

# Privacy statement – Organic awards 2025

## 1. Why do we process your personal data?

The European Commission, the European Committee of the Regions (CoR), the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC), IFOAM Organics Europe, Copa and Cogeca ("the Joint Controllers") will jointly process your personal data in the context of the organisation of the Organic Awards.

Other EU entities, such as the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union, may also be tasked by (one of) the Joint Controllers to process certain personal data as processors.

Personal data will be processed for the following purposes:

- (a) Assessing the forms submitted by applicants.
- (b) Shortlisting three applicants per award.
- (c) Selecting one winner per award.
- (d) Notifying the winners.
- (e) Presenting each winner with their award.
- (f) Inviting the applicants to an award ceremony.
- (g) Publicising the outcome of the contest.
- (h) Raising awareness of the general public about the next edition of the EU Organic Awards.

Each Joint Controller is responsible for specific activities as follows:

- (a) Assessment of the forms submitted by applicants:
  - Best organic region/bio-district, city : the CoR
  - Best organic food processing SME, organic food retailer & organic restaurant/food service: the EESC
  - Best organic farmer (male & female): Copa and Cogeca and IFOAM Organics Europe.
- (b) Shortlisting of three applicants per award:
  - Best organic region, city & bio-district: the CoR
  - Best organic food processing SME, organic food retailer & organic restaurant/food service: the EESC
  - Best organic farmer (male & female): Copa and Cogeca and IFOAM Organics Europe.
- (c) Selection of one winner per award:
  - all the Joint Controllers.
- (d) Notification of the winners:
  - all the Joint Controllers.
- (e) Presentation of each winner with their award:
  - all the Joint Controllers.
- (f) Invitation of applicants to an award ceremony:
  - all the Joint Controllers.
- (g) Publication of the outcome of the contest:
  - all the Joint Controllers.
- (h) Awareness-raising of the general public about the next edition of the EU Organic Awards:
  - all the Joint Controllers.

The Joint Controllers are committed to protect your personal data and to respect your privacy. The Joint Controllers have concluded a Joint Controllership Arrangement.

The Joint Controllers and their processors collect and further process your personal data in accordance with, as the case may be, Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 or Regulation (EU) 2016/679.

## *2. How do we process your personal data?*

Your personal data are collected and further processed for awarding and promoting the EU organic awards.

Applications to the awards will be collected using the European Commission tool EU Survey (More information is available here: <https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/home/privacystatement>).

Your personal data will not be used for automated decision-making including profiling.

## *3. On what legal ground(s) do we process your personal data?*

We process your personal data because you have given consent to the processing of your personal data for one or more specific purposes.

Your consent is required for:

- the processing of your personal data submitted in the context of the EU Organic Awards;
- the processing of the audio-visual data (including photos and videos) you submitted and the audio-visual data (including photos and videos) captured in the context of the EU Organic Awards;
- in case you or the entity on behalf of which you apply wins or is shortlisted for one of the EU Organic Awards, the publication, on the websites of the joint controllers or on social media, of your name and surname, contact data, professional data and photos and videos containing your audio-visual data;
- the processing of any health data linked to access or dietary requirements you may submit in the context of your attendance to the award ceremony;
- the processing of your identification and contact data to be contacted for the EU Organic Awards organised next year.

If you opt in, you are giving us your explicit consent under Article 5(1)(d) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 or Article 6(1)(a) of Regulation (EU) 2016/679 to process your personal data for the generic and specific purposes laid down in this privacy statement. You can give your consent via a clear affirmative act by ticking the box(es) on the online application form.

Your consent to the processing of your personal data can be withdrawn at any time by contacting DG AGRI, Unit B.4 (acting on behalf of the European Commission) at [AGRI-B4@ec.europa.eu](mailto:AGRI-B4@ec.europa.eu).

## *4. Which personal data do we collect and further process?*

We collect and further process the following categories of personal data:

- (1) Identification data:
  - (a) Surname and name;
  - (b) Gender;

- (2) Contact data:
  - (a) Postal address;
  - (b) Email address;
  - (c) Phone number.
- (3) Professional data:
  - (a) Position;
  - (b) Employer's identity.
- (4) Unrequested data voluntarily provided by data subjects.

In case, you participate to the award ceremony, we will also collect and further process the following categories of personal data:

- (1) Identification data:
  - (a) Nationality;
  - (b) Registration number(s) included in identity documentation.
- (2) Financial data:
  - (a) Payment card number;
  - (b) Bank account number.
- (3) Health data:
  - (a) Dietary restrictions or requirements;
  - (b) Disabilities or access requirements.
- (4) Audio-visual data:
  - (a) Facial image (photos and videos);
  - (b) Voice (audio and video).

The provision of personal data is not mandatory.

##### *5. How long do we keep your personal data?*

We only keep your personal data for the time necessary to fulfil the purpose of collection or further processing, and for a maximum of 2 years after the selection of the winners, unless the personal data need to be kept for a longer period given an ongoing complaint, apart from financial data of data subjects who have participated in the ceremony, which will be kept for five years after the ceremony.

E-mail addresses of data subjects who have agreed to be contacted for the next edition of the EU Organic Awards will also be kept until the organisation of the next round of awards (a maximum of 18 months).

Sensitive personal data relating to dietary and/or access requirements will be deleted as soon as they are no longer necessary for the purpose for which they have been collected in the framework of the meeting or event, but no later than within 1 month after the end of the ceremony.

Personal data shared with the Directorate-General for Human Resources and Security of the European Commission for the participants to gain access to Commission buildings is kept for 6 months after the termination of the link between the data subject and the Commission.

Financial information is kept for 5 years after the award ceremony.

#### *6. How do we protect and safeguard your data?*

All personal data in electronic format (e-mails, documents, databases, uploaded batches of data, etc.) are stored either on the servers of the Joint Controllers or of their contractors. All processing operations are carried out pursuant to the [Commission Decision \(EU, Euratom\) 2017/46](#) of 10 January 2017 on the security of communication and information systems in the European Commission.

In order to protect your personal data, the Joint Controllers have put in place a number of technical and organisational measures in place. Technical measures include appropriate actions to address online security, risk of data loss, alteration of data or unauthorised access, taking into consideration the risk presented by the processing and the nature of the personal data being processed. Organisational measures include restricting access to the personal data solely to authorised persons with a legitimate need to know for the purposes of this processing operation.

#### *7. Who has access to your personal data and to whom is it disclosed?*

Access to your personal data is provided to staff (and processors where applicable) responsible for carrying out this processing according to the “need to know” principle. Such staff abide by statutory, and when required, additional confidentiality agreements.

Access to some of your personal data is also provided to the members of the jury tasked with selecting the winner of each award. The composition of the jury is determined by the Joint Controllers. Other EU entities, such as the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union, may also be tasked by (one of) the Joint Controllers to process certain personal data as processors.

Access to some of your personal data may also be provided to the general public if you consented to such purposes.

#### *8. What are your rights and how can you exercise them?*

You have specific rights as a ‘data subject’, in particular the right to access your personal data and to rectify them in case your personal data are inaccurate or incomplete. Where applicable, you have the right to erase your personal data, to restrict the processing of your personal data, to object to the processing, and the right to data portability.

You have consented to provide your personal data to the data controller for the present processing operation. You can withdraw your consent at any time by notifying DG AGRI, Unit B.4 (acting on behalf of the European Commission) at [AGRI-B4@ec.europa.eu](mailto:AGRI-B4@ec.europa.eu). The withdrawal of your consent will not affect the lawfulness of the processing carried out before you have withdrawn the consent.

You can exercise your rights by contacting the data controller, or in case of conflict the Data Protection Officer. If necessary, you can also address the European Data Protection Supervisor/the national supervisory authority.

## *9. Contact information*

**COPA –COGECA**, Address: Rue de Trèves 61, Functional mailbox: mail@copa-cogeca.eu

**IFOAM Organics Europe**, Address: Rue Marie Thérèse 11, 1000 Brussels, Functional mailbox: gdpr@organicseurope.bio

### The European Data Protection Supervisor (EDPS)

You have the right to have recourse (i.e. you can lodge a complaint) to the European Data Protection Supervisor ([edps@edps.europa.eu](mailto:edps@edps.europa.eu)) if you consider that your rights under Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 have been infringed as a result of the processing of your personal data by the Data Controller.

## *10. Where to find more detailed information?*

The Commission Data Protection Officer (DPO) publishes the register of all processing operations on personal data by the Commission, which have been documented and notified to him. You may access the register via the following link: <http://ec.europa.eu/dpo-register>.

This specific processing operation has been included in the DPO's public register with the following Record reference: **DPR-EC-13909**.