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European Institute of Innovation & Technology

Privacy statement regarding online registration and participation in the EIT Awards 2026 event organised 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 and participation in the EIT Awards 2026 event organised 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 data[1] (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 Innovation, Education and Communication of the EIT.

Who are the data subjects?

The data subjects are the registered event participants.

What is the purpose of the personal data collection?

The processing of the personal data within the context of the EIT Awards 2026 is necessary for the following purposes:

- To register people participating in the event;
- To organise travel arrangements for sponsored participants;

[1] OJ L 295 of 21.11.2018, p. 39.

- To ensure the efficient organisation and management of the event, including the management of participation list, invitations, reporting and follow-up activities;
- To create awareness and promote the visibility of the event, particularly by means of media and publications.

The EIT Awards is our annual flagship event dedicated to recognising the entrepreneurial and societal achievements and impact of outstanding entrepreneurs, innovators and learners supported by the EIT Community. The present privacy statement covers the processing of personal data for the event organised and hosted by the EIT (see below); information about the events organised and hosted by the EIT Knowledge and Innovation Community (KIC) can be requested from the respective organising KIC.

The EIT Awards 2026 event will be held in a hybrid format:

On 2 December 2026:
- at the CEU Nador Event Centre, H-1051 Budapest, Nádor utca 15;
- online via the YouTube platform/LinkedIn channels.

Registration is required only for in person participants of the event, whose registration is managed via an online registration page, maintained by ICF NEXT S.A., the contractor of the EIT (see below).

The online web streaming of the EIT Awards 2026 can be watched on YouTube without a registration, on the EIT's Youtube Channel, therefore the EIT does not process the personal data of participants joining online. During the event, only the stage/podium area will be shown via the web streaming, therefore the other participants who do not appear in this area of the venue of the physical event will not be subject to web streaming. For the purpose of asking questions while watching the event via YouTube, you may be required to log in through your Google account, Facebook account, etc. Be aware that EIT is not responsible for processing personal data by YouTube or any other company, which applications you use to attend the event online. You may consult the privacy statements of these companies for more information.

What types of personal data are collected?

Within the context of the EIT Awards 2026 organised 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: title, family name, first name, nationality, name and type of the organisation, position in the organisation, contact details: e-mail address, telephone number (optional), the role in the event. In addition to the above, participants at the event may be given the opportunity to indicate individual requirements e.g. those pertaining to diet, mobility and attendance at the events. During the registration process, participants may also indicate whether they wish to be included in the EIT Stakeholder database and EIT newsletter.
- For Speakers, EIT Awards Nominees and EIT Awards Jury members, the following additional data are processed in the context of the event, phone number, details of the travel document (ID/passport) including full name, date of birth, ID/passport number, ID/passport expiration date, issuing country and date of the issue for the purpose of the travel assistance by the EIT;

- For the other participants covered by the EIT details of the travel document (ID/passport) including full name, date of birth, ID/passport number, ID/passport expiration date, issuing country and date of the issue are collected and processed for the purpose of the travel assistance by the EIT;
- The contact details of the participants will be included in the EIT Stakeholder Database: if the data subject wishes that his/her contact details appear in the database, he/she should tick the appropriate box during the online registration;
- Photographs/pictures will be taken during the event and video shots will be recorded. Audio and video recording of the *stage/podium area* will be taken and disseminated by means of live web streaming. For all the above processing operations, the data subject can decide to explicitly give his/her permission during the online registration. In case the data subject does not give consent, he/she will be given a badge with a special sign on it and will be provided with the special area where no pictures/videos are taken. The photographs/pictures, presentations, audio and video recording and live streaming of the event will be reproduced in various media including EIT publications, the EIT website, social media networks, TV channels and the press, in connection with the event for visibility purposes and/or for further institutional purposes as well as for promotional activities of the EIT.

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 responsible for the organisation of the event and for the follow-up activities (e.g. satisfaction survey for participants).

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 GDPR[2] and third parties not subject to the GDPR:

ICF NEXT S.A., as the external contractor of the EIT involved in the organisation of the event, is processing the personal data on behalf of the EIT. The written framework contract between the EIT and ICF Next S.A. contains several provisions on the protection of personal data. The privacy statement of ICF can be found here: https://www.icf.com/legal/privacy-statement.

In particular, as event organiser, ICF is responsible for maintaining the online registration process, management of audio and video recordings, web streaming, taking photographs and recording video footage about the event, follow-up reporting, distribution of follow up satisfaction surveys etc. 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.

[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)

ICF uses Swoogo for the purpose of registration to the EIT Awards 2026. When the data subjects register to the conference, they are made aware that Swoogo collects the personal data included in the registration form. In addition, Swoogo 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 Swoogo's privacy practices please read: Privacy Policy - Swoogo.

ICF also uses the services of One Tec, for the purpose of printing badges for onsite participants. OneTec collects the name, surname, company name and category of the participants. For details about OneTec privacy practices please read here.

In addition, IP Travel, Belgium will process the data subjects' personal details in order to organise and manage travel arrangements for sponsored participants. ICF will share the data subjects' personal data with the travel agency for travel organisation purposes in accordance with this privacy statement. Please see IP Travel's privacy policy here.

ICF shares the personal data of the data subjects with certain hotels (such as Radisson Blu Beke Hotel, Budapest, Boulevard Thérèse 43 1067), which will process the data subjects' personal details to organise and manage accommodation for sponsored participants. ICF will share your personal data with the hotels for accommodation management purposes in accordance with this privacy statement.

How long do we keep your data?

- For the rejected applications to participate in the event, the retention period is *15 days* after the day of the event;
- For the contact details of the participants who gave their consent to be included in the EIT Stakeholder Database the retention period is *4 years* (see the separate privacy statement on the EIT website[3]);
- For the contact details of the participants who did not want to be included in the EIT Stakeholder Database the retention period is *2 years*;
- Reports of the event will be kept for audit purposes for a period of *5 years* after the EIT Awards 2026 budget is discharged in accordance with the EU Financial Regulation[4] and the EIT Financial Regulation[5];
- The YouTube streaming of the event would be available on the YouTube channel of the EIT for 10 years;
- After the above-mentioned retention periods the data relating to the event required for scientific or historical research purposes, statistical purposes should be kept in an anonymous form.

What are the rights of the data subject?

[3] https://eit.europa.eu/who-we-are/legal-framework/data-protection

[4] OJ L, 2024/2509, 26.9.2024

5 Currently under revision. Please check „Legal documents" in the „Library" on the EIT website: https://eit.europa.eu/library

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-stakeholder-relations@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 restrictions[6].

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-stakeholder-relations@eit.europa.eu.

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')[7];
- 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')[8];

[6] 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

[7] OJ L 170, 12.5.2021, p. 1.

[8] OJ L 189, 28.5.2021, p. 61.

- Decision 21/2026 of the EIT Governing Board on the amendment of the Final Single Programming Document (2026-2028)[9], as the multiannual financing decision for 2026-2028.

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 organisation of conferences and events is part of the public interest activities of the EIT aiming to cultivate a clear identity and world-wide EIT brand.

The specific processing of personal data (e.g. taking photographs, video and audio recording, and dissemination by the means of web streaming as well as by means of various other media, including the contact details in the EIT Stakeholders Database and/or sharing the participants' contact details with other participants) 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.

[9] Ares(2026)7050201

Electronically signed on 06/11/2026 13:49 (UTC+01) in accordance with Article 11 of Commission Decision (EU) 2021/2121