EU Health Policy Platform

IT Platform Terms and Conditions

Health

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EU Health Policy IT Platform

Terms and Conditions

Basic Terms

You are responsible for your use of the EU Health Policy IT Platform, for any content you publish and for the consequences that may result from publishing such content. Any content you publish on the IT Platform can be turned public by a function that will be accessible only to the moderators. By uploading your content on the IT Platform, you give your consent to its potential publication at the discretion of the moderator of the IT Platform.

There will be the following three distinct spaces in this platform, each one with different purposes and dynamics and with a specific kind of users:

- The <u>Agora Network</u> is an open discussion area accessible to all registered users. The latter will be able to discuss about public health topics, promote their events, share relevant information and key documents. It will also help DG Health and Food Safety to make the public health community aware of the latest developments (i.e. open consultations, final reports on policy issues, conferences organised).

- <u>Thematic Networks</u> are networks accessible to all registered users to discuss thematic issues. Each network will only contain one broad public health topic (i.e. dementia, sexual health). These networks can be public or private, depending on the theme discussed.

- <u>EU Expert and Stakeholder Groups Networks</u> are networks accessible to the established EU Expert and Stakeholder groups of DG Health and Food Safety to help them manage their work. These networks are private and the content of the discussion only visible to the members of those groups.

Depending on where you publish your content, your audience will differ: some users will be able to see it, others will not. In other words, if you publish in the

Agora Network, all users of the Platform will be able to read the content. If you publish in a Thematic Network, all users' part of that Network will be able to see your content. Please be aware that such publications should be related to the topic being discussed in that network. If you are a member of a DG Health and Food Safety EU Expert and Stakeholder Group, you may also post in your group's networks where only the members of those established EU groups will be able to see your content, unless the moderator decides to share it in other networks.

For more information on the EU Health Policy Platform, please visit the **working methods page**.

It will be your responsibility where you post your content. The European Commission cannot be held responsible for the leaking of documents due to a failure of the user to post it in the appropriate network.

The communication language of the IT Platform will be English. No other language shall be used. However, documents or links to websites published by users may be in any other language, provided that this does not purposefully exclude any particular users.

Moderator

The European Commission will act as moderator of the IT Platform. There will be two different kinds of moderators:

1. The Agora and the Thematic Networks (whether private or public) will be moderated by the responsible official for the EU Health Policy Platform project.
    a. The Thematic Networks will have a network leader which will deal with the coordination of the discussion in the network and receive support from the European Commission.
2. The EU Expert and Stakeholder Groups Networks will be moderated by the responsible official of the group in question.

Users

There will be 3 kinds of users in the EU Health Policy IT Platform:

1. **The European Commission staff.**
2. **Members of already established EU Expert and Stakeholder Groups of DG Health and Food Safety.**
3. **All health stakeholders meeting the following criteria:**

   I. Represent an organisation with an official operative email as no personal email addresses of individual persons are allowed: i.e. *funtimes@hotmail.com.* Stakeholders can register on the IT Platform as many individuals working for them as they need, always using their job email.

   II. Be international, national, regional or local entities. They must be established legally at least in one of the 28 EU Member States, Iceland or Norway or in countries which have a bilateral agreement with the European Union, in accordance with Article 6 of Regulation (EU) No 282/2014 on the establishment of a 3rd Health Programme for the Union's action in the field of health (2014-2020). Please, contact **SANTE-EU-HPF@ec.europa.eu** for an update on which countries have such an agreement.

   III. Be registered in the EU Transparency Registry and must directly and exclusively represent their own interests (meaning consultancies and law firms may not participate on behalf of clients).

   IV. Stakeholders must be one of the following entities:

   - Public health non-governmental organisations,

   - organisations representing patients,

   - organisations representing health professionals,

   - health service providers,

   - health insurance bodies,

- health research organisations, universities and academic institutions, and

- business organisations or associations with a clear commitment to health's promotion, protection or prevention.

V. Have a direct interest in health related fields or their main activity should be related to public health.

Username and Password

To register on the EU Health Policy IT Platform, you have to create an account in the European Commission Authentication System (ECAS). To create this account, please click **here**. Should you have any questions regarding the creation of an ECAS account, please read **ECAS help and Privacy Statement**.

Please be aware that only a personalised email address related to your organisation will be authorised by the European Commission Authentication System (ECAS) for the purpose of registering an organisation in the EU Health Policy IT Platform e.g.: firstname.lastname@organisation.xx or f.lastname@NGO_name.xx (or other possible combinations).

The moderator of the EU Health Policy IT Platform will receive a notification and will accept your registration on the IT Platform as long as you comply with the criteria above.

Users are responsible for safeguarding their passwords and for any activities, actions or posting resulting from the access the EU Health Policy IT Platform it grants. The European Commission encourages using complex passwords e.g. with lower and upper cases, numbers and symbols to avoid any possible fraud.

The European Commission cannot be held liable for any damage resulting from the loss of your username or password.

Your rights and duties as a user

Our goal is to provide an IT Platform for enhanced communication between public health stakeholders and the European Commission's DG Health and Food Safety. This platform will allow you to provide and receive content as well as put forward ideas and get feedback on them, from other stakeholders or from the European Commission.

Each user is responsible for the content published within the IT Platform. The European Commission respects the ownership of the content shared in it by the users. Users in turn have the responsibility to verify that they own the <u>Intellectual Property Rights</u> of the entire content when thy publish it, or that at least they are aware of what permissions they have to share such content (e.g. creative commons licences, photo databases…).

You have the duty to provide real information on the IT Platform regarding your organisation's profile and your content as a user. The European Commission cannot be held responsible for the dishonest behaviour of users.

Expected behaviour of Users

- Treat all other users of the IT Platform in a respectful and courteous manner at all times, even in the event of disagreements.

- Discussions in the EU Health Policy IT Platform should never reveal health data of individuals.

- Users should not pretend to be Administrators, Coordinators or Moderators by using "Administrator", "Coordinator", "Editor" or "Moderator" in their username or profile.

- Leaders of discussions in the thematic networks should not abuse their coordinating role and always maintain a balanced discussion taking into consideration comments and ideas from all contributors to the discussion.

- In the event of a disagreement, the European Commission will make the final decision.

- Sales products, such as priced publications, shall not be uploaded on the IT Platform.

Abusive behaviour and spam

The European Commission strives to protect its users from abuse and spam. User abuse and technical abuse will not be tolerated in the IT Platform and may result in a suspension of the account. Accounts that carry out the following may be suspended:

1. Creation of multiples accounts per user: You are allowed to create as many accounts per organisation, provided that there is only one account per employee. To avoid confusion no user can create a second account for themselves.

2. Abusive behaviour to a specific target: You are not allowed to engage in targeted abuse or harassment. Factors determining you are carrying out harassment in a network:

   - Targeting a specific organisation to attack their reputation or content in an impolite way.

   - Attacks on one specific individual or organisation without any provocation including insults, disrespectful comments, threats or attacks.

3. Malware (Malicious Software)/Phishing[1]: You are not allowed to publish links to malicious content intended to damage or disrupt another users' browser or computer or compromising the privacy statement.

4. Spam: You are not allowed to use the IT Platform to spam anyone. What constitutes "spamming" evolves as the European Commission deals with

new tactics and tricks of spammers. The report functions available in each publication may be used to report spam, clarifying it in the text-box that appears when reporting. Some actions considered spam:

- Posting numerous publications with the same copied text.

- Creating misleading or false content in a regular way.

- Posting links repeatedly without any written update or information on the links.

- Creating misleading accounts or content.

- Promoting third party content with clear promotional purposes and with no aim to enhance discussion and engagement.

- Posting repeatedly general information in the thematic networks that are focused on one single topic to disrupt or damage the conversation.

5. Graphic content: You are not allowed to use pornographic or excessively violent graphic icons in your posting, profile or any other kind of publication.

Inappropriate Content

The following are deemed to constitute inappropriate content. Posting such content may result in account suspension or banning as well as the removal of the offending posts:

- Posts or images of a defamatory, abusive, vulgar, hateful, harassing, obscene, profane or threatening nature. This includes any messages or material ethnically, racially, religiously or sexually offensive, insulting or demeaning. All content posted by users express the views of the author, and the European Commission cannot be held responsible for any offending message, comment, post or other material posted on the site.

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[1] A scam by which an e-mail user is duped into revealing personal or confidential information which the scammer can use illicitly.

- Posts or images that violate any laws or regulations, including intellectual property rights.
- Advertising of products or services for commercial use. You can talk about you or your organisation initiatives to start a discussion or share knowledge that you may have gathered. Registering solely to promote yourself, your company or others could eventually lead to the user removal from the site.
- Discussions over illegal activities including software and movie piracy and other intellectual property infringement.
- Discussions of personal nature that are not related to public health issues.
- Discussions in other language than English.
- Posting other people's personal contact information (i.e. telephone numbers, addresses, etc.) on the network without consent.
- Any content that contains viruses, Trojan horses, or the like, or other computer programming routines that may damage or interfere with the website.
- Any other content deemed inappropriate by the European Commission, e.g. holiday pictures, the sharing of plans for the weekend, any non-work-related subjects.
- Links to any of the above.

Legal Notice

Please, have a look at the **legal notice**.

Data Protection

Please, have a look at the **Data Protection Notification**.

Copyright Notice

Reuse is authorised, provided the source is acknowledged and provided that the user does not distort the original meaning or message of the material. The reuse policy of the European Commission is implemented by a **Decision of 12 December 2011**.

The European Commission accepts no responsibility or liability for any consequence stemming from the reuse.

Intellectual property rights of third parties

The reuse permission mentioned above does not apply to third party material. Therefore, for material where copyright is vested in a third party, permission for its use and reproduction must be obtained from that third party prior to publication. This copyright holder is responsible for obtaining authorisation and acknowledging the sources of e.g. photos, charts, tables etc. integrated in his document from other right holders.

Each document must carry a copyright notice indicating clearly who owns the pre-existing rights to which part and who to contact for authorisation to reuse it.

In case of joint authorship by representatives of multiple organisations in the same document, the copyright is held jointly by all of them, therefore please list all organisations involved and add

"For reproduction or use of material contained therein permission must be sought directly from the copyright holders."

Alternatively you may wish to allow reuse and you may add this sentence "Reuse is authorised, provided the sources above are acknowledged and provided that the user does not distort the original meaning or message of the document".

The European Commission does not take any responsibility for any infringements of intellectual property rights that may be caused by using third party information.

Please, as a user, bear in mind that there might be other third parties rights in the photos such as: architects may claim their copyright to depicted original architectural works and their consent is required unless exceptions apply. Similarly, the rights of artists need to be respected when taking photos or publishing photos of art works.

Persons clearly identifiable in photographs hold the rights to their own image and have to give their consent to its publication. Despite all our efforts, we might have not succeeded in identifying the authors and rights holders for some of the materials or images.

If you believe that you may be a right holder, we invite you to contact the **SANTE EU HPF** of the European Commission.

Suggestions of acceptable content

- Keep all contributions within the appropriate area of interest. If the content is of a general nature, post it in the Agora Network.
- Use short, clear and concise titles when posting documents or publications.
- Please make an effort to communicate as clearly as possible.
- Please, share content as your organisation opinion and not on behalf of the European Union. The content published by third party users (i.e. non-European Commission users) will always be independent of the European Commission views.

Documents produced on the IT Platform by users

The aim of this IT Platform is also to allow stakeholders to produce statements with their views on different issues of Public Health in the European Union. Stakeholders gather and jointly produce these statements in the Thematic Networks. The European Commission may share information that can be relevant to them in such networks but will not collaborate in the production of the statement. However, the content of these statements will always remain independent from the views of the European Commission. The authorship of the statement will be held by the organisations which produced the statement, and not to the individuals who participated on behalf of the organisation. Therefore, no personal data will be divulged in these documents.

Reporting inappropriate behaviour

- All the publications can be reported by users of the EU Health Policy IT Platform to the European Commission. Please do so if you believe that a publication violates any of the conditions of the platform or the content is inappropriate.
- If you wish to report a user's continuous misbehaviour, spamming or regular inappropriate content, please write to **SANTE EU HPF** with an explanation of why you report the user and the European Commission will consider your request and take appropriate action.
- Impersonation: you are not allowed to impersonate other users or any other organisation to mislead, confuse or deceive others or damage their reputation. If you think a user is impersonating another, please inform the European Commission via **SANTE EU HPF**.
- The European Commission cannot be held responsible for any impersonation, abuse or misbehaviour. However, it reserves the right to act as necessary to stop such behaviours.

Monitoring of the site and disciplinary measures

The European Commission reserves the right to monitor the IT Platform, including the networks, discussions and any other content or section and remove any posting or members who do not comply with the terms and conditions stated throughout the document, the legal notice provided in the IT Platform and the privacy statement. This would include posts that disrupt or interfere with our technical operations.

The European Commission retains the right to close or ban, temporarily or permanently, any users' account if need be. The user will be notified and informed of the reasons and measures taken.

Should you feel that you have been treated unfairly by the moderators, you may address your concern to the European Commission via **SANTE EU HPF** and we

will carefully review your request. When contacting us, please provide the email used to register in the IT Platform.

No discussion over the suspension of a user or any disciplinary action will be held with the general public.

Disclaimers and limitations of liability

Links from EU Health Policy IT Platform to external websites

- The EU Health Policy IT Platform may provide links to many European Institutions and other sites that are relevant to the Commission's work. You should be aware of the following:
  - o If you access another website through a link the EU Health Policy IT Platform provides, you are subject to the privacy policy of that site.
  - o The European Commission is not responsible for the contents of any pages referred to from its website. Linking to other websites should not be taken as an endorsement of any kind by the European Commission.

Links from external websites to EU Health Policy IT Platform website

- The European Commission welcomes links to this website. Any links from external websites to the EU Health Policy IT Platform is subject to the following cumulative conditions:
- Links can only be made to web pages displaying EU Health Policy IT Platform Terms and Conditions and the legal notice (please provide the link to the home page);
- Links should not mislead users of the other website as to the source of the content. The European Commission should fully be acknowledged as a source;
- When the EU Health Policy IT Platform website is accessed via an external link, it should be clear to users that they are viewing information that is free of charge and not exclusive;

- Links should not create the impression that the European Commission endorses or supports the objectives or contents of the host website or the organisation managing it;
- If links are made from a frames-based website, the contents from the EU Health Policy IT Platform should not be framed on that website in a way that might mislead users as to the origin of the contents.

Termination of IT Platform usage

You have the right to terminate your participation in the IT Platform and delete your account. To improve the platform we might contact you to find out why unless you already explained your reasons by writing to the European Commission via **SANTE EU HPF**.

Conclusion

While these rules cover most common situations, they cannot anticipate everything. Consequently the European Commission reserves the right to take any actions appropriate to ensure the functioning of the EU Health Policy IT Platform is not disrupted or abused in any way.

The European Commission reserves the right to immediately suspend your account if you repeatedly do not respect the terms and conditions of the EU Health Policy Forum IT Platform, without any further notice.

We may revise these terms and conditions regularly. The most updated version will always be found **here**. We reserve the right to update this document without previous notice.

Any questions?

Please, feel free to write an email to **SANTE EU HPF**.