

Data protection in the context of the European Digital Innovation Hubs (EDIHs)

– General Guidelines

What is data protection about?

- **'Data protection'** concerns the “protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data.” **'Personal data'** is “any information relating to an identified or identifiable natural person (**'data subject'**).” Examples of identifiers include: name, identification number, address, physical characteristics.
- A data **'controller'** is the legal person or public authority which determines the purposes and means of the processing of personal data.
- In the EU, data protection is guaranteed by [Regulation \(EU\) 2016/679 \(General Data Protection Regulation or GDPR\)](#). The GDPR delineates how a data controller can collect, use, or process personal data, and outlines the rights and freedoms of the data subject. [Regulation 2018/1725](#) delineates the rules applicable to the processing of personal data by European Union institutions, bodies, offices, and agencies.

How is data protection ensured in the context of the EDIH Network by the European Commission and the DTA?

- Personal data collected by the European Commission (as the 'controller') and the Digital Transformation Accelerator (DTA) via the EDIH Network portal is described within the [Privacy statement DPR-EC-00083](#).
- The management of contact points for the EDIH Network by the European Commission (as the 'controller') through the DTA is described within the [Privacy statement DPR-EC-02631](#).
- The EDIH network portal, including the Digital Maturity Assessment tool and the collection of KPIs, has been designed to minimise the amount of personal data collected (**'data protection by design'**).

The DTA and the Commission will use DMA data in its efforts to assess the impact of the services provided by the EDIH Network, for example with respect to increasing the level of digitalisation of SMEs and PSOs and therefore contributing to the achievement of the 2030 Digital Decade targets. Reports on the assessed impact will be presented annually to the European Commission by DTA and will be based exclusively on average values of the DMA scores, presented for example in the form of business size-class, sector, country, and region. DMA data, including scores, from individual organisations will not be detailed in this annual reporting.

For successful cases, in which high digital maturity increase is recorded and the DTA wants to establish contact with the respective organisations (SMEs or PSOs) to learn more, EDIHs will act as intermediate to contact the organisations. In such cases, any sensitive or personal DMA related data that could help for example to build a success story will only be disseminated following specific consent by the individual organisations.

How is data protection ensured at the level of EDIHs?

- According to the EDIHs Grant Agreement, **EDIHs are the controllers** of the data processing activities that they perform within the context of the agreement. For example, when organising events or conducting Digital Maturity Assessments (DMAs), **EDIHs are responsible for the treatment of the personal data collected** (including e.g., creating a data protection record, drafting privacy statements, handling data subject requests, etc.). To ensure the correct collection and use of the personal data collected through these activities, EDIHs shall rely on their appropriate legal experts.
- [Privacy statement DPR-EC-00083](#) and [Privacy statement DPR-EC-02631](#) do not cover the data processing activities carried out by EDIHs acting as controllers. The European Commission and the DTA cannot impose any specific template for EDIHs to use. Additional useful information can be found below.
 - Data protection in the EU on the [European Commission website](#)
 - Data protection and online privacy on [Your Europe website](#)
 - The [guidance page](#) of the European Data Protection Board, including the [data protection guide for small businesses](#)
 - Public administrations and data protection on the [European Commission website](#)

For further questions on the topic of data protection in the context of the European Digital Innovation Hubs (EDIHs) and the EDIHs Network, please contact the DTA at: info@edihnetwork.eu