



Privacy Statement¹

Information on the protection of your personal data

EU Council website survey 2026

1. Who is responsible for the handling of your personal data at the General Secretariat of the Council (GSC)?

The Organisational Development Unit is the administrative entity responsible for the data processing.

For the purpose of this survey, the survey's owner is the Head of Digital Communications Unit – COMM 1.C:

user.research@consilium.europa.eu

2. Contact details of the GSC's Data Protection Officer

Data Protection Officer:

data.protection@consilium.europa.eu

3. What categories of personal data do we handle?

This survey is voluntary and anonymous thus it does not entail the processing of any personal data. However, some categories of data are collected (country of residence, age bracket, profession, etc.) with the aim to structure and analyse the results and better understand the needs of different groups of website visitors. Nevertheless, the questions do not allow the identification of respondents and participants are instructed not include any personal data in the open-text fields of the questionnaire, in order to prevent respondents from providing information that could directly or indirectly identify them.

4. For what purpose do we handle your personal data?

The purpose of this survey is to assess the satisfaction of visitors of the Council's website and to identify areas where improvements may be needed.

¹ Your personal data is handled in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2018/1725.



Further processing:

Not applicable.

5. What is the legal basis for the handling of your personal data?

Article 5 (1)(a) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1725: "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 Union institution or body".

The processing of each contribution is necessary for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest.

6. If the legal basis is consent, you can withdraw it by

Not applicable.

7. If the legal basis is a contract, are you obliged to provide us with your personal data and what are the consequences of not doing so?

Not applicable.

8. If we did not receive the personal data directly from you for this purpose, how did we obtain it?

Not applicable.

9. Who will have access to your personal data?

The individual replies to the questionnaire are automatically processed with no manual intervention involved.

The results of the survey will be accessed by

- the Digital Communications Unit ('survey owner')
- the Organisational Development Unit as the data controller

10. Will your personal data be transferred to a third country or an international organisation? If so, what safeguards are in place, if any?

Not applicable.



11. For how long will we keep your personal data?

The raw data will remain in the database linked to the EUSurvey IT tool for as long as necessary to analyse the results completely, and no later than 12 months after the launch of the survey, i.e., when the service responsible for the processing (controller) erases all the data from the tool's database.

The IT tool EU Survey uses:

- Session "cookies" to ensure communication between the client and the server. Therefore, user's browser must be configured to accept "cookies". The cookies disappear once the session has been terminated.
- Local storage to save copies of the inputs of participants in order to have a backup if the server is not available during submission or the user's computer is switched off accidentally or any other cause.

Once you successfully submitted your answers to the server, or successfully saved a draft on the server, the data is removed from local storage. There is a checkbox above the survey "Save a backup on your local computer (disable if you are using a public/shared computer)" to disable the feature. In that case, no data will be stored on your computer.

For security reasons, the tool records the IP address of the computer on which the registration form was taken.

The IP address is stored temporarily at the Data Centre of the European Commission and the GSC does not have access to it. All the information, including IP addresses, will be erased upon expiry of the retention period – 12 months after the launch of the survey.

The downloaded results will be kept by the Digital Communications Unit for a period of five years from the launch of the survey to allow for historic comparisons and identification of trends for the purposes of future surveys, while potentially applying statistical techniques not used in the initial analysis.

Any historical data will only be retained in an anonymous form.



12. Does the handling of your personal data involve automated decision-making, including profiling? What are the consequences for you?

Not applicable.

13. What are your rights² and how can you exercise them?

The survey is anonymous, no personal data are recorded.

The GSC ensures that the identity of the respondent is not entered in the EU Survey application during IT processing.

14. You have the right to lodge a complaint with the European Data Protection Supervisor
edps@edps.europa.eu

Before you do so, it is recommended that you first try to obtain a remedy by contacting the person responsible for the handling of your personal data at the GSC (see point 1) and/or the Data Protection Officer (point 2).

² Articles 17 to 22 of Regulation (EU) 2018/1725.