



Valletta, 25th of November 2018

## **Guidelines (General Instructions) compliance with the Data Protection Regulation when using EASO-sponsored Cloud services**

### **Introduction**

The following guidelines frame the boundaries of acceptable usage of EASO information assets whenever using EASO contracted cloud services for processing<sup>1</sup> personal data<sup>2</sup>.

As a general instruction, EASO's stakeholders must ensure compliance with the Regulation applicable to all EU agencies and bodies. In the particular case of this guideline, with the Regulation (EU) No 2018/1725 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2018 on the protection of natural persons. This regulation regards to the processing of personal data by the Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies and on the free movement of such data. This provision implies, amongst others, that EASO must take all necessary measures to ensure the confidentiality of the personal data it processes and implement adequate safeguards to prevent any unauthorised disclosure of the personal data.

### **Privacy Statement**

For the purposes of the application of these guidelines, any collection of personal data for the creation and usage of a cloud account shall be processed by EASO staff in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 2018/1725 and in accordance with the Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council (commonly known as GDPR) when processed by external stakeholders. For data collected by EASO ICT, the controller is joao.fernandes@easo.europa.eu. For data processed by Microsoft the please see the derogations applied to EASO's Microsoft volume licensing contract in Annex 1, and, in particular, line d) on General Data Protection Regulation ("GDPR") there written. The data collected by EASO ICT will be processed only for the purpose of creating and managing the cloud accounts. The recipients of the data are EASO's ICT team. Replies for the creation of the account are voluntary, however, EASO staff or guest accounts who do not reply with the necessary data to create the account, will not be able to use the EASO cloud facilities. To access or correct personal data provided to EASO ICT please contact the controller to have the information updated. You may contact EASO's DPO in case of any difficulties or for any questions relating to the processing

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<sup>1</sup> Processing personal data includes any operation performed on personal data. Even consultation of a file that contains personal data falls under the definition of "processing".

<sup>2</sup> Please be advised that the term "personal data" refers to any information that can lead to a person being identified on the basis of that data. A person may be identified, directly or indirectly, in particular by reference to an identifier such as a name, an identification number, location data, an online identifier or to one or more factors specific to the physical, physiological, genetic, mental, economic, cultural or social identity of that natural person.

of your personal data at the following e-mail address: (dpo@easo.europa.eu). You also have the right to obtain further assurance via the European Data Protection Supervisor (edps@edps.europa.eu).

## **Guidelines**

In the context of using cloud services provided by cloud providers under contract with EASO, users have to take into consideration the following general principles whenever processing files that contain personal data:

### **1. Need-to-know principle on data sharing**

One of the reasoning behind choosing to use a cloud service is, naturally, to allow different users to access content remotely, from various locations. However, taking into consideration the need to comply with the Data Protection Regulation, this form of content sharing must be governed by a strict “need to know” principle whenever **content that contain personal data is processed via a cloud platform and shared with other users**.

This means that whenever a user uploads content that contain personal data to the cloud platform and decides to share it with other users in the platform, the user must pay careful consideration to whom he/she decides to share the content.

The “need to know” principle means that this type of information is shared only with those users that have a justified need to have access to this information. The opposite of this would be to share such content indiscriminately with a wide range of users (for example whole sector or unit). In many cases, this would be a breach of confidentiality of the personal data included in that content, as it is unlikely that all users within the broad group would absolutely need to have access to that file in order to perform the tasks required of them.

In other words, whenever uploading and deciding on sharing a professional file or content that contains personal data, the user must assess the list of other users that he/she decides to share the content. This decision must be rooted on the specific tasks of the “recipients” in relation to that specific file (i.e. the file must be shared strictly with those users that need to have access to the information in order to perform their specific tasks).

One good example of this would be a case file (in the hotspots) which does not have to be shared with a large number of users, quite on the contrary – a limited number of staff should have access to this file (at various stages). This consideration takes special importance whenever deciding to share information with external users (users without a @easo.europa.eu account).

### **2. Copying of files in shared drives to local folders on personal devices**

Given the need to have a controlled cloud environment to ensure the privacy of the data, users should not copy/download files and content to personal devices. This facility should be performed strictly from/to EASO devices.

### **3. Deciding the ownership of content**

The structure and configuration of the cloud-based systems entails the need to have content ownership. This means that in order to ensure proper functionality, each information asset must have an owner – a user that is responsible for the sharing of the information onto the cloud service and that also decides on the need to share this information with other users (taking into account point i. – the need to know principle).

#### 4. Acceptable usage of ICT resources applies

The EASO policy<sup>3</sup> on acceptable usage of ICT resources applies to cloud-based information and services.

#### 5. Shared files are not guest-enabled, only shared folders

Users of the cloud-based platforms must take into account that, when sharing individual content with either anonymous or named guest users (users without a @easo.europa.eu account), are implicitly granting access to information that does not require authentication to the platform and, therefore, does not require acceptance of the provisions herewith.

On the other hand, when sharing structured content with guest users (users without a @easo.europa.eu account) coupled with the capacity to edit the content, the user of EASO's platforms acknowledges responsibility to highlight to the guest(s), prior to granting the access, the need to observe and acknowledge the regulations and the guidelines here enclosed.

#### 6. Retention of data

Users should verify regularly the need to have content online and to maintain the share of the content they own. While retention policies are in place in cloud facilities, they come into force only after the user account is marked for deletion, upon which the user content is deleted after a 30 day period.

It is therefore of essence that the user takes duty of care and applies the provisions that regulate the Document Management and Retention Schedule rules of EASO. As such, is recommended that for cloud content that is **no longer used or needed**, a maximum interval of 6 months of existence in the cloud facilities apply after the expiration of the business need. This is particularly true in the case of operational files, where a strict cut-off date must be observed. Whenever the file is handed over to the third parties, the content (including any personal data) should no longer be stored on any EASO ICT equipment.

After this expiration interval elapses, the user is required, if applicable, to move the expired content from the cloud to the ERDMS for long term storage and retention, in accordance with EASO's policies and applicable retention schedules.

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<sup>3</sup> [https://erdms.easo.europa.eu/exo/es/public/Legal%20Framework/Policies/EASO\\_Pol\\_02\\_ICT.pdf](https://erdms.easo.europa.eu/exo/es/public/Legal%20Framework/Policies/EASO_Pol_02_ICT.pdf)



















































