Privacy Policy

Last updated: Brussels, 19 November 2026

1. Introduction

This privacy policy regulation determines how and why the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR) collects, processes, stores, and protects your personal and public data on the European Charter for Equality website.

The website is designed to enable European local and regional governments to create profiles, upload their information as signatories of the Charter, local action plans and all the data they want to share to the public on promoting gender equality. The data is only shared upon the consensus of the user.

CEMR respects the privacy of each user and is committed to safeguarding the security of each personal data uploaded unto the website in compliance with the **General Data Protection Regulation (EU) 2016/679**, known as GDPR and other relevant data protection laws at the national and international levels.

This policy document applies to all personal data processed through the website and aims to inform the user on:

- What data is collected
- How and CEMR uses the data
- Why CEMR needs the data
- How data is retained
- How CEMR protects the data
- Users' rights under the GDPR
- How the data is tracked
- Document updates and implications

For any questions concerning your users' rights or the usage of data by CEMR, contact the respective team at: privacy[at]ccre-cemr.org

2. Data collection

When the user registers itself to the European Charter for Equality website and completes the fields required, they voluntarily provide the following data:

- **About the government authority**
  - Name of local authority
  - Country
  - Type of local authority: town/municipality + department/province + region
  - Number of inhabitants: < 1.000 + 1.000 - 5.000 + 5.000 - 20.000 + 20.000 - 100.000 + 100.000 - 500.000 + >500.000
  - Website of local authority
  - Web page on gender equality policies
- **Contact person responsible for the users' profile**
  - Name
  - Surname
  - Job Title
  - Email
- **Information on the Charter and the actions launched by the user**
  - Date of the signature of the Charter
  - Do you have an equality action plan? – upload action plan
    - Yes
    - In preparation
    - No
  - Is/are the implemented action plan(s) related to the articles on the Charter
  - Date of implementation
  - Indicate whether is the first action plan: Yes + No
  - Main articles covered by the action plan: Multiple choice (Charter articles – 30)
  - Indicate the methods applied and/or activities undertaken:
    - Gender mainstream methods
      - Gender budgeting
      - Gender analysis/ Gender assessment
      - Gender statistics
      - Other gender mainstreaming method
    - Activities undertaken
      - Promotion of the charter
      - Conference/Seminar on equality related topics
      - Gender equality training for staff/managers/elected representatives
      - Work with NGOs

- Consultation of experts
- Setting up of sectorial action plans
- Other activities

- Any other relevant documentation

The user has the choice as well to share good practices that have been implemented in his region/province/city/municipality/town and upload files that demonstrate such actions that have been taken to promote gender equality.

Automatically collected data

When users access the website, certain technical and usage information may be collected automatically through analytics and monitoring tools. This may include information relating to website usage, user interactions, page views, session duration, and other aggregated statistical data. Such information is processed exclusively for the purposes of maintaining and improving the website, analysing its performance, ensuring its security, and producing internal reports and statistics.

Third-Party data sources

CEMR may receive data from trusted third parties such as its national associations or partner organisations, if they have a legal basis to share this information. The data is not to be sold nor shared outside the organisation values and the Charter objectives and mission.

The website nor the platform collects personal data such as health, political affiliations, religious believes. Data that is not relevant to the website will not be collected nor displayed. Data not respecting the guidelines and rules of the website may be rejected and deleted from the website.

3. Data usage

The data collected through the website follows these purposes:

- Showcase: the actions and efforts dedicated by a local and regional government on promoting gender equality.
- Connect: with other local and regional governments.
- Share: best practices and knowledge that can help the user in applying the articles mentioned in the Charter.

Legal basis for processing data: the users' data is processed based on the following legal grounds:

- Consent: when the user registers to the website and provides data, the user agrees on the privacy policy and on exposing the information online.
- Legitimate interests: to fulfil the Charter's mission on promoting gender equality at the local, regional and national level(s).

4. Data sharing

Information related to signatories will be made available to website users at different levels of access:

- About the government authority (The following information is accessible for everyone consulting the European Charter for Equality website)
    - Name of local authority
    - Country
    - Type of local authority: town/municipality + department/province + region
    - Number of inhabitants: < 1.000 + 1.000 - 5.000 + 5.000 - 20.000 + 20.000 - 100.000 + 100.000 - 500.000 + >500.000
    - Website of local authority
    - Web page on gender equality policies
- Contact person responsible for the users' profile (The following information is only accessible to Charter signatories whose profiles have already been created and validated on the platform)
    - Title
    - Name
    - Surname
    - Job Title
    - Email
- Information on the Charter and the actions launched by the user (The following information is only accessible to Charter signatories whose profiles have already been created and validated on the platform)
    - Title
    - Date of the signature of the Charter
    - Setting up of an equality action plan for the local/regional authority – upload action plan
    - Is/are the implemented action plan(s) related to the articles on the Charter
    - Date of implementation

- Indicate whether is the first action plan: Yes + No
- Main articles covered by the action plan: Multiple choice (Charter articles – 30)
- Indicate the methods applied and/or activities undertaken:
  - Gender mainstream methods
    - Gender budgeting
    - Gender analysis/ Gender assessment
    - Gender statistics
    - Other gender mainstreaming method
  - Activities undertaken
    - Promotion of the charter
    - Conference/Seminar on equality related topics
    - Gender equality training for staff/managers/elected representatives
    - Work with NGOs
    - Consultation of experts
    - Setting up of sectorial action plans

- Any other relevant documentation (The following information is only accessible to Charter signatories whose profiles have already been created and validated on the platform)
  - Title

CEMR may share the user's data for internal purposes such as:

- Service providers: third-party vendors or IT providers who assist in hosting, maintaining or securing the website and the platform. These parties are bound by data processing and collecting agreements and confidentiality obligations.
- Legal or regulatory authorities: if required to comply with a legal obligation, court order or law enforcement request.

The data is not meant to be sold or shared with third parties for commercial objectives.

The personal data of the user will not be transferred to or stored in countries outside the European Union (EU). All data collected via the website will be stored on secure servers located within the EU, in compliance with applicable data protection regulations.

5. Data retention

The data is retained by CEMR for as long as it is necessary to achieve the purposes outlined in this Policy, including:

- Maintaining your profile active on the website
- Display the information on promoting gender equality
- Complying with legal obligations or resolving disputes

If you choose to deactivate or delete your account, CEMR will delete or make the data invisible to the public, except when retention is legally required or justified for legitimate purposes (e.g., backup systems).

6. Data security

CEMR, with the help of the IT provider agency, implements robust technical and organisational measures to safeguard the users' data, including:

- Secure servers and encryption technologies to protect data in transit and at rest.
- Access controls to restrict data access to authorised personnel only.
- Regular monitoring and security audits of the website and its backend.

However, no online platform nor website can guarantee absolute cybersecurity. The user is therefore responsible for maintaining the confidentiality of its login credentials and information and notifying CEMR immediately if there is a situation of hacking, a suspicious activity or an unauthorised access.

7. Users' rights

Under the GDPR, the user has the following rights:

- Right to access: user may request a copy of the personal data CEMR has through the website.
- Right to rectification: user may request CEMR staff to correct inaccurate or incomplete data.
- Right to erasure: user may request the deletion of data under certain conditions.
- Right to restrict processing: the user can limit how the data is processed in specific circumstances.
- Right to data portability: user can obtain data in a structured, commonly used format to transfer to another organisation.
- Right to object: user can object to data processing where it is based on legitimate interests or used for direct marketing.

The user can review their rights by contact CEMR at privacy[at]ccre-cemr.org.

If the users' rights have been violated or not in conformity with CEMR's privacy policy and GDPR rules, the user can lodge a complaint with their local data protection authority. For contact information, visit https://edpb.europa.eu/aboutedpb/board/members_en.

8. Cookies and tracking technologies

Under the GDPR, CEMR may use cookies and similar technologies to:

- Enhance user experience by remembering preferences and log-in credentials.
- Analyse user behaviour to improve functionalities and services.
- Report and audits to ensure the continuity and performance of the website.

9. Policy updates

CEMR may update this Policy from time to time to reflect changes in legal, technical, or operational requirements.

Significant updates will be communicated via email to the users.

The last updated date in the first page of this Policy document indicates the most recent changes.

The user, by continuing to use the website after the updates, acknowledges the revised Policy.