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# **Information on the Processing of Personal Data of the participants in the USI “Truth Matters” initiative for the 25th anniversary of Scholars at Risk**

# 1. Introduction

The purpose of this Privacy Notice is to provide information regarding the processing of personal data carried out by USI – Università della Svizzera italiana, and in particular the International Relations and Study Abroad Service (“RELINT”), and the Institutional Communication Service (“ComIst”) – in connection with the collection from the academic community as well as the publication of reflections and contributions on the theme “Truth Matters”, relating to academic freedom, on the occasion of the celebrations for the 25th anniversary of the international network “Scholars at Risk” (“SAR”), to which USI has adhered since 2016.

# 2. Data Controller

This information notice is provided by USI - Università della Svizzera italiana, with registered office in Via Buffi 13, 6900 Lugano, Switzerland as Data Controller.

The Data Controller may be contacted by writing to the address of the registered office, by calling +41 58 666 40 00 or by sending an email to: [info@usi.ch](mailto:info@usi.ch).

The Data Protection team may be contacted directly at: [privacy@usi.ch](mailto:privacy@usi.ch).

# 3. Purpose of the data processing, justification, categories of data and retention period

USI processes the personal data provided by individuals who freely choose to participate in the USI initiative mentioned above. The table below summarizes the purposes, legal grounds, categories of data, and the corresponding retention periods applicable to the processing carried out in this context.

Purpose of the data processing	Justification	Categories of personal data	Retention period
Collection by RELINT of the data and contributions, through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- collection of expressions of interest to participate;</li> <li>- collection of contributions and information through a dedicated online form;</li> <li>- sharing with ComIst for the editing of the contributions and for their publication.</li> </ul>	Consent.	First and last name, institutional e-mail address, brief description of the institutional role at USI, photograph, and any information that can be inferred from the contribution submitted to USI.	Deletion within 6 months from publication.
Publication of the collected contributions, together with information relating to their authors, on the USI institutional communications webpage, where possible, and/or in the section dedicated to RELINT.	Consent.	First and last name, brief description of the institutional role at USI, photograph, and any information that can be inferred from the contribution submitted to USI.	Unlimited, unless an explicit written revocation is requested by the data subject.

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Possible selection, by RELINT and Comlst, of the contributions most relevant to the work of SAR, in the event of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- an excessively large number of contributions; in such a case, efforts will nonetheless be made to give adequate visibility also to the non-selected contributions on the webpage dedicated to RELINT;</li><li>- contributions that are manifestly inappropriate in relation to the theme.</li></ul>	Overriding legitimate private interest (processing for the purpose of publication on the USI institutional communications webpage).	First and last name, brief description of the institutional role at USI, photograph, and any information that can be inferred from the contribution submitted to USI.	Deletion within 6 months from publication.
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USI may process the personal data referred to above in anonymized form, to the extent necessary and in particular to meet public information needs, retaining such data in anonymous and aggregated form for a longer period than the retention periods mentioned above.

## 4. Categories of Data Recipients

In order to guarantee the above-mentioned services and in compliance with the relevant purposes, the above-mentioned personal data will be processed by the University's administrative and academic staff, to the extent necessary for the performance of their respective tasks.

Your data may also be disclosed to qualified and/or auxiliary parties who provide the Data Controller with services instrumental to achieving the above purposes or in any case related in particular to the collection, management and storage of personal data, in support of its institutional activities; in particular, USI may transmit your data to IT service providers. This is done in accordance with the methods and limits set out in the applicable legislation and in the contracts entered into by the University to ensure the protection of personal data.

The University, in the spirit of participating in the activities referred to in the introduction, publishes the contributions made available by the participating individuals on its website, based on the consent previously and freely obtained, as indicated among the processing purposes above.

With regard to the transfer of data abroad, the principle is that personal data is not transferred outside Switzerland. In this respect, publication on the institutional website does not in itself constitute a transfer of your data abroad (Art. 18 Federal Act on Data Protection). At the same time, if a transfer of data abroad for the processing of personal data as described above is deemed necessary, USI shall have the right to proceed accordingly. In this case, the Data Controller confirms that the transfer of data within or outside the EU will be carried out in compliance with the applicable regulations (in particular Art. 14a Cantonal Act on Personal Data Protection and/or, if applicable, Arts. 16 et seq. Federal Act on Data Protection, undertaking in particular, where and to the extent necessary, to ensure that the recipient country guarantees adequate data protection; to guarantee an adequate level of protection by entering into specific agreements that include previously approved standard contractual clauses; or, exceptionally, to collect your specific consent for the transfer abroad.

## 5. Data Subjects' rights

The Data Controller recognizes, in particular, the following rights:

1. Request the rectification of inaccurate or outdated personal data.
2. Where based on consent, withdraw consent to the processing of data previously given.
3. Request information in writing and free of charge regarding the personal data being processed that concerns you.
4. Request delivery of personal data or its transmission to third parties.
5. Request that unlawful data processing be stopped, that personal data collected, stored or used unlawfully be destroyed or that the consequences of unlawful processing be eliminated, or that its unlawfulness be ascertained.
6. Request that the transmission of your personal data to third parties be blocked.
7. Contact the Cantonal Data Protection Commissioner if you disagree with the management of your data by USI (<https://www4.ti.ch/can/sgcds/pd/generalita>).

It should be noted that USI reserves the right to assert restrictions provided by law, e.g. when it is obliged to store or process certain data, when required by overriding public or private interests.

Kindly contact the address [privacy@usi.ch](mailto:privacy@usi.ch) to exercise the above rights.

Last update: January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2026 (v. 1.0.1-en).