

Privacy statement regarding the networking platform for the upcoming 2025 Call for proposals for a new EIT KIC in water, marine and maritime sectors and ecosystems to be designated by the European Institute of Innovation and Technology

This privacy statement provides information relating to the processing of personal data by the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) while managing the online registration for the B2B networking platform for the upcoming 2025 Call for proposal for a new EIT KIC in water, marine and maritime sectors and ecosystems (hereinafter referred to as “networking platform”), created by the EIT.

The processing of personal data of the data subjects follows the provisions of Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 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 data¹ (hereinafter “Regulation 2018/1725”).

Your personal data will be collected and processed as detailed below.

What is personal data and what is personal data processing?

Personal data shall mean any information relating to an identified or identifiable natural person (“data subject”). An identifiable person is one who can be identified, directly or indirectly, in particular by reference to an identifier such as a name, and identification number, location data, an online identifier or to one or more factors specific to the physical, physiological, genetic, mental, economic, cultural or social identity of that natural person.

Processing means any operation or set of operations which is performed on personal data or on sets of personal data, whether or not by automatic means, such as collection, recording, organisation, structuring, storage, adaptation or alteration, retrieval, consultation, use, disclosure by transmission, dissemination or otherwise making available, alignment or combination, restriction, erasure or destruction.

Who is the controller of the data collection?

The data controller is the Head of Operations for Innovation, Education and Communication of the EIT.

Who are the data subjects?

The data subjects are the registered participants of the networking platform.

What is the purpose of the personal data collection?

The processing of the personal data within the context of the networking platform is necessary for the following purposes:

¹ OJ L 295 of 21.11.2018, p. 39.

- to register people participating in the networking;
- to share updates about the Call for proposals among registered participants through direct messages sent via the platform.

The networking platform is a business-to-business platform, allowing registered participants to connect with other organisations interested in collaborating for the Call and to organise matchmaking sessions themselves freely. Potential meeting requests would be sent to registered participants by other registered users directly through the networking platform. As the organiser of the platform, the EIT may contact the participants through the platform to share updates about the Call via direct messages sent through the networking platform.

What types of personal data are collected?

Within the context of the networking platform created by the EIT, the following types of personal data are processed in relation to the data subjects:

- As part of the online registration process the following personal data are processed for all participants: **first name, last name, email address, job position, profile picture (optional), name of employing organisation and address (city only)**.
- In addition, the B2MATCH platform collects the data subjects' **IP addresses, website data, geolocation, and browser-generated information** (including device information, operating system, device type, system, cookies or other technologies used to analyse users' activity).

Who has access to the personal data of data subjects and to whom can they be disclosed?

Within the EIT:

For the purposes indicated above, access to personal data is provided to the EIT staff, in particular the responsible officers, communication officer, head of unit and head of operations working on the organisation of the communication of the Call, including the networking platform.

Within the Commission and other EU institutions/bodies/agencies:

Access may also be provided for the fulfillment of their tasks to the Internal Audit Service of the Commission, the Court of Auditors (audit purposes), to the European Ombudsman, the European Data Protection Supervisor or the European Court of Justice and the General Court (in case of complaints or litigation).

Third parties subject to the GDPR² and third parties not subject to the GDPR:

EIT uses the B2MATCH Platform for the purpose of registration to the networking platform. When the data subjects register to the networking platform, they are made aware that B2MATCH collects the personal

² Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC (General Data Protection Regulation)

data included in the registration form. For details about the B2MATCH platform's privacy practices please consult their privacy statement [here](#).

How long do we keep your data?

- The personal data of registered participants visible within the platform will be retained by B2MATCH according to its [privacy policy](#). The EIT will retain personal data for *30 days* following the closure of the Call.
- The same applies for the applicants rejected to participate in the networking platform.
- After the above-mentioned retention periods, the data relating to the networking platform required for scientific or historical research purposes, statistical purposes should be kept in an anonymous form.

What are the rights of the data subject?

In accordance with Articles 15, 17, 18, 19 of the Data Protection Regulation of European Institutions the data subjects have the **right for information**, the **right of access**, the **right of rectification** in case their personal data is not complete or not accurate and the **right to erasure** ("right to be forgotten").

Data subjects have the right to obtain the **erasure** of their personal data in accordance with Article 19 of the Regulation and in particular in the cases when the personal data are no longer necessary in relation to the purposes for which they were collected, if the data subject withdraws its consent, or in case of unlawful processing. This means that data subjects may opt out of the processing of their personal data (e.g. erase their personal data from the participants list or remove their photo from the EIT website).

Data subjects have also the **right to restriction** of processing of personal data in accordance with Article 20 of the Regulation, and the **right to object** on grounds listed in Article 23 of the Regulation.

The rights of the data subjects can be exercised from the registration period and until the personal data is retained.

The rights can be only exercised by sending a request in a written form to the EIT-Conference@eit.europa.eu. As a general rule, the requests for information, access, rectification, erasure restriction are handled without undue delay and in any event within 15 days of receipt of the request. This period may be extended by two further months, where necessary, taking into account the complexity and number of the request(s).

Restrictions to the rights of data subjects may be applied by the EIT, in accordance with Article 25 of the Data Protection Regulation of the European institutions and the EIT internal rules on restrictions³.

Who should be contacted in case of queries or complaints?

If you have any queries concerning the processing of your personal data, you may address them to the following email: EIT-Conference@eit.europa.eu.

³ The final version has been published at the following link: <https://eit.europa.eu/library/gb-decision-222023-internal-rules-concerning-restrictions-certain-rights-data-subjects>

You have the right of recourse at any time to the EIT's Data Protection Officer (EIT-DPO@eit.europa.eu) and to the European Data Protection Supervisor (EDPS@edps.europa.eu) or contact the site: <http://www.edps.europa.eu/EDPSWEB/>.

Legal basis of the processing operation

- Regulation (EU) 2021/819 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 May 2021 on the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (recast) ('EIT Regulation')⁴;
- Decision (EU) 2021/820 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 May 2021 on the Strategic Innovation Agenda of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) 2021-2027: Boosting the Innovation Talent and Capacity of Europe and repealing decision No 1312/2013/EU ('EIT Strategic Innovation Agenda 2021-2027')⁵;
- Decision 42/2023 of the EIT Governing Board on the adoption of the Final Single Programming Document (2024-2026)⁶, as amended by decision 26/2024 of the EIT Governing Board⁷.

Grounds for lawfulness

In line with Article 5(a) of Regulation No. (EU) 2018/1725, 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 EIT. The launch of Calls for proposals and supporting communication activities are part of the public interest activities of the EIT.

The specific processing of personal data (e.g. organising the networking platform) is allowed only if the data subject gives his/her explicit consent for such processing. Therefore, such processing is lawful based on Article 5 (d) of Regulation No. (EU) 2018/1725.

⁴ OJ L 170, 12.5.2021, p. 1.

⁵ OJ L 189, 28.5.2021, p. 61.

⁶ Ares(2023) 8668848

⁷ Ares (2024) 4696519