensure that participants have been able to connect to the software and they are able to reply to the questions only once.

9. 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).

When you visit the website(s) of our event and when you register, we will keep your session log information for a maximum of 3 days. This information will then be deleted.

The cookie-related information is not used to identify data subjects personally. 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.

10. Third party IT tools, including Social Media

We use third party IT tools to inform about and promote the event 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).

If you give your consent on the current form, please note that the recordings of the event will also be uploaded on our current Interoperable Europe page on JoinUp, and on our Youtube channel. Recording material will also be used for promotional purposes for LinkedIn, Twitter and Youtube (Record of Processing [DPR-EC-00073.1](#)).

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 Sli.do (Record of Processing [DPR-EC-06687](#)) 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.

11. International transfers

No international data transfers take place outside the EU/EEA, with the exception of the United Kingdom. In this case, the transfer of personal data is carried out on the basis of the Adequacy Decision published by the European Commission (C(2021) 4800).

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).

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 given to any third party, except to the extent and for the purpose we may be required to do so by law.

12. 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 data controller for the present processing operation. You can withdraw your consent at any time by notifying the data controller by sending an email to CNECT-H4@ec.europa.eu. 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 13 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 13 below) in your request.

13. 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, Directorate-General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology (DG CONNECT), CNECT-H4@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.

14. Where to find more detailed 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>.