

Information on the processing of personal data in the research project related to Una Europa Virtual Exchanges for Sustainability (UnaVEx)

The research project related to UnaVEx involves processing of personal data. The purpose of this data protection notice is to provide information on the personal data to be processed, from where they are obtained and how they are used. Detailed information on the rights of data subjects will be provided at the end of this notice.

Your participation in the research project and provision of personal data are voluntary. If you do not wish to participate in the project or you wish to withdraw from it, you can do so without negative consequences.

1. Data Controller

University of Helsinki
Address: PO Box (Fabianinkatu 33), 00014 University of Helsinki, Finland

2. Contact person and principal investigator

Contact person in matters concerning the research project:
Name: Julia Karhumaa
Faculty/department/unit: Institute for Atmospheric and Earth System Research
Address: P.O. Box 64, FI-00014 University of Helsinki
Email: julia.karhumaa@helsinki.fi

Principal investigator:

Name: Laura Riuttanen
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Phone: +358 504154746
Email: laura.riuttanen@helsinki.fi

3. Contact details of the data protection officer

You can contact the University of Helsinki data protection officer via email at tietosuoja@helsinki.fi.

4. Description of the research project and the purpose of processing personal data

UnaVEx (Una Europa Virtual Exchanges for Sustainability, 2024—2027) is a three-year collaborative ERASMUS+ project involving universities from Finland, Italy, Belgium, South Africa, Kenya and Democratic Republic of the Congo. UnaVEx associated partner universities include Panthéon-Sorbonne University, Universidad Complutense de Madrid, University College Dublin, Freie Universität Berlin, Leiden University and Jagiellonian University; UnaEuropa–Africa Partnership Universities of the project are Makerere University and University of the Witwatersrand. The project focuses on key thematic areas such as "global sustainability", "interdisciplinarity", "environmental awareness" and "green transition". UnaVEx offers an opportunity for virtual workshopping and promotes university students' participation in Una Europa Micro-credential in Sustainability.

As part of the UnaVEx initiative, the University of Helsinki will conduct research on sustainability learning in online environments. The goal is to develop a concept for virtual exchanges and enhance online sustainability education. This research will be conducted solely by the University of Helsinki, independent of collaboration with other UnaVEx partner organizations. All participant responses will be anonymized, and aside from the basic information, the data will be used exclusively for research purposes and will not be shared with other UnaVEx partners. Participant names will be collected to link pre- and post-questionnaire responses, after which all data will be processed anonymously. Only the researcher and the principal investigator will have access to identifiable information. The published findings will not include any details that could reveal participant identities. Participants may be contacted for follow-up research. Participating in follow-up research will be entirely voluntary.

5. Personal data included in the research data

This research will include the following participant personal data: full name, email address, organization, country of the organization, study field, the stage of studies, native language and gender.

6. Sources of personal data

The research data will be obtained using electronic questionnaires (elomake.helsinki.fi)

7. Sensitive personal data

This research does not contain processing of sensitive data

8. Lawful basis for processing personal data

Personal data are processed on the following basis (Article 6(1) of the GDPR):

☐ Task carried out in the public interest:

- ☐ Scientific or historical research purposes or statistical purposes
- ☐ Consent by the research subject

If the processing of personal data is based on the research subject's consent, he or she can withdraw that consent at any time. The withdrawal of consent does not affect the lawfulness of processing based on consent before its withdrawal.

9. Recipients of data

The participants' full name and email address will be shared with the CLUVEX organization team consisting of the personnel of academic institutions of Odessa I.I. Mechnikov National University, Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv, Yerevan State University & University of Copenhagen, for the organization of the CLUVEX virtual exchange. Other responses will be processed only by the researcher and principal investigator.

10. Transfer of data to countries outside the European Economic Area

The participants' full name and email address will be shared with the project organizers including for the organization of the virtual exchange week. Without anonymisation, the data will not be shared outside of the University of Helsinki. Aside from the basic information, the data will be processed anonymously.

11. Protection of personal data

Personal data included in the research dataset will be processed and kept protected so that only those who need the data can access them.

The data processed in data systems will be protected using the following:

- ☐ Username and password

Processing direct identifiers:

- ☐ Direct identifiers will be removed during the analysis stage and kept separate from the analysed research data.

12. Duration of the processing of personal data in this research project:

Personal data will be processed until the end of the UnaVEx project in 2027, with an additional retention period of one year. For research purposes, the data will be retained and utilized until 2030.

13. Processing of personal data when the research project ends

- ☐ The research data will be deleted

The storage of the research data is based on Article 5(1)(b) and (e) of the GDPR.
Data subjects will receive a new data protection notice on the new use of the research data,

unless the controller can no longer identify the subjects from the data.

In addition, the data subjects will not be informed of the new research if delivering this information to them is impossible or involves a disproportionate effort or renders impossible or seriously impairs the achievement of the research objectives (Article 14(5)(b) of the GDPR).

Where and for how long will the data be stored:

Data with identification will be archived in the data security network folder that can be accessed only with double authentication by the researcher and the PI until 2030.

14. Rights of data subjects and derogations from those rights

The contact person in matters related to research subjects' rights is the contact person stated in section 1 of this notice.

Rights of data subjects

Under the General Data Protection Regulation, data subjects have the following rights:

- Right of access to their own data
- Right to rectification of their data
- Right to the erasure of their data and to be forgotten
- Right to the restriction of processing of their data
- Right to data portability from one controller to another
- Right to object to the processing of their data
- Right not to be subject to automated decision-making

However, data subjects cannot exercise all their rights in all circumstances. The circumstances are affected by, for example, the legal basis for processing personal data.

Further information on the rights of data subjects in various circumstances can be found on the website of the Data Protection Ombudsman: <https://tietosuoja.fi/en/what-rights-do-data-subjects-have-in-different-situations>.

Derogations from rights

The General Data Protection Regulation and the Finnish Data Protection Act enable derogations from certain rights of data subjects if personal data are processed for the purposes of scientific research and the rights are likely to render impossible or seriously impair the achievement of the research purposes.

The need for derogations from the rights of data subjects will always be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

Right to appeal

If you consider that the processing of your personal data has been carried out in breach of data protection laws, you have the right to appeal to the Office of the Data Protection

Ombudsman.

Contact details:

Office of the Data Protection Ombudsman

Street address: Ratapihantie 9, 6th floor, 00520 Helsinki

Postal address: PO Box 800, 00521 Helsinki

Phone (switchboard): 029 56 66700

Fax: 029 56 66735

Email: tietosuoja(at)om.fi