Foreword

This privacy policy applies on the occasion of the 47th SICOT Congress 2027 (hereinafter referred to as “SICOT27”, “Event” or “Meeting”).

As operators of the event-related websites for registration, submission of abstracts and presentations (hereinafter "websites" or "profile pages"), we, K.I.T. Group GmbH together with our subsidiaries (hereinafter collectively: “**K.I.T. Group”**, “**the Company**“, “**we**” or “**us”**) take the protection of your personal data seriously and would like to inform you here about the data protection in our company.

Within the scope of our responsibility under data protection law, additional obligations have been imposed on us by the entry into force of the EU General Data Protection Regulation (Regulation (EU) 2016/679; hereinafter: **“GDPR”)** in order to ensure the protection of personal data of the person affected by a processing operation (we also address you as data subject hereinafter with **“customer”, “user”**, “**you”, “you”** or “**data subject”**).

Insofar as we decide either alone or jointly with others on the purposes and means of data processing, this includes above all the obligation to inform you transparently about the nature, scope, purpose, duration and legal basis of the processing (cf. Art. 13 and 14 GDPR). With this statement (hereinafter: “ **Privacy policy**“), we inform you about the manner in which your personal data is processed by us.

The design and granting of consent to data processing shall be exclusively in accordance with the requirements of Section 25 (1) TDDDG in conjunction with Art. 6 (1) lit. a, 5 No. 11 GDPR.

Our privacy policy has a modular structure. It consists of a general part for all processing of personal data and processing situations that come into play each time a website is called up (A. General) and a special part, the content of which relates in each case only to the processing situation specified there with the designation of the respective offer or product, in particular the visit to websites and/or participation in the event (B. Visit to websites and the event), as detailed here. The above information is then referred to in section C. (Cookie Policy) with its presentation of the cookies and tools used.

To find the parts that are relevant to you, please refer to the following overview for the breakdown of the privacy policy:

Part A (General)

This part is always relevant for you as a participant of the event and visitor of the websites.

Part B (website and social media presences, congress offers)

The aforementioned principles are relevant to you when you visit the event-related websites, including social media appearances, and use the Event offerings.

Part C (Cookie Policy)

The Cookie Policy contains the list of cookies, plugins and tools used, as well as the information about the possibilities of revocation of consent to data processing once given.

A) General

(1) Definitions

Following the example of Art. 4 GDPR, this privacy policy is based on the following definitions:

- Personal data" (Art. 4 No. 1 GDPR) means any information relating to an identified or identifiable natural person ("data subject"). A person is identifiable if he or she can be identified, directly or indirectly, in particular by reference to an identifier such as a name, an identification number, an online identifier, location data or by means of information relating to his or her physical, physiological, genetic, mental, economic, cultural or social identity characteristics. The identifiability can also be given by means of a linkage of such information or other additional knowledge. The origin, form or embodiment of the information is irrelevant (photographs, video or audio recordings may also contain personal data).
- Processing" (Art. 4 No. 2 GDPR) means any operation which involves the handling of personal data, whether or not by automated (i.e. technology-based) means. This includes, in particular, the collection (i.e. acquisition), recording, organization, arrangement, storage, adaptation or alteration, retrieval, consultation, use, disclosure by transmission, dissemination or otherwise making available, alignment, combination, restriction, erasure or destruction of personal data, as well as the change of a purpose or intended use on which a data processing was originally based.
- "Controller" (Art. 4 No. 7 GDPR) means the natural or legal person, public authority, agency or other body which alone or jointly with others determines the purposes and means of the processing of personal data.
- "Third Party" (Art. 4 No. 10 GDPR) means any natural or legal person, public authority, agency or other body other than the Data Subject, the Controller, the Processor and the persons who are authorized to process the Personal Data under the direct responsibility of the Controller or Processor; this also includes other group-affiliated legal entities.
- A "processor" (Art. 4 No. 8 GDPR) is a natural or legal person, authority, institution or other body that processes personal data on behalf of the controller, in particular in accordance with the controller's instructions (e.g. IT service provider). In particular, a processor is not a third party in the sense of data protection law.
- Consent" (Art. 4 No. 11 GDPR) means any freely given specific, informed and unambiguous indication of the data subject's wishes in the form of a statement or other unambiguous affirmative act by which the data subject signifies his or her agreement to the processing of personal data relating to him or her.

(2) Name and address of the controller

We are the responsible party for the processing of your personal data on the websites operated by us within the meaning of Art. 4 No. 7 GDPR:

K.I.T. Group GmbH
Kurfürstendamm 71
10709 Berlin
Germany
Tel.: +49 30 24603 0
Fax: +49 30 24603 200
info@kit-group.org

For further information about our company, please refer to the imprint details on our website
https://www.kit-group.org/de/legal-notice/

(3) Contact details of the data protection officer

Our company data protection officer is available at all times to answer any questions you may have and to act as your contact person on the subject of data protection at our company.

The external data protection officer of K.I.T. Group is provided by:

exkulpa gmbh
Waldfeuchter Straße 266
52525 Heinsberg
www.exkulpa.de
Tel.: 02452/993311
E-Mail: security@kit-group.org

(4) Legal basis for data processing

By law, in principle, any processing of personal data is prohibited and only permitted if the data processing falls under one of the following justifications:

- Art. 6 (1) p. 1 lit. a GDPR ("consent"): If the data subject has voluntarily, in an informed manner and unambiguously indicated by a statement or other unambiguous affirmative action that he or she consents to the processing of personal data relating to him or her for one or more specific purposes;
- Art. 6 (1) p. 1 lit. b GDPR: If the processing is necessary for the performance of a contract to which the data subject is a party or for the performance of pre-contractual measures taken at the request of the data subject;
- Art. 6 (1) p. 1 lit. c GDPR: If processing is necessary for compliance with a legal obligation to which the controller is subject (e.g. a legal obligation to preserve records);
- Art. 6 (1) p. 1 lit. d GDPR: If the processing is necessary to protect the vital interests of the data subject or another natural person;
- Art. 6 (1) p. 1 lit. e GDPR: If the processing is necessary for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest or in the exercise of official authority vested in the controller, or
- Art. 6 (1) p. 1 lit. f GDPR ("Legitimate Interests"): If the processing is necessary to protect legitimate (in particular legal or economic) interests of the controller or a third party, unless the contrary interests or rights of the data subject prevail (especially if the data subject is a minor).

For the processing operations carried out by us, we indicate below the applicable legal basis in each case. A processing operation may also be based on several legal bases.

(5) Data deletion and storage period

For the processing operations carried out by us, we indicate below in each case how long the data will be stored by us and when it will be deleted or blocked. Unless an explicit storage period is specified below, your personal data will be deleted or blocked as soon as the purpose or legal basis for the storage no longer applies. As a matter of principle and as far as possible, your data will only be stored on our servers in Germany, subject to any transfer that may take place in accordance with the provisions in A.(7) and A.(8).

However, storage may take place beyond the specified time in the event of a (threatened) legal dispute with you or other legal proceedings or if storage is provided for by statutory provisions to which we are subject as the responsible party (e.g. § 257 HGB, § 147 AO). If the storage period prescribed by the legal

regulations expires, the personal data will be blocked or deleted unless further storage by us is necessary and there is a legal basis for this.

(6) Data security

We use appropriate technical and organizational security measures to protect your data against accidental or intentional manipulation, partial or complete loss, destruction or against unauthorized access by third parties (e.g. TLS encryption for our website), taking into account the state of the art, implementation costs and the nature, scope, context and purpose of the processing, as well as the existing risks of a data breach (including its probability and impact) for the data subject. Our security measures are continuously improved in line with technological developments.

We will be happy to provide you with more detailed information on request. Please contact our data protection officer (see under A.(3)).

(7) Cooperation with processors

As with any larger company, we also use external domestic and foreign service providers (e.g. for IT, logistics, telemedia services and telecommunications, sales and marketing) to handle our business transactions. These service providers only act on our instructions and have been contractually obligated to comply with the provisions of data protection law within the meaning of Art. 28 GDPR or – if applicable – on the basis of standard contractual clauses.

Insofar as personal data from you is passed on by us to our subsidiaries or is passed on to us by our subsidiaries (e.g. for advertising purposes), this is done on the basis of existing order processing relationships or joint responsibilities. You can find an overview of our subsidiaries at https://www.kit-group.org/

(8) Conditions for the transfer of personal data to third countries

In the course of our business relationships, your personal data may be transferred or disclosed to third - party companies. These may also be located outside the European Economic Area (EEA), i.e. in third countries. Such processing takes place exclusively for the fulfillment of contractual and business obligations and to maintain your business relationship with us. We will inform you about the respective details of the transfer in the following at the relevant points.

Some third countries are certified by the European Commission as having a level of data protection comparable to the EEA standard by means of so-called adequacy decisions (a list of these countries and a copy of the adequacy decisions can be obtained here: https://commission.europa.eu/law/law-topic/data-protection/international-dimension-data-protection/adequacy-decisions_en). However, in other third countries to which personal data may be transferred, there may not be a consistently high level of data protection due to a lack of legal provisions. If this is the case, we ensure that data protection is adequately guaranteed. This is possible through binding company regulations, standard contractual clauses of the European Commission for the protection of personal data, certificates or recognized codes of conduct. Please contact our data protection officer (see under A.(3)) if you would like more information on this.

(9) No automated decision making (including profiling)

We do not intend to use any personal data collected from you for any automated decision-making process (including profiling).

(10) No obligation to provide personal data

We do not make the conclusion of contracts with us dependent on you providing us with personal data in advance. As a customer, you are under no legal or contractual obligation to provide us with your personal data; however, we may only be able to provide certain services to a limited extent or not at all if you do not provide the necessary data. If this should exceptionally be the case in the context of the products we offer presented below, you will be informed of this separately.

(11) Legal obligation to transmit certain data

We may be subject to a specific legal or statutory obligation to provide the lawfully processed personal data to third parties, in particular public bodies (Art. 6 (1) lit. c GDPR).

(12) Your rights

You can assert your rights as a data subject regarding your processed personal data at any time by contacting us using the contact details provided at the beginning of A.(2). You have the right as a data subject:

- In accordance with Art. 15 GDPR, you may request information about your data processed by us. In particular, you can request information about the processing purposes, the category of data, the categories of recipients to whom your data has been or will be disclosed, the planned storage period, the existence of a right to rectification, erasure, restriction of processing or objection, the existence of a right of complaint, the origin of your data if it was not collected by us, as well as the existence of automated decision-making, including profiling and, if applicable, meaningful information about its details;
- In accordance with Art. 16 GDPR, you have the right to demand the correction of incorrect data or the completion of your data stored by us without delay;
- In accordance with Art. 17 GDPR, you may request the deletion of your data stored by us, unless the processing is necessary for the exercise of the right to freedom of expression and information, for compliance with a legal obligation, for reasons of public interest, or for the assertion, exercise or defense of legal claims;
- In accordance with Art. 18 GDPR, you have the right to demand the restriction of the processing of your data, insofar as the correctness of the data is disputed by you or the processing is unlawful;
- according to Art. 20 GDPR to receive your data that you have provided to us in a structured, common and machine-readable format or to request the transfer to another controller (“data portability”);
- **object to the processing pursuant to Art. 21 GDPR, provided that the processing is based on Art. 6 (1) p. 1 lit. e or lit. f GDPR. This is particularly the case if the processing is not necessary for the performance of a contract with you. Unless it is an objection to direct marketing, when exercising such an objection, we ask you to explain the reasons why we should not process your data as we have done. In the event of your justified objection, we will examine the merits of the case and either discontinue or adapt the data processing or show you our compelling legitimate grounds on the basis of which we will continue the processing;**
- according to Art. 7 (3) GDPR your consent given once (also before the validity of the GDPR, i.e. before 25.5.2018) – i.e. your voluntary will made understandable in an informed manner and unambiguously by means of a declaration or other unambiguous confirming act that you agree to the processing of the personal data in question for one or more specific purposes – to be revoked at any time vis-à-vis us, if you have given such consent. This has the consequence that we may no longer continue the data processing, which was based on this consent, for the future and
- In accordance with Art. 77 GDPR, you have the right to lodge a complaint with a data protection supervisory authority about the processing of your personal data in our company, for example with the data protection supervisory authority responsible for us:

Berlin Commissioner for Data Protection and Freedom of Information,
mailbox@datenschutz-berlin.de

(13) Changes to the privacy policy

In the context of the further development of data protection law and technological or organizational changes, our data protection information is regularly reviewed to determine whether it needs to be adapted or supplemented. You will be informed of any changes in particular on our English website at https://sicot-congress.org/ This privacy policy is valid as of 1 May 2023.

B) Visiting websites

(1) Explanation of the function

You can obtain information about our company and the services offered by us in the context of the event in particular at https://sicot-congress.org/ together with the associated subpages and the website of our company (hereinafter collectively: "websites"). When you visit these websites, personal data may be processed.

(2) Personal data processed

When you use the websites for information purposes, when you register as an event participant and/or when you purchase services from us, the following categories of personal data are collected, stored and processed by us:

"Log data": When you visit our websites, a so-called log data record (so-called server log files) is stored temporarily and anonymously on our web server. This consists of:

- the page from which the page was requested (so-called referrer URL).
- the name and URL of the requested page
- the date and time of the call
- the description of the type, language and version of the web browser used.
- the IP address of the requesting computer, which is shortened in such a way that a personal reference can no longer be established.
- the amount of data transferred
- the operating system
- the message whether the call was successful (access status/http status code).
- the GMT time zone difference

"Participant data": In order to participate in the event and related offers, you must register via the registration form. In doing so, the submitted data will be processed (e.g. gender, surname and first name, title, nationality, address, institution/company, e-mail address, research or activity area, billing data such as account or credit card data). If you participate in the event as a speaker, additional data will be processed (e.g. data on your status as an author, memberships in scientific professional associations, and publication data).

"Abstract submission data": If you take part in the abstract submission and upload your abstract, the data transmitted in the process will be processed (e.g. last name and first name, title, date of birth, qualifications, contact details, work address details, research details, e-mail address).

"Billing data": If you order or make use of chargeable services from us, the data transmitted in the process will be processed (billing data such as account or credit card data).

"Contact details": if you use the e-mail addresses provided to contact us, the data transmitted will be processed (at least the e-mail address and the time of transmission, in addition, depending on the information provided, e.g. surname and first name, address, institution/company)

(3) Purpose and legal basis of data processing

We process the personal data specified in more detail above in accordance with the provisions of the GDPR, the other relevant data protection regulations and only to the extent necessary. Insofar as the processing of personal data is based on Art. 6 (1) lit. f GDPR, the aforementioned purposes also represent our legitimate interests.

- The processing of the log data serves statistical purposes and the improvement of the quality of our website, in particular the stability and security of the connection (legal basis is Art. 6 (1) lit. f GDPR).
- Participant data is processed for the purpose of fulfilling the contract concluded upon registration for participation in the event (legal basis is Art. 6 (1) lit. b GDPR). Any processing of special categories of personal data will only take place within the narrow limits of Art. 9 GDPR (e.g. health data, biometric data, origin data). Participant data will only be processed for advertising and marketing purposes if you have consented to the processing or if the processing is necessary to protect our legitimate (in particular legal or economic) interests, unless your conflicting interests or rights prevail (legal basis is Art. 6 (1) lit. a or lit. f GDPR).

- The processing of abstract submission data is carried out in preparation and for the fulfilment of the abstract submission (legal basis is Art. 6 (1) lit. b or lit. f GDPR or, if a consent is required, Art. 6 (1) lit. a GDPR).

- The processing of billing data takes place in the context of billing for services ordered or used for a fee (legal basis is Art. 6 (1) lit. b GDPR).
- The processing of contact data is carried out for the processing of customer inquiries, for informational and/or promotional purposes (legal basis is Art. 6 (1) lit.b or lit. f GDPR, if consent is given Art. 6 (1) lit a GDPR).

(4) Duration of data processing

Your data will only be processed for as long as is necessary to achieve the above-mentioned processing purposes; the legal bases specified in the context of the processing purposes apply accordingly. With regard to the use and storage duration of cookies, please refer to point A.(5) and the Cookie Policy in section C.

Third parties engaged by us will store your data on their systems for as long as is necessary in connection with the provision of services for us in accordance with the respective order.

For more details on the storage period, please refer to A.(5) and the Cookie Policy in Section C.

(5) Transfer of personal data to third parties; basis for justification

The following categories of recipients, which are usually processors (see A.(7)), may receive access to your personal data:

- Service providers for the operation of our websites and the processing of data stored or transmitted by the systems (e.g. for data center services, payment processing, IT security). The legal basis for the transfer is then Art. 6 (1) lit. b or lit. f GDPR, insofar as it does not involve order processors;
- Government agencies/authorities, insofar as this is necessary to fulfill a legal obligation. The legal basis for the disclosure is then Art. 6 (1) lit. c GDPR;
- Persons employed to carry out our business operations (e.g. auditors, banks, insurance companies, legal advisors, supervisory authorities). The legal basis for the disclosure is then Art. 6 (1) lit. b or lit. f GDPR.
- Professional bodies (medical and non-medical) in the context of the recognition of training events and the award of training points to participants (certification bodies). The legal basis for the transfer is Art. 6 (1) lit. b or lit. f GDPR, insofar as it is not a matter of order processors.
- Service providers for the organisation and implementation of the event and the processing of the transmitted data required for this purpose (e.g., operators of the event venue, operators of a digital event platform and/or digital meeting tools, logistics and security companies, technical service providers, speaker and/or abstract submission services, accommodation and transport companies, catering services, provider of side events). The legal basis for the transfer is Art. 6 (1) lit. b or lit. f GDPR, insofar as it does not involve order processors.

For the guarantees of an adequate level of data protection in the event of a transfer of the data to third countries, see A.(8).

In addition, we will only disclose your personal data to third parties if you have given your express consent to do so in accordance with Art. 6 (1) lit. a GDPR.

(6) Use of cookies, plugins and other services on our website

a) Cookie

We use cookies on our websites. Cookies are small text files that are assigned to the browser you are using and stored on your hard drive by means of a characteristic character string and through which certain information flows to the body that sets the cookie. Cookies cannot execute programs or transfer viruses to your computer and therefore cannot cause any damage. They serve to make the Internet offer as a whole more user-friendly and effective, i.e. more pleasant for you.

Cookies can contain data that makes it possible to recognize the device used. In some cases, however, cookies only contain information about certain settings that are not personally identifiable. However, cookies cannot directly identify a user.

A distinction is made between session cookies, which are deleted as soon as you close your browser, and permanent cookies, which are stored beyond the individual session. With regard to their function, a distinction is made between cookies:

- Technical cookies: these are mandatory to move around the website, use basic functions and ensure the security of the website; they do not collect information about you for marketing purposes, nor do they store which web pages you have visited;

- Performance Cookies: these collect information about how you use our website, which pages you visit and, for example, whether errors occur during website use; they do not collect information that could identify you – all information collected is anonymous and is only used to improve our website and find out what interests our users;
- Advertising cookies, targeting cookies: These are used to offer the website user tailored advertising on the website or offers from third parties and to measure the effectiveness of these offers; advertising and targeting cookies are stored for a maximum of 13 months;
- Sharing cookies: These are used to improve the interactivity of our website with other services (e.g. social networks); sharing cookies are stored for a maximum of 13 months.

Any use of cookies that is not absolutely technically necessary constitutes data processing that is only permitted with your explicit and active consent pursuant to Art. 6 (1) lit. a GDPR. This applies in particular to the use of advertising, targeting or sharing cookies. In addition, we will only share your personal data processed through cookies with third parties if you have given your express consent to do so pursuant to Art. 6 (1) (a) GDPR.

b) Cookie Policy

For more information about which cookies we use and how you can manage your cookie settings and disable certain types of tracking, please see our Cookie Policy in Section C.

c) Social media plugins

We do not use social media plugins on our websites. If our websites contain icons of social media providers (e.g. Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn), we use these only for passive linking to the pages of the respective provider

(1) Cookies used on the profile/REG page

On the subpages for registration for the event, registration for the workshops, submission of abstracts and, if applicable, presentations and, if applicable, hotel bookings (“profile pages”), only so-called session cookies (“session cookies”) are regularly used.

Session cookies are used by a server to store information about activity on our pages so that you, as a user, can simply continue from the point where you last used the pages. Normally, pages have no “memory”. Cookies tell the server which pages to show you, so you don’t have to remember or navigate from the beginning. Cookies are therefore a kind of bookmark within our pages.

The following session cookie is used when using the profile pages:

1. a) Name: JSESSIONID
2. b) Aim and purpose: The session cookie identifies you as a visitor between different pages and stores certain properties and settings for displaying teasers and the like.
3. c) Retention period: The session cookie is automatically deleted when you leave the profile page

(2) On the sub-websites for registering for an event, workshops, submitting abstracts and, if applicable, presentations and conducting hotel and accommodation bookings ("accommodation pages"), so-called device cookies ("device cookies") are regularly used.
a) Designation: device_view
b) Aim and purpose: The device cookie detects a device type (mobile / desktop) to improve the user experience.
c) Retention period: one (1) month from the date of page view.