

AUDIT REPORT ON HUMAINT PROJECT AT THE JOINT RESEARCH CENTRE (JRC)

Seville, 12 and 13 December 2024

EDPS case number 2024-0837

Executive Summary

Introduction

The European Data Protection Supervisor (EDPS) is the independent supervisory authority established by virtue of Article 52 of Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 (hereinafter referred to as "EUDPR")¹ responsible for:

- Monitoring and ensuring the application of the provisions of the EUDPR and any other EU act relating to the protection of the fundamental rights and freedoms of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by an EU institution or body;
- Advising EU institutions and bodies and data subjects on all matters concerning the processing of personal data.

To these ends, the EDPS fulfils the duties provided for in Article 57 EUDPR and exercises the powers granted in Article 58 of the EUDPR. Among his powers to investigate, the EDPS can carry out investigations in the form of data protection audits. The power to audit is one of the tools established to monitor and ensure compliance with the EUDPR.

The audit at the Joint Research Centre (JRC) was part of the EDPS annual audit plan for 2024 and should be viewed as the final stage before formal action under Article 58 of the EUDPR. The formal decision was communicated to the JRC by means of an Announcement Letter dated 24 October 2024. The fieldwork was carried out on 12 and 13 December 2024 at the JRC's premises in Seville (Spain).

Scope of the audit, findings, recommendations and follow-up

The EDPS carried out an audit focusing on the compliance of the personal data processing operations under the HUMAINT project, in particular involving minors, with the principles of lawfulness, fairness and transparency, principle of storage limitation, principle of integrity and confidentiality, lawfulness of the processing, right to information and security of the processing.

The EDPS issued recommendations regarding the lawfulness of processing of health data, the retention of personal data, and the implementation of technical and organisational measures concerning research procedures and security matters.

¹ Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2018 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by the Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 and Decision No 1247/2002/EC, OJ L 295, 21/11/2018, p. 39–98.

The JRC was given twelve months to demonstrate compliance and to ensure that the issued recommendations are duly implemented.