PRIVACY STATEMENT

This privacy statement provides information about the processing and the protection of your personal data.

Processing operation: Study on the Implementation of the Council Recommendation on a European Approach to Micro-credentials for Lifelong Learning and Employability.

Data Controller: Verian Group.

Table of Contents

1. Introduction 2
2. Why do we process your personal data? 2
3. What personal information do we collect and through which technical means? 2
4. What legal framework applies to the processing of your personal data? 3
5. Who has access to your information and to whom is it disclosed? 3
6. How do we protect and safeguard your information? 3
7. How long will we keep your data? 3
8. How can you verify, modify or delete your information? 3

1. Introduction

This privacy statement explains why Verian processes personal data in connection with the EU survey for providers of small learning offers, carried out for the Study on the Implementation of the Council Recommendation on a European Approach to Micro-credentials for Lifelong Learning and Employability, how the data are collected, used and protected, how long they are retained, who may access them, and what rights you have.

2. Why do we process your personal data?

The European Commission (Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture – DG EAC) contracted Verian Group (formerly Public Policy and Management Institute, PPMI) to implement the "Study on the Implementation of the Council Recommendation on a European Approach to Micro-credentials for Lifelong Learning and Employability". The study provides evidence for the Commission's report to the Council on implementation of the 2022 Council Recommendation on a European approach to micro-credentials for lifelong learning and employability.

The study examines how micro-credentials are designed and issued and how national and institutional ecosystems are developing across 28 education and training systems in the European Union. It covers higher education, vocational education and training, and labour-market provision. The survey gathers evidence on implementation, quality assurance, qualifications frameworks, recognition and portability, funding, employer engagement, inclusion, barriers, EU added value and future policy needs. Survey findings will inform country factsheets, the comparative report and other study deliverables.

3. What personal information do we collect and through which technical means?

Personal data and their purpose

The personal data collected before the survey may include name, surname, e-mail address, position and organisation. Such personal data may have been provided by the European Commission (DG EAC), by nominated national contact points, or may be available online on the websites of the respective organisations and institutions. Personal data will only be used by Verian when contacting respondents to participate in the survey and for organising the consultation activities. Through the survey, we will collect data on opinions, expectations and experiences related to the theme of the study.

The survey does not ask for the respondent's name or contact details. It asks for the name, country and type of the respondent's organisation and the respondent's role, which will be used only to describe and analyse the responses. Provision of personal data is not mandatory. Your personal data will not be used for automated decision-making, including profiling.

Technical information

The survey will be conducted online, using the Forsta Plus platform. Answers are saved as the respondent moves through the questionnaire, and respondents can stop at any time and return later using the same link. Analysis will be carried out by Verian.

4. What legal framework applies to the processing of your personal data?

All the data gathering activities conducted in the framework of the survey comply with the requirements of Regulation (EU) 2016/679 (General Data Protection Regulation, GDPR) and applicable data-protection legislation. Where personal data are provided to or otherwise processed by the European Commission in connection with the study, such processing is subject to Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies.

5. Who has access to your information and to whom is it disclosed?

All the collected data will be treated confidentially. Only the research team will be able to identify the respondent and this information will not be disclosed. The information you provide will be analysed and presented in project reports together with the information from other participants and sources, and hence no personal information will be revealed and no person or organisation will be named. The raw data (survey responses) will be stored on the internal servers of Verian protected by passwords that are only known to researchers conducting the study.

Verian does not transmit any personal data to other parties.

6. How do we protect and safeguard your information?

The personal data and all data collected from the survey respondents through the Forsta Plus platform will be stored on a server at Verian. The server is equipped with mirror backup system to prevent any unauthorised disclosure or access, accidental or unlawful destruction or accidental loss, or alteration, and to prevent all other unlawful forms of processing. The server facilities are looked after by IT professionals to avoid malfunctioning of the hardware and keep the data on the server safe from viruses and other malicious software which could compromise the security of data.

7. How long will we keep your data?

All the raw data collected through the survey programme will be deleted by the contractor Verian within six months after the end of the contract, no later than January 2028. Only anonymised and aggregated data collected in the survey (opinions and experiences) will be used for the study reports and deliverables that might be stored in an online repository and be available for use by third parties.

8. How can you verify, modify or delete your information?

In case you want to verify, modify, correct or delete your personal data, please contact us by using the Contact Information indicated below and by explicitly specifying your request.

Study controller	Verian Group (formerly PPMI)
Address	Gedimino pr. 50, LT-01110 Vilnius, Lithuania
Data-protection contact	personaldata.lt@veriangroup.com
Project contact	micro-credentials-study@veriangroup.com