



European
Commission

EU Health Policy Platform

Web Platform Terms and Conditions

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EU Health Policy Web Platform

Terms and Conditions

Basic Terms

You are responsible for your use of the EU Health Policy Web Platform, for any content you publish and for the consequences that may result from publishing such content. Any content you publish on the Web Platform can be turned public by a function that will be accessible only to the moderators. By uploading your content on the Web Platform, you give your consent to its potential publication at the discretion of the moderator of the Web 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 Agora Network 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).
- Thematic Networks are networks accessible to all registered users to discuss thematic issues and draft joint statements together on different health 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.
- EU Expert and Stakeholder Groups Networks 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 Web 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 Web 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 Web Platform:

- I. The European Commission staff.**
- II. Members of already established EU Expert and Stakeholder Groups of DG Health and Food Safety.**
- III. 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 Web Platform as many individuals working for them as they need, always using their job email.
 - II. Be a European, national, regional or local entity, registered legally in an EU Member State, EEA-country or a country participating in the funding of the 3rd Health Programme.
 - III. Organisations from third countries may also register on the EU Health Policy Platform as long as their contribution helps to achieve higher levels of public health in the EU. Their requests will be considered on an ad hoc –basis.
 - IV. 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).
 - V. 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 associations with a clear commitment to health's promotion, protection or prevention.

VI. Have an interest in health; work in public health or in health-related fields.

Username and Password

To register on the EU Health Policy Web 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 Web Platform e.g.: `firstname.lastname@organisation.xx` or `f.lastname@NGO_name.xx` (or other possible combinations).

The moderator of the EU Health Policy Web Platform will receive a notification and will accept your registration on the Web 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 Web 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 Web 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 Web 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 Intellectual Property Rights of the entire content when they 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 Web 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 Web Platform in a respectful and courteous manner at all times, even in the event of disagreements.
- Discussions in the EU Health Policy Web 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 Web 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 Web 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)/Phishing¹: 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 Web 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:

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 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.
- 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](#)**.

Personal Data Protection

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

Copyright Notice

© **European Union, 2016.**

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

Users posting and uploading materials to the EU Health Policy Platform declare to have the ownership or the right to use and to share the contents in the platform.

Please note that in case your content incorporates third party materials, you are responsible for obtaining authorisation and acknowledging the sources of e.g. photos, charts, tables etc. integrated in this document from other right holders.

As a user, bear in mind that there might be other third parties rights in the photos (e.g. architects may claim their copyright to depicted original architectural works; the same applies to visual artists in relation to their artworks).

Persons clearly identifiable in photographs hold the rights to their own image and have to give their consent to its publication. Be sure you have all the necessary authorisations from depicted persons.

By posting and uploading materials on the website, users grant the European Union a non-exclusive, royalty-free, perpetual, worldwide licence to use, reproduce as well as to communicate and make available to the public the materials in the EU Health Policy Platform and for EU Health Policy Platform related activities.

Users are encouraged to include a copyright notice for the contents uploaded. In case of contents incorporating third party materials, the relevant copyright holders should be clearly identified.

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. You may also want to designate and indicate the person users could contact to ask for permissions.

In accordance with the Commission Decision of 12 December 2011 on the reuse of Commission documents, reuse is allowed for all the European Commission documents provided that the source is acknowledged and the user does not distort the original meaning or message of the material. This regime does not apply to third party contents. In those cases, reuse requires specific permission unless otherwise is stated. Users are encouraged to indicate the re-use conditions for their contents.

The European Union does not take any responsibility for any infringements of intellectual property rights that may be caused by contents uploaded or posted by users that are not members of the EU staff.

If you believe that your copyright or related rights have been infringed, we invite you to contact the SANTE-HPP@ec.europa.eu 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 Web Platform by users

The aim of this Web 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 Web 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-HPP@ec.europa.eu**](mailto:SANTE-HPP@ec.europa.eu) 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-HPP@ec.europa.eu**](mailto:SANTE-HPP@ec.europa.eu).
- 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 Web 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 Web 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-HPP@ec.europa.eu and we will carefully review your request. When contacting us, please provide the email used to register in the Web 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 Web Platform to external websites

- The EU Health Policy Web 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:
 - If you access another website through a link the EU Health Policy Web Platform provides, you are subject to the privacy policy of that site.
 - 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 Web Platform website

- The European Commission welcomes links to this website. Any links from external websites to the EU Health Policy Web Platform is subject to the following cumulative conditions:
- Links can only be made to web pages displaying EU Health Policy Web 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 Web 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 Web Platform should not be framed on that website in a way that might mislead users as to the origin of the contents.

Termination of Web Platform usage

You have the right to terminate your participation in the Web 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-HPP@ec.europa.eu**.

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 Web 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 Web 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-HPP@ec.europa.eu**.

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