

Data Protection Notice
PIONEER Researchers' Profiles
<https://profiles.pioneer.uniza.sk>

Introduction

Welcome to the PIONEER Researchers' Profiles platform, an online tool developed within the PIONEER Alliance — a consortium of European higher education institutions cooperating on research and education related to inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities. The platform is hosted by the University of Žilina (UNIZA) as part of the Alliance's research activities.

The purpose of the tool is to support the identification of researchers and to facilitate networking, collaboration and the discovery of research and academic opportunities across the partner universities of the consortium.

This notice explains how your personal data is collected and processed.

Data Protection Notice

The University of Žilina ("UNIZA"), registered seat Univerzitná 8215/1, 010 26 Žilina, Slovakia, Reg. ID.: 00397 563 is committed to processing personal data in accordance with the applicable legislation, notably Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC ("GDPR") and the applicable Slovak national data protection legislation no.: 18/2018 Z.z. about personal data protection (together referred to as the "Data Protection Law").

All information collected through this platform is processed solely for the purposes described below and in accordance with the principles of lawfulness, fairness, transparency, data minimization and security.

Which personal data is collected and processed?

Your researcher profile is created and maintained through two stages: first, the platform automatically collects publicly available data to generate a public profile for you; second, you can verify that profile and choose to add further personal data. The categories of personal data collected at each stage are set out below.

1. Automatic collection and creation of your public profile

When a profile is created for you, the platform automatically collects and processes the following publicly available personal data in order to generate your public researcher profile:

- Identification and contact data that you provide: first name, last name and email address;
- Professional affiliation: the partner university you are affiliated with (selected from the list of consortium institutions);
- Information about Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) your research is connected to;
- Information about Publications, Projects and Keywords connected to them;
- Technical data generated when you access the platform (such as log-in information and standard server logs).

2. Individual verification and additional personal data (optional)

Once your profile has been automatically created, you can verify its content and, if you wish, add or update the following personal data:

- Your photo if you choose to provide it (optional);
- Languages you can communicate and publicize with if you choose to provide it (optional);
- Description of your research profile and any available url links (e.g.: LinkedIn) if you choose to provide it (optional);
- Researcher identifier: your Scopus or ORCID ID, with detailed information you add to enrich your profile (such as research title, role, research area, collaboration interests or keywords), where you choose to provide it (optional). These identifiers may be used to retrieve and display publicly available bibliometric and publication information associated with your Scopus or ORCID profile;

Please note that your researcher profile is intended to be publicly visible and searchable within the platform (for example via the “Find a researcher” search and the visualisation of the researcher network). You should therefore only include information you are comfortable making available to other users of the platform and the public.

Your profile information can be modified by yourself anytime through your profile settings. You can even decide to delete your account and all available data about you.

What are the purposes of the processing?

Your personal data is collected and used for:

- Create, display and maintain your researcher profile;
- Enable other researchers and members of the academic community to identify you and find your areas of expertise;
- Facilitate networking, collaboration and the identification of research and academic opportunities across the universities of the PIONEER Alliance;
- Generate aggregated visualizations of the researcher network within the consortium;
- Operate, secure, maintain and improve the platform, and respond to user requests submitted through it.

Who has the control over my data?

The Data Controller of the personal data processed through this platform is the University of Žilina (Univerzita v Žiline), seat Univerzitná 8215/1, 010 26 Žilina, Slovakia, Reg. ID.: 00397 563.

The University of Žilina determines the purposes and means of the processing and is responsible for the operation of the platform on behalf of the PIONEER Alliance. The partner universities of the consortium may access the published profile information through the platform for the networking purposes described above.

Where third-party service providers (for example, SW maintenance providers) process personal data on behalf of UNIZA, they act as Data Processors and are bound by contractual obligations to process the data only on UNIZA’s documented instructions and to implement appropriate security measures.

What is the lawfulness of processing?

Your data is processed in the framework of the performance of a task carried out in the public interest, pursuant to Article 6(1)(e) of the GDPR. This processing is based on the public research and education mission entrusted to the University of Žilina as a public higher education institution and on its participation in the PIONEER Alliance.

Although the verification of a profile is voluntary and any additional personal information you provide depends on your own initiative, the underlying processing supporting the platform relies on this public-interest legal basis. You can stop the processing at any time by deleting your profile or by exercising your rights as described below.

How is the data collection organized?

All automatically gathered data is available through your profile and can be modified directly by you when you complete the registration form on the platform and when you subsequently update your profile. Where you provide a Scopus Author ID, certain publicly available bibliometric information associated with that identifier may additionally be retrieved from the relevant external service in order to enrich your profile.

Registration requests may be reviewed before a profile is published, to verify that the request relates to a researcher affiliated with one of the consortium institutions. Once published, your profile becomes discoverable through the platform's search and network-visualization features.

The tool automatically builds and updates researcher profiles using:

- SCOPUS API to retrieves publication data and keywords;
- Perplexity.ai (Large Language Model) to create a concise narrative summary of each researcher's work and to identify 2–7 key research topics using the OpenAlex taxonomy;
- AURORA SDG Classifier to generate contribution scores to the UN Sustainable Development Goals;
- BFH Areas of Interest visualisation framework to map research topics and their connections as an intuitive interactive network;
- All structured and AI-enriched data are stored in a central database, which generates up-to-date researcher profile pages with publication lists, research fields, SDG indicators, external links (Scopus, ORCID, LinkedIn), and a validation status.

Automated processing, profiling and use of AI tools

To support networking and the discovery of relevant expertise, the platform performs certain automated processing of your profile data. This may include indexing and matching your research keywords and interests, retrieving and structuring publicly available bibliometric information linked to your Scopus or ORCID ID, and generating an automated visualization of the researcher network that shows connections and thematic proximity between researchers across the consortium. These operations are used to make you and your work easier to find and to suggest potential collaborators, research groups or opportunities within the PIONEER Alliance.

For some of these functions the platform may rely on automated and AI-based tools (for example, to analyze text, extract keywords, cluster related research topics or rank search results). Where such tools are used, they operate only on the information contained in your profile and in the associated publicly

available sources, and their output is intended to organize and present information rather than to evaluate you.

This automated processing does not produce legal effects concerning you and does not significantly affect you in a similar way. It is not used to make automated decisions about you within the meaning of Article 22 of the GDPR and no automated decision is taken about access to funding, employment, admission or any comparable matter.

You can influence this processing at any time by editing the information in your profile, removing your Scopus or ORCID ID, or deleting your profile. If you have questions about how automated processing or AI tools are applied to your data or wish to object to it for reasons relating to your particular situation, you can contact the Data Protection Officer using the details provided in this notice.

Who is authorized to view or access your personal data?

Access to your personal data is limited to the categories of people set out below, within the limits of their respective duties:

- **Publicly available profile data** (such as your name, affiliation, research interests and Scopus-derived information): accessible to visitors of the website, consistent with the networking purpose of the tool;
- **Administrative and technical data** (such as log data): accessible only to authorized administrators of the platform at the University of Žilina who manage registrations and operate the system;
- **Data processors:** service providers acting on behalf of UNIZA, whose role is limited to specific technical functions and who are contractually bound not to use your data beyond the scope of operating the platform.

How do we protect your personal data?

The processing of your personal data is carried out in compliance with appropriate technical and organizational measures required by law to ensure a level of security appropriate to the risk. These measures are designed to protect your information against unauthorized access, loss, fraudulent use, disclosure, alteration or destruction.

All individuals authorized to process this data are committed to maintaining confidentiality in accordance with their contractual or legal obligations.

How long do we keep your data?

Your profile data is processed for as long as your profile remains active. It is retained for the duration of the PIONEER project (2025–2028) and for a subsequent period of **2 years** after the end of the project, after which it is deleted or anonymised unless a longer retention period is required by law.

You may request the deletion of your profile at any time. Following deletion or withdrawal, your personal data is removed from the platform, subject to any legal obligations that may require limited retention (for example, security logs).

Do we transfer data outside the European Union / European Economic Area?

Your personal data is processed only within the European Union / European Economic Area. Some consortium partners (for example, institutions located in Switzerland) are situated in countries outside the EU/EEA; where this is relevant, transfers take place on the basis of an adequacy decision of the European Commission or appropriate safeguards in accordance with Chapter V of the GDPR.

What are your rights regarding your personal data?

You have the following rights regarding your personal data, which you can exercise by contacting appointed Data Protection Officer (DPO) for this project at dpo.pioneer@uniza.sk. Please mention the “PIONEER Researchers’ Profiles” platform in your correspondence:

- **Right of access:** you have the right to request access to the personal data held about you;
- **Right to rectification:** if your personal data is inaccurate or incomplete, you have the right to request its correction; or you can correct it directly in your profile settings;
- **Right to erasure:** you can request the deletion of your personal data under certain circumstances; or you can request a deletion of the profile it directly in your profile settings;
- **Right to restriction of processing:** you have the right to request a limitation of the processing of your personal data;
- **Right to object:** you have the right to object to the processing of your personal data for reasons related to your particular situation or for reasons of inadequate profiling.

Most of this information can also be managed directly by editing or deleting your profile within the platform. We will process all requests within one month of receipt. If a request is complex or if we receive a large number of requests, this period may be extended by a further two months, in which case you will be informed.

If you are not satisfied with how your personal data is being handled, you also have the right to lodge a complaint with the competent supervisory authority, the **Office for Personal Data Protection of the Slovak Republic** (<https://dataprotection.gov.sk>), or with the supervisory authority of your country of residence.

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