



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency

**Data Protection Notice & Authorisation for Using Personal Data for the  
LIFE Awards Citizen's Prize website**

**2026**

In accordance with Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 of 23 October 2018 on data protection (hereinafter the Regulation)<sup>1</sup>, the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (hereafter CINEA) collects your personal data only to the extent necessary to fulfil the precise purpose related to its tasks. The objective of this data protection notice is to inform you about the processing activities related to your personal data.

1. The **controller** is CINEA:

CINEA Head of Unit A4  
Chaussée de Wavre 910  
BE – 1049 Brussels  
Email: [cinea-communication-life@ec.europa.eu](mailto:cinea-communication-life@ec.europa.eu)

2. **The purpose** of the processing operation is to organise the LIFE Awards Citizens' Prize public vote. It covers:

- Management of the voting process on the LIFE Awards Citizens' Prize website
- Collection of voting statistics

3. The **data subjects** concerned by this notice are natural persons participating in the voting process to decide on the winner of the LIFE Awards Citizens' Prize

4. The **categories of personal data** collected and used for the processing operations are email addresses.

5. All **recipients** are on a "need to know" basis: The recipients of your data will be :

- a. authorised staff of CINEA and the European Commission in charge of the LIFE Awards Citizens' Prize ,
- b. authorised staff of CINEA's contractor STANTEC, acting as a processor, supporting the organisation of the voting process via the website.

In case of audits or proceedings, etc., personal data may be provided to CINEA's Internal Controller, DPO, Legal Sector, etc .

In addition, data may be disclosed to public authorities in accordance with Union and Member State law such as the European Court of Justice or a national judge as well as the lawyers and the agents of the parties in case of a legal procedure, Investigation and Disciplinary Office of the European Commission (IDOC), the competent Appointing Authority in case of a request or a complaint lodged under Articles 90 of the Staff Regulations, European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF), the Internal Audit Service of the Commission, the Court of Auditors ,the European Ombudsman, the European Data Protection Supervisor and the European Public Prosecutor's Office .

6. **Data Subjects rights:**

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<sup>1</sup> 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/EC (OJEU L295/39, 21.11.2018).

- You have the right at any time to access, rectify, erase ('right to be forgotten') your personal data or to request for the restriction of it processing;
- You are also entitled to object to the processing of your personal data on grounds relating to your particular situation at any time unless CINEA demonstrates compelling and overriding legitimate grounds or in case of legal claims;

You can exercise your rights by sending an email with the requested change(s) to the controller via the functional mailbox indicated here-above in Section 1.

In any cases your data will be modified or removed accordingly and as soon as practicable (maximum within 7working days).

When processing is based on your consent, you have the right to withdraw your consent at any time, without affecting the lawfulness of the processing before such a withdrawal.

However, in line with Article 25 of the Regulation, the data controller may restrict the rights of the data subjects based on the Decision of the Steering Committee (2020) 26 of 14/10/20 (OJEU L 45 on 9.2.2021, p. 80), in case where such restriction constitutes a measure necessary to safeguard the protection of the data subjects or the rights and freedoms of other data subjects, etc.

#### **7. How does CINEA protect and safeguard your data?**

Relevant organisational and technical measures are taken by the Agency to ensure the security of your personal data. Access to your data is restricted on an individual need to know basis and through User-ID and password and can be accessed via authentication system. Your data resides on the servers of the European Commission, which abide by strict security measures implemented by DG DIGIT to protect the security and integrity of the relevant electronic assets. CINEA is also bound by Commission Decision 2017/46 of 10/1/17 on the security of communications & information systems in the EC.

The processing of your data will not include automated decision-making.

The personal data and all information collected is also stored on the servers of the processor, which has secured data management systems. The processor is bound by specific contractual clauses for any processing operations of your personal data on behalf of the data controller. The processor has put in place appropriate technical and organisational measures to ensure the required level of security. For more information please consult:

- [STANTEC Data Protection Policy](#)

#### **8. The legal basis for the processing are:**

- Council Regulation 58/2003 of 19 December 2002, laying down the Statute for executive agencies to be entrusted with certain tasks in the management of EU programmes;
- Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2021/173 of 12 February 2021 establishing the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency, and repealing Implementing Decisions 2013/801/EU, ./...;
- Commission Decision C(2021)947 of 12 February 2021 delegating powers to the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency<sup>2</sup> ;

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<sup>2</sup> With a view to the performance of tasks linked to the implementation of Union programmes in the field of transport and energy infrastructure; climate, energy and mobility research and innovation; environment, nature and biodiversity; transition to low-carbon technologies; and maritime and fisheries; comprising, in particular, implementation of appropriations entered in the general budget of the Union and those stemming from external assigned revenue.

- Regulation (EU) 2021/783 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2021 establishing a Programme for the Environment and Climate Action (LIFE), and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1293/2013.

9. The **time limits for keeping** the data are the following:

In accordance with the 2019 Commission Retention List the retention period is 2 years for website related data. **Your data** will remain in the contractor's database for a maximum period of **twelve months** after the end of the voting process. Data will be deleted at the end of this period.

#### **10. Contact information**

In case you have any questions about the collection/processing of your personal data, you may contact the data controller who is responsible for this processing activity by using the email address mentioned here above in Section 1 by indicating *LIFE Awards Citizens' Prize data protection notice* in the subject.

You may contact at any time the Data Protection Officer of the Agency at [CINEA-DPO@ec.europa.eu](mailto:CINEA-DPO@ec.europa.eu). You have the right to have recourse at any time to the European Data Protection Supervisor (EDPS) at <https://edps.europa.eu>.