

REINVENT – PROJECT NR 730053

POPD: Ethics requirement – Personal data

Deliverable 9.2

2017-05-31



Personal data

‘Personal data’ refers to any private or professional information that relates to an identified or identifiable natural person (Article 2(a) of EU Directive 95/46/EC). ‘Processing of personal data’ means any operation (or set of operations) which is performed on personal data, either manually or by automatic means, including collection, recording, organisation and storage, dissemination etc.

Personal data and REINVENT

REINVENT research mainly targets stakeholders related to the four key material production sectors – plastic, paper, steel, meat & dairy – and the way they engage with decarbonisation. The project does not target individuals within these companies as subjects of research. Instead, human participants in REINVENT are mainly experts in their fields and will engage with us on behalf of the organisations they represent. In light of these aims, **collection and processing of personal data are not within the scope of REINVENT research.**

However, there is certain access to **personal information** that REINVENT researchers will have, which may or may not become **personal data**. The examples of personal information that is likely to be available to REINVENT researchers are: names of human participants, organisations represented, roles and positions in these organisations. These are all potential identifiers of the participants of our research and, according to the definitions above, if used for research purposes, it might become personal data.

Therefore, engaging with personal information and being aware that under certain circumstances it can become research data (i.e. personal data), is extremely important for REINVENT’s research actions.

Engaging with personal information

Any engagement with personal information will comply with the ethical principles in REINVENT and, among others, informed consent will be guaranteed to participants (see D9.1). Under these principles, the participants have the right to remain anonymous or withdraw from the study at any time.

If the human participants in REINVENT wish to remain anonymous, their personal information will be kept strictly confidential and will not be entered into the research data. If they are willing to be open about their identity (which is likely to be the case due to the human participants being involved in REINVENT in professional capacity), their personal information may be included in the data and the research outcomes. In other words, personal information possessed by REINVENT may become personal data only under the informed consent and active willingness to be named from the human participants involved. These data will be carefully stored and protected, via Lund University’s Box drive and the responsible handling by individual researchers (see also D9.1).