



EUROPEAN DATA PROTECTION SUPERVISOR



EDPS SUPPORT TO INDEPENDENT RESEARCH PROJECTS TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. ABOUT THE EDPS

The European Data Protection Supervisor (EDPS) is the European Union's (EU) independent data protection authority. The EDPS' mission, power and aims are established in accordance with [Regulation \(EU\) 2018/1725 \('EUDPR'\)](#)¹, on the basis of [Article 16 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union](#).

2. PURPOSE

The EDPS aims to serve as an impartial centre of excellence for enforcing and reinforcing EU data protection and privacy standards. As part of its mission, the EDPS wishes to offer its support to independent research projects that aim to advance the protection of the fundamental rights to privacy and to the protection of personal data.

3. EDPS SUPPORT

Selected projects will be able to benefit from the expertise of EDPS staff in the area of law, policy and technology. Examples of support include availability for interviews with one or more subject matter experts, the Supervisor or the Secretary General of the EDPS, providing feedback on interim or final results, providing suggestions on relevant bibliography ...).

The support provided by the EDPS does not entail that the research project represents the official position of the EDPS. The support also does not constitute legal advice or guarantee compliance of the solutions and opinions expressed in the research project with applicable law. The EDPS will promote the results of the selected research projects, e.g. through publication of relevant outputs of the research project on the EDPS website.

¹ The EDPS's tasks are listed in article 57 of EUDPR and they include among others:

- promoting public awareness and understanding of the risks, rules, safeguards and rights in relation to processing;
- advising, on his or her own initiative or on request, all Union institutions and bodies on legislative and administrative measures relating to the protection of natural persons' rights and freedoms with regard to the processing of personal data;
- monitoring relevant developments, insofar as they have an impact on the protection of personal data, in particular the development of information and communication technologies
- fulfilling any other tasks related to the protection of personal data.

4. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Applications must be submitted by the individual(s) who intend(s) to carry out the research. If the research project will be carried out by multiple individuals in collaboration, the application must be submitted by all of them, or one of them with full knowledge and consent of all collaborators.

The research project must be independent. This means that the applicant(s) should perform the research project in their personal capacity, namely not under the instructions nor for the benefit of any private or public entity. The applicant will also have to declare if they receive any financial support for the research project. The absence of any financial support will be positively considered having regard to the selection.

5. EXCLUSION CRITERIA

Applicants shall be excluded from participation if it has been established by a final judgment or a final administrative decision that the person is guilty of grave professional misconduct by having violated applicable laws or regulations or ethical standards of the profession to which the person belongs, or by having engaged in any wrongful conduct which has an impact on its professional credibility where such conduct denotes wrongful intent or gross negligence, including, in particular, any of the following:

- i. fraudulently or negligently misrepresenting information required for the verification of the absence of grounds for exclusion or the fulfilment of eligibility or selection criteria or in the performance of a contract or an agreement;
- ii. entering into agreement with other persons or entities with the aim of distorting competition;
- iii. violating intellectual property rights;
- iv. attempting to unduly influence the decision-making process of the EDPS during the selection procedure;
- v. attempting to obtain confidential information that may confer upon it undue advantages in the selection procedure.

6. SELECTION CRITERIA

Applicants will be evaluated according to the project description included in the application form and light of the following criteria:

- relevance of the research project for the enhancement of the rights to privacy and to the protection of personal data;
- innovative character of the research;
- the potential impact of the research project;
- the type of deliverable(s) envisaged;
- the extent of the financial support received by the applicant for their research project (the absence of further support being positively considered having regard to this selection);
- and
- match between the request for support and the EDPS resources' availability.

7. TIMETABLE

The call for applications is open until **31 March 2024 at 13:00 CET**. Following a selection

process, a maximum of four research projects will be selected.

Successful applicants will be informed by end of April. EDPS staff will be available to provide assistance described above to the selected projects between beginning of May and end of July 2024.

In September 2024, the EDPS will publicly announce the research projects that have benefited from his support and may award a symbolic (non-monetary) prize to research projects that are considered particularly innovative or impactful. At the same time, the selected research projects may be published on the EDPS website.

8. OWNERSHIP AND USE OF RESULTS

Applicants remain fully responsible for their respective research project. The results produced (including copyright and other intellectual or industrial property rights) will belong to the authors. The EDPS will not obtain any rights. The EDPS will not assume responsibility for the finalised research project. The participants will maintain full authorship of their research project.

9. ESTIMATED BUDGET

No monetary expenditure for EDPS is foreseen.

10. DATA PROTECTION

Details on the processing of personal data associated to this procedure are available in the [data protection notice](#).

11. GENERAL

Expressions of interest must be submitted in English by electronic means at the following address: POLICY-CONSULT@edps.europa.eu. Please, mention '2024-0032' in the subject line of the email.

The EDPS will only consider applications that are submitted using the [application form](#) and received by 31 March 2024 at 13:00 CET.

In case of question, please contact POLICY-CONSULT@edps.europa.eu Please mention '2024-0032' in the subject line of the email.

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