



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency

Data Protection Notice

LIFE Awards Citizens' Prize website

2026

In accordance with Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 of 23 October 2018 on data protection (hereinafter "the Regulation")¹, the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (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** of the processing operation is:
Unit D.2 – LIFE Environment – Nature & Circular Economy
Chaussée de Wavre 910 – W910 03/011 – BE-1049 Brussels
Person responsible for the processing: Head of Unit D.2
Email: cinea-life-enquiries@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 (anonymous) 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:
 - Authorised staff of CINEA and the European Commission in charge of the LIFE Awards Citizens' Prize;
 - 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, personal data may be provided to CINEA's Internal Controller, DPO, Legal Sector, etc.

In addition, data may, in accordance with Union and Member State law, be disclosed to public authorities 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, to the 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, the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF), the Internal Audit Service of the Commission, the European Court of Auditors, the

¹ 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).

European Ombudsman, the European Data Protection Supervisor or the European Public Prosecutor's Office.

6. Data Subjects' rights:

- You have the right at any time to access, rectify, or erase ('right to be forgotten') your personal data, or to request the restriction of its 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 in Section 1 above. In any cases your data will be modified or removed accordingly and as soon as practicable (within at most fifteen working days from submitting the request).

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 such a 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 the Directorate-General for Digital Services (DG DIGIT)² 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 and information systems in the Commission.

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](#)

² DG DIGIT is the Commission department responsible for digital services that supports other Commission departments and EU institutions in their daily work and helps public administrations in EU member countries – see [Digital Services](#).

8. The legal bases 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;
- Commission Decision C(2021)947 of 12 February 2021 delegating powers to the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency;
- 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;
- Article 5(1)(a) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 because processing is necessary for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest and in the exercise of official authority vested in CINEA.

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

CINEA keeps data in accordance with the 2022 Commission Retention List³. Your personal data will be kept by CINEA for this specific process for a maximum period of two years from the completion of the voting on the citizens' award. **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 Section 1 above, 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. You have the right to have recourse at any time to the European Data Protection Supervisor (EDPS) at <https://edps.europa.eu>.

³ The common Commission-level retention list SEC(2022)400 for European Commission files (CRL) is a regulatory document in the form of a retention schedule that sets the retention periods and follow-up actions for the different types of Commission files.