



ERGA Privacy Notice

The [European Reference Genome Atlas](#) (ERGA) initiative, which is the European hub of the [Earth BioGenome Project](#), is charged with the mission of coordinating the generation of high quality reference genomes for all European eukaryotic biodiversity through connecting scientists and genomics infrastructures across Europe. As a fast-growing consortium with a member base of over 500 researchers across 48 countries, ERGA collects some of your personal data. ERGA is committed to protecting and respecting your privacy. This privacy notice will explain how we handle any personal data we collect from you both directly or indirectly through our online resources in compliance with the European Union (EU) General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

What is 'personal data'?

Personal data includes any information that is related to an identified or identifiable natural person, as stipulated in the GDPR.

What personal data do ERGA collect?

ERGA collects personal data at the time of your registration with ERGA (i.e., name, title, country of residence, email, institutional affiliation, and professional area of interest). ERGA collects this personal data:

- To understand where our membership comes from geographically and scientifically;
- To understand the needs of our community (e.g. infrastructure, training, communication platforms, etc.);
- To communicate with its members.

ERGA also uses essential cookies. ERGA only collects the minimum amount of data required to fulfil these objectives.

Who controls the personal data collected by ERGA?

The ERGA Executive Board (data controller) determines the purposes for which (why) and the means by which (how) personal data are processed: contact the ERGA Executive Board via chairs [at] erga-biodiversity [dot] eu

How does ERGA collect your personal data?

ERGA collects your personal data when you register to become an ERGA member. Registration with ERGA is voluntary but it requires the collection of a minimal amount of your personal data. It is not possible to register without the collection of this personal data.

From time to time ERGA will also conduct surveys to gather information that help the organisation to respond to the needs of the community. Participation in these surveys is voluntary. If you decline to participate, this will in no way impact your membership and involvement in ERGA.

What is the legal basis for the collection of this personal data?

The legal basis for the collection of this personal information is for the purposes of the legitimate interests of ERGA.

How long will my personal data be retained?

Your personal data will be retained so long as you are a member of ERGA. To cancel your membership, you need to contact the ERGA Executive Board via [chairs \[at\] erga-biodiversity \[dot\] eu](mailto:chairs@erga-biodiversity.eu) (your personal data will then be deleted within a month).

Will my personal data be shared with third parties outside of ERGA?

ERGA may share aggregated data with third parties. You will not be identifiable. Your personal information will not be shared outside of ERGA without your permission.

Where will my personal data be stored?

Your personal data will be stored with [SWITCH](#), a Swiss foundation and the national research and education network organisation of Switzerland. Switzerland is subject to an adequacy decision of the European Commission.

What security measures are taken to protect my personal data?

Access is limited to only those within ERGA who require access to this personal information and who are authorised to do so, as decided by the ERGA Executive Board. SWITCH is ISO 27001 certified, satisfying the specifications for an information security management system defined by the international standard for information security.

What are my data protection rights?

You have the following rights as per the GDPR:

1. Right of access: you have the right to know what personal information ERGA holds about you;
2. Right to rectification: you have the right to request ERGA to rectify any inaccurate or incomplete information;
3. Right to erasure: you have the right to request that ERGA deletes the personal information it holds;
4. Right to restrict processing: you have the right to restrict ERGA's processing of personal information about you;
5. Right to object: you have the right to object to ERGA's processing of your personal information in certain circumstances;
6. Right to data portability: you have the right to move your personal information to another data controller;
7. Rights of automated decision making and profiling: you have the right not to be subject to a decision that is solely based on automated decision-making.

What are cookies?

Cookies are small pieces of data stored on a website visitor's browser. They are usually used to keep track of settings a user has selected and actions they have taken on the site.

How does ERGA use cookies?

ERGA uses cookies to enhance visitor experience on our website and to monitor and analyse performance, operation and effectiveness of our website. We also use cookies to ensure that the website is secure. The list below details the type of essential cookies we use on our website and their purpose:

- Security reasons: XSRF-TOKEN, hs, TS*;
- Connection with user login: svSession, smSession;
- Indicate system from which the site was rendered: SSR-caching;
- System monitoring/debugging: _wixCIDX,_wix_browser_sess;
- Consent banner parameters: consent-policy; and
- Effectiveness of website: bSession, fedoras.logger.sessionId, wixLanguage.

How to contact us?

If you would like to contact us about ERGA's privacy notice and the data we hold or you would like to exercise your data protection rights, please contact Ciara Staunton via [ciara \[dot\] staunton \[at\] eurac \[dot\] edu](mailto:ciara.staunton@eurac.edu).

How to contact the appropriate authority?

If we have not been able to satisfy your request, you have the right to complain to the Swiss Federal Data Protection and Information Commissioner (FDPIC), or to a European Economic Area data protection authority.

Changes to our privacy notice

ERGA carries out regular reviews of our privacy notice and updates information on the website accordingly. This privacy notice was last updated on 5 August 2021.