European Committee of the Regions

DATA PROTECTION NOTICE

Echoes of EuroPCom

1. Introduction

The *European Committee of the Regions* (hereafter "CoR") is committed to respecting and protecting your personal data in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2018/1725.

"*Echoes of EuroPCom*" is a bridging initiative, aiming to extend the impact beyond the 2025 annual conference of *EuroPCom*, by proposing to its community a series of activities, which naturally lead to the 2026 edition.

It will take the form of a flexible, year-round circuit of online/ in presence activities, including workshops, trainings, *LinkedIn Live sessions* and interviews, all designed to keep momentum, deepen connections, explore ongoing developments in the field of public communication and engage with our community.

In addition, we strive to interact more actively with CoR members and Young Elected Politicians (YEPs).

The *EuroPCom* community is invited to register for the event on the dedicated webpage (EU Survey). The registration will be open for a small period prior each event.

2. Who is responsible for the processing of personal data?

Echoes of EuroPCom, is organised by the European Committee of the Regions/ Directorate D Communication / Unit D.2 Events and local dialogues.

The CoR is in charge of the general management, coordination and program of the initiative; the participants registration system; the videoconferencing/recording/broadcast management; the institutional communication activities; implementing surveys before/during/after the event; the assessment and reporting.

The CoR (as controller) is responsible for the collection and processing of your personal data. The delegated controller, notably Unit D2 – Events and Local Dialogues, is the service within the CoR tasked with carrying out these processing activities (contact details: europcom@cor.europa.eu).

3. What is the purpose of the processing?

Your personal data will be processed in order to:

- Register you to to the specific event of *Echoes of EuroPCom*, that you applied for.
- Perform the selection of participants/attendees and the link to the corresponding category of participants for specific organisational and administrative reasons such as: speakers, moderator, journalists, communication and other experts, MEPs, MPs, CoR Members, CoR Staff, YEPs, EU Councillors, influencers, researchers, etc.;
- Provide you access to the venue (when the event is physical), accordingly to the current accreditation system for visiting the CoR (when the event is on-site/hybrid);
- Provide you online access to the conference (when the event is on-line/hybrid);
- Grant you access to various hosted, newly presented communication, conference and engagement tools, some of them in pilot mode (with your consent only);
- Provide you useful guidelines/instructions on this particular event;
- Coordinate, manage and execute the event;
- Share your first and last name (and the nickname you choose for yourself when accessing the meeting platform) with the other participants by participating online to the event;
- Evaluate questionnaires during the registration process and surveys sent out before, during and after the event (with your consent only);
- Analyse participants' opinions and statements (voluntarily given), about their experience related to the event, to improve CoR reachout capacity;
- Present speakers and moderators (contributors to the event), by using their CVs, biography and photos on the event website and to promote the event on CoR social media and any other media channels.
- Send you invitations to future events that the CoR may organise (with your consent only);

Special Data Protection Notices (DPNs) apply for digital tools, some AI-powered, that might be used during the events of *Echoes of EuroPCom* , as well for Security and IT enforced measures (e.g. accreditation, video surveillance, etc.). Please check our special-per-case DPNs at CoR's Data protection webpage.

During the event, participants may be invited to voluntarily test or interact with third-party communication, engagement, or conferencing tools. These tools are offered outside the scope of the event's data processing operations and are not managed or controlled by the event organisers and are not covered by this Data Protection Notice. If you choose to use such tools, which is entirely optional, please be aware that your personal data will be processed under the responsibility of the respective third-party service providers, in accordance with their own privacy policies. We strongly encourage you to read and understand the privacy notice of each tool before participating. Links to the relevant policies are available via the event registration platform.

Echoes of EuroPCom events may be subject to live web streaming, audio and video recording, and photography (both on-site and through screen captures during online participation). These recordings may include:

- Speakers and participants, and
- Group photographs of participants and organizers.

Such materials may be published on institutional websites, social media platforms, and other communication channels for purposes related to event promotion, documentation, and transparency.

Note that it is possible for on-site events, to express the wish not to appear in pictures and/or videos by getting a "NO PHOTO" badge at the reception on the day of the event and to wear that badge during the whole duration of the event.

The CoR is not responsible for recordings, such as videos and photos (recorded, screen-captured, etc.) made by participants in their private capacity.

4. What is the legal basis for the processing?

The legal basis for the processing of your personal data collected for the organisation and management of this series of events under the name "*Echoes of EuroPCom"* by the CoR is Article 5(1)(a) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1725, in accordance with which the processing is necessary for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest or in the exercise of official authority vested in a Union institution or body. The CoR exercises its tasks as set out in Articles 300 and 305-307 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

The processing of your personal data, that is not falling under the above mentioned legal bases, will be carried out based on your consent (Article 5(1)(d) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1725.

5. What personal data are processed?

The following personal data will be processed:

- Information necessary for your registration and your participation in the event (including selection, categorization, access to online sessions, etc.):
  First name, last name, email address, age group, country of origin, name of organisation, type of company/institution/organisation, function, gender, choice for physical or on-line attendance.
- Information necessary for access to the conference venue (in case of not possessing an EU official badge), the following personal data will be processed:
  First name, last name, email address.
- Information necessary for implementing the event:
  Photos, audio and videos taken during the event (recordings and webstreaming), including if you are speaking during a conference or a meeting.

- Information useful for event's purposes (with your consent), by participating in answering to surveys and/or in activities presenting/using new communication, conference and engagement tools:
  First name; last name; email address; country; gender; age group; type of company/institution/organisation; function.

- Additionally in case you are a speaker or a moderator (contributor to the event):
  photo, title, short biography (CV) provided by you, social media identifier if applicable, video and audio when you are speaking during the conference, photos and videos taken during the conference.

Your consent is requested for:

- Including you in participants' list containing your name and affiliation, which will be shared among participants;
- Receiving invitations to future events the CoR may organise;
- Participating in activities of the *Echoes of EuroPCom* initiative, presenting and/or using new communication, conference and engagement tools, hosted in the event and governed by third party Privacy Policies;
- Participating to voluntary surveys related to this and other CoR events and accepting the collection (and thus the processing) of this information to improve this and other CoR events, as well as for research purposes.

Depended by the specific event (mode of implementation, content, objectives), the aforementioned personal data that will not be considered as absolute necessary, will not be collected.

6. Who are the recipients or categories of recipients of your personal data?

The recipients of your data will be:

- CoR staff in charge of coordinating, organising, managing and following-up this event;

Under certain conditions defined by law, we may disclose your information to third parties (such as the European Anti-Fraud Office, the Court of Auditors or law enforcement authorities) if it is necessary and proportionate for lawful, specific purposes.

We will never share your personal data for direct marketing purposes.

Photographs (recorded or screen-captured) and/or audio and video recordings could be published in the context of the *Echoes of EuroPCom* initiative and in the framework of CoR activities on the web, including via CoR social media. If necessary, the files containing the video materials may be slightly altered (for example, brightness and contrast).

Live streaming, video recordings, and photography may take place during Echoes of *EuroPCom* events. This includes recordings and screen captures of speakers and participants, as well as group photographs of attendees and organisers. These materials may be published during or after the event in the context of *Echoes of EuroPCom* series and *EuroPCom*'s communication and promotional activities.

We use third-party social media platforms (Facebook, X [formerly Twitter], LinkedIn, Instagram, and YouTube) to promote *Echoes of EuroPCom* series and *EuroPCom* and share information about the event. Please note that when interacting with our content on these platforms, your personal data may be processed according to the terms and conditions of the respective platforms, which operate under their own privacy policies. We are not responsible for the availability or functioning of these external services, nor for how they process personal data. We recommend that users consult the privacy policies of each platform to understand how their data may be collected, used, and how they can exercise their rights: *Facebook*, *X*, *LinkedIn*, *Instagram* and *YouTube*

If you have any concerns or questions about these communication providers' use of your personal data, you should read their privacy policies carefully before using them.

Our social media moderation policy

The European Committee of the Regions is present on social media to communicate about its work and better engage with the public. We are present on Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram, and YouTube and we encourage you to share our content and take part in our discussions. Please note the accounts we follow are not an indication of our endorsement.

The CoR social media accounts are managed by the CoR social media team in Unit D3 and are monitored daily to the greatest possible extent, but not on a 24-hour basis.

We are happy to see different views and opinions on our social media accounts, however we ask you to observe a fundamental principle of good behaviour. Please show respect to fellow users and avoid inflammatory, insulting or offensive language. We reserve the right to not respond to, hide or delete all the comments that are defamatory, racist, spam, repetitive, irrelevant and/or commercial. Users that post violent, threatening or clearly illegal content will be blocked. We encourage you to post comments that stick to the subject and contribute to the ongoing debates.

7. Are your personal data transferred to a third country or international organisation?

Your personal data are not transferred to non-EU member states or to international organisations, apart the communication by Internet and social media.

8. How can you exercise your rights?

You have the right to access your personal data, to rectify any inaccurate or incomplete personal data, to restrict (under certain conditions) the processing of your personal data, to request the deletion of your personal data (if processed unlawfully) and, where applicable, the right to data portability.

You have the right to object to the processing of your data on grounds relating to your particular situation, at any time.

You also have the right to withdraw your consent at any time. Please note that the withdrawal of consent will not have retroactive effect.

You can direct your queries to the responsible service (delegated controller) for processing your personal data, CoR/Directory D/-Unit D2-Events and Local Dialogues, at europcom@cor.europa.eu. Your query will be dealt without undue delay and in any event within one month of the receipt of the request. That period may be extended by two further months where necessary.

You have the right to lodge a complaint with the European Data Protection Supervisor by using the contact form 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 CoR.

9. How long are your personal data kept for?

Your data (excluding photos, audio and video recordings that have been published,) will be kept for a maximum of 12 months after the end of the last event that will be held in the framework of the *Echoes of EuroPCom* initiative.

If you are a contributor e.g. speaker, moderators, etc. that benefits from reimbursement by the CoR, your personal data could be kept up to 10 years after final payment, for archive and auditor reasons.

Contributors' names, photos, audio and video recordings, from the conference, will remain in that format indefinitely or until there is a specific request from the person concerned to have his or her personal data deleted.

10. Are the personal data collected used for automated decision-making, including profiling?

The CoR will not use your personal data to make automated decisions about you. "Automated decisions" are defined as decisions made without human intervention.

11. Will your personal data be further processed for a purpose other than that for which data have been obtained?

Your personal data will not be further processed for a different purpose.

12. Who do I contact if I have queries or complaints?

If you have any further questions about the processing of your personal data, please contact first the unit in charge of the processing of your personal data: D2- Events and Local Dialogues (europcom@cor.europa.eu).

You may also contact the Data Protection Officer of the CoR by using the email dataprotection@cor.europa.eu and/or the European Data Protection Supervisor by using the contact form at any time.