

Privacy statement regarding EIT Awards & EIT Women Leadership Award

The personal data of the nominees, jury members, KIC SPOCs, and online voters participating in the **EIT Awards** process, as well as personal data of the applicants and jury members for the **EIT Women Leadership Award category within the framework of the European Prize for Women Innovators¹**, are processed by the EIT in line with 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 Union institutions, bodies, offices, and agencies and on the free movement of such data² (“Data Protection Regulation of the European institutions”).

What is personal data and what is a personal data processing operation?

Personal data means 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, an 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, responsible for the personal data processing operation relating to the [EIT Awards](#) is the Head of Unit Communications & Engagement.

The data controller, responsible for the personal data processing operation relating to the EIT Women Leadership Award is the Head of Unit Communications & Engagement, jointly with the Directorate-General for Research and Innovation (DG RTD) (joint controllership).³

¹ https://eic.ec.europa.eu/eic-prizes/european-prize-women-innovators-powered-eic-eit_en

² 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, and repealing Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 and Decision No 1247/2002 (OJ L 295, 21.11.2018, p. 39)

³ Ares(2024)3319347

Who are the data subjects?

- All the nominees who have submitted an application for the EIT Awards (i.e. Changemaker Award, Innovation Team Award, Venture Award), the members of the jury, and the KIC Single Point of Contacts (SPOCs) who participate in the nomination process.
- All the individuals who cast a vote for the EIT Public Awards via the official online voting tool.
- All the applicants for the EIT Women Leadership Award and the members of the jury.

What is the purpose of the personal data processing?

Within the framework of the EIT Awards:

- Assessing the nominations for the EIT Awards and awarding of the prizes, including the award of the finalists who participate in the online public voting for the EIT Public Award.
- Enabling the submission, recording, and validation of the EIT Public Award online voting, as well as to ensure the integrity of the voting process by preventing and detecting fraudulent or automated voting activities.
- Organising the travel and accommodation arrangements for award finalists and jury members attending award ceremony events.
- Disseminating & reproducing photographs/pictures, presentations, audio and video recording and live streaming of the EIT Awards-related events in various media including EIT publications, the EIT website, social media networks, TV channels and the press, in connection with the event, or for further institutional purposes as well as for promotional activities of the EIT. In this context, the pictures and audio or video recordings of data subjects will be published with specific mention of the persons concerned.

Within the framework of the European Prize for Women Innovators (EIT Women Leadership Award):

- Evaluating the applications for EIT Women Leadership prize category and awarding of the prizes.
- Organising the travel and accommodation arrangements for award finalists and jury members attending award ceremony events.

The Women Innovators and Rising Innovators prize categories are managed by the European Innovation Council and SMEs Executive Agency (EISMEA) separately.

What types of personal data are processed?

Within the **context of the EIT Awards**, the following types of personal data are processed:

In relation to the nominees:

- **By EIT:** name; date and place of birth; gender; address; contact details; website and social media profiles (Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn); nationality; data related to education and prior employment; innovations and achievements; photo and video of the nominee (all categories) and team (only Venture Award and Innovation Team Awards); pictures, audio- and video recordings during the EIT Awards-related event. In addition to the above, legal identification data, copy of the identity document, and financial identification data such as banking details are also collected.
- **By Creative Force Ltd.** (i.e. processor): name, online identifier, email address
- **By ICF Next S.A.** (i.e. processor): name; contact details; date and place of birth; gender; address; nationality; legal identification data.

In relation to the KIC SPOCs:

- **By EIT:** name, email address
- **By Creative Force Ltd.** (i.e. processor): name, online identifier, email address.

In relation to the jury members:

- **By EIT:** name, email address, photo, and short bio.
- **By Creative Force Ltd** (i.e. processor): name, online identifier, email address.
- **By ICF Next S.A.** (i.e. processor): name; contact details; date and place of birth; gender; address; nationality; legal identification data.

In relation to EIT Public Award voters:

- **By EIT:** email addresses; Internet Protocol (IP) addresses.
- **By Uni Systems S.M.S.A.** (i.e. processor): email addresses; Internet Protocol (IP) addresses.
- **By DG DIGIT of the European Commission** (i.e. processor): email addresses; Internet Protocol (IP) addresses.

Within the **context of the European Prize for Women Innovators** (EIT Women Leadership Award), the following types of personal data are processed:

In relation to the applicants:

- **By EIT:** name; date and place of birth; gender; address; contact details; nationality; video of the applicant, audio- and video recordings during the award ceremony event. In addition to the above, legal identification data, copy of the identity document, and financial identification data such as banking details are also collected.
- **By DG RTD of the European Commission** (i.e. processor): as indicated in their [privacy statement](#).
- **By ICF Next S.A.** (i.e. processor): name; contact details; date and place of birth; gender; address; nationality; legal identification data.

In relation to the jury members:

- **By EIT:** name, email address, photo, and short bio.
- **By DG RTD of the European Commission** (i.e. processor): as indicated in their [privacy statement](#).
- **By ICF Next S.A.** (i.e. processor): name; contact details; date and place of birth; gender; address; nationality; legal identification data.

Special categories of personal data revealing racial or ethnic origin, political opinions, religious or philosophical beliefs, trade union membership, health status, or sexual orientation may be received only insofar as such data are voluntarily and incidentally provided by data subjects, for example, through pictures, audio, or video recordings. This data is not processed by either the data controller or the data processors in the management of the EIT Awards and the EIT Women Leadership Award, since it is not pertinent.

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

Within the EIT:

The personal data of the data subjects are processed by the EIT staff responsible for the EIT Awards, including the EIT Public Award, and the EIT Women Leadership Award procedure (Administrators, Assistants, Head of Unit Communications & Engagement, Legal Officers, Finance Assistants and Financial Verification Agent, Directorate); by the members of the EIT Evaluation Committee who assess the admissibility, eligibility and selection criteria and by the members of the jury assigned by the EIT, who will evaluate the nominees/applicants against the award criteria.

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

With regard to the EIT Women Leadership Award, personal data of the subjects might also be processed in connection to their participation in relevant events under the umbrella of the European Prize for Women Innovators. The EU Prize for Women Innovators award ceremony will be organised and managed by EIC/EISMEA.

The **EU Funding & Tenders Portal** managed by the European Commission is used for the submission of applications for EIT Women Leadership Award. By submitting the application, all applicants accept to use the electronic exchange system in accordance with the [Portal Terms & Conditions](#). Details are explained in the [Funding & Tenders Portal Privacy Statement](#).

The personal data of the EIT Public Award voters is processed by the European Commission Directorate-General for Digital Services (**DG DIGIT**). The role of DIGIT in the processing operation is the storage of the personal data. The EIT has a Service Level Agreement with DG DIGIT that includes several [provisions on the protection of personal data](#).

The **EUSurvey tool**, managed by the European Commission might be used for collecting data, including personal data, necessary for the participation of nominees/applicants and jury members in activities related to the EIT Awards and the EIT Women Leadership Award (e.g. travel and accommodation arrangements, booking of training activities, etc.). All personal data collected within such a survey will be processed by and under the responsibility of the EIT. The EUSurvey privacy statement is available here: <https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/home/privacystatement>.

The personal data of data subjects may be registered in the **Early Detection and Exclusion System (EDES) of DG Budget**, if they are in one of the situations mentioned in Article 138 of the EU Financial

Regulation⁴. For more information, see the Commission's privacy statement on http://ec.europa.eu/budget/explained/management/protecting/protect_en.cfm.

If requested, personal data can be disclosed to the responsible unit in Directorate-General Education and Culture (**DG EAC**), the partner DG of the EIT. Additionally, it may be disclosed to the European Anti-Fraud Office (**OLAF**) for investigation purposes.

In case of an audit or complaint/appeal, the personal data can be disclosed to the auditors in the Commission, and to other EU institutions such as the **European Court of Auditors, the European Ombudsman, the European Data Protection Supervisor, the General Court of the European Union, and the European Court of Justice**.

Third parties subject to the GDPR⁵ and third parties not subject to the GDPR:

With regard to the EIT Awards, the personal data of the data subjects may also be processed, in connection with the media and pitch/presentation training and the EIT Awards-related events, by the external contractor(s) of the EIT, in line with EU and national legislation and their relevant contractual requirements.

The personal data of the nominees for the EIT Awards will be processed, in connection with the submission of the online applications by the external contractor of the EIT. **Creative Force Ltd.**, established in Malta, is an external service provider (i.e. processor). Their product, Award Force, is used for the submission of applications by the nominees and for the jury evaluation. Therefore, Creative Force processes personal data related to the nominees, to the jury and to the KIC SPOCs. Their privacy statement and their cookie policy are available at: <https://www.creativeforce.team/privacy-policy/>. Personal data are stored in the EU.

Concerning the EIT Public Awards, the personal data of the data subjects is processed by **Uni Systems S.M.S.A.**, an external IT service provider established in Greece. Uni Systems S.M.S.A supports the EIT with website content management and website module development, including the management of the website modules used for the EIT Public Award voting process. Uni Systems S.M.S.A can retrieve, consult, structure, and transmit to the EIT personal data of the data subjects for the purpose of the data processing operation.

The written framework contract between the EIT and Uni Systems S.M.S.A. contains several provisions on the protection of personal data. Their privacy statement and their cookie policy are available at: <https://www.unisystems.com/privacy-policy>.

ICF NEXT S.A., as the external contractor of the EIT involved in the organisation of the events and meetings, is processing the personal data on behalf of the EIT. The written framework contract

⁴ 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)

⁵ 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, OJ L 119, 4.5.2016, p. 1–88)

between the EIT and ICF Next S.A. contains several provisions on the protection of personal data.⁶The privacy statement of ICF can be found here: <https://www.icf.com/legal/privacy-statement>.

In particular, as event organiser, **ICF NEXT S.A.** may be responsible for maintaining online forms and registration platforms and the management of travel arrangements (flight/train tickets, hotel bookings, local transfers). Therefore, subcontractors of ICF (such as a selected travel agency, a hotel and ground transportation company depending on the location and venue of the event) will process the data subjects' personal details in order to organise and manage the travel, accommodation and local transfers for prize finalists and jury members.

When the data subjects register to an event or activity whose registration process is managed ICF NEXT S.A., they are made aware that **B2MATCH** collects the personal data included in the registration form. In addition, B2MATCH 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). For details about B2MATCH privacy practices please read: <https://www.b2match.com/privacy-policy>.

The personal data indicated above are collected, uploaded and stored on its servers based in Europe, consulted, transmitted to the EIT, used and finally erased at the end of the retention period.

If necessary, information concerning the awards may be transferred to *external lawyers (advocates)* in countries subject to GDPR or in third countries not subject to GDPR, for specific and limited purposes only (e.g. in case of complaints handling or litigation). In all these cases a written contract is signed between the EIT and the external lawyers in order to ensure that Article 29 of the Regulation is respected by the data processor. These written contracts follow the model of the Commission and include a specific article on data protection.

How long do we keep your data?

1) Data of prize winners: the personal data of the prize winners is retained for a period of **ten years** from the date of the notification letter to the awarded nominees/applicants.

Any further data required for statistical purposes should be kept in an anonymous form.

2) Data of non-awarded nominees/applicants are kept for a period of **five years** from the date of the notification letter to the non-awarded nominees/applicants for the purposes of potential review procedures and for budgetary or audit purposes. In case the length of the review procedure exceeds the period of five years, the relevant data are kept for the duration of the ongoing review procedure.

3) Data of jury members: the personal data of the jury members is retained for a period of **five years** from the date of the award decision for the EIT Awards and for the EIT Women Leadership Award procedure.

4) Data of KIC SPOCs: the personal data for the KIC SPOCs is retained for a period of **five years** following the termination of their task as KIC SPOCs.

5) Data of EIT Public Award voters: the personal data of the data subjects is retained for a period of **three months** after the end of the EIT Awards ceremony. The retention period may be extended for the duration of any complaint or legal proceedings relating to the voting procedure and shall end no later than 30 days after their final resolution.

What are your rights as being a data subject?

Data subjects have the **right for information** and the **right to access** their personal data, as ensured by Article 15 and 17 of the Data Protection Regulation of the European institutions. In addition, the data subjects have the **right to rectification** of inaccurate personal data concerning them without undue delay; and the right to have incomplete personal data completed, in accordance with Article 18 of the Regulation. The exercise of such rights may not result in unequal treatment of the data subjects and may not be contrary or harmful to the aim of the prize contest or to its confidentiality.

Prize winners may, on written request, gain access to their personal data and request the rectification of any personal data that is inaccurate or incomplete, as long as it does not call into question the award decision and result in unequal treatment.

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.

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

After the deadline for submitting nominations/applications, personal data related to the admissibility, eligibility, exclusion and selection criteria cannot be rectified or erased with the exception of obvious clerical errors, while personal data related to the identification of the nominee/applicant can be rectified at any time during the award procedure and while the data is kept by the EIT.

Any issues with regard to the evaluation procedure may be addressed by means of the available review procedures as outlined in the relevant Calls for Nominations for EIT Awards and Rules of Contest of the European Prize for women Innovators.

The rights of data subjects can be exercised only based on a written request. In case of any queries concerning the processing of personal data, data subjects may send their written requests to EIT-Awards@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 one month of receipt of the request; this period may be extended by further two months where necessary, taking into account the complexity and number of requests. In case the data subject contests the accuracy of the data,

upon request, the data is restricted immediately for the period of verification of the accuracy of the data, not exceeding one month.

Data subjects have the **right of recourse** at any time to the Data Protection Officer of the EIT (EIT-DPO@eit.europa.eu) and to the European Data Protection Supervisor (EDPS@edps.europa.eu) for matters relating to the processing of their personal data.

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 restrictions⁷.

Legal basis of the processing operation

General legal basis

- Regulation (EU) 2021/819⁸ of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 May 2021 on the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (“EIT Regulation”);
- Decision (EU) 2021/820⁹ 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 (“Strategic Innovation Agenda 2021-2027”);
- Regulation (EU) 2021/695¹⁰ of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 establishing Horizon Europe – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, laying down its rules for participation and dissemination, and repealing Regulations (EU) No 1290/2013 and (EU) No 1291/2013);
- Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 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)¹¹

Specific EIT legal basis:

- Decision 21/2019¹² of the Governing Board of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology on the financial regulation of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology;
- Decision 36/2024 of the Governing Board of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology on the Adoption of Final Single Programming Document (2025-2027)¹³;

⁷ Data protection | EIT

⁸ OJ L 189, 28.5.2021, p. 61

⁹ OJ L 189, 28.5.2021, p. 91–118

¹⁰ OJ L 170, 12.5.2021, p. 1–68

¹¹ OJ L 2024/2509, 26.9.2024, p. 1.

¹² Ares(2019)6810859

¹³ Ares(2024)9134718

Lawfulness of the processing operation

In line with Article 5(1)(a) of Regulation 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. In particular, the provision of the EIT Awards contribute to the attainment of the objectives of the EIT as laid down in the EIT Regulation and the Strategic Innovation Agenda 2021-2027 of the EIT.

Furthermore, the processing is also lawful based on Article 5(d) of Data Protection Regulation of the European institutions: the data subjects are free to give their data on a voluntary basis and can withdraw their consent any time.