

PRIVACY POLICY

Last update: 25/01/2022

This document provides information on the collection and distribution of personal data that the Royal Observatory of Belgium (ROB) is collecting in the frame of its activities as Central Bureau of the EUREF Permanent Network (EPN).

1. Collecting of data through which the visitor cannot be identified

During your visit on the web and ftp sites of the Central Bureau (CB) of the EUREF Permanent Network – EPN (epncb.eu or epncb.oma.be), ROB collects information such as the used browser, the downloaded files, the visited web pages, the duration of the visit, and the IP address. From this information, we cannot directly identify a user. ROB uses the gathered information to generate statistics aiming to 1) improve the services provided on the web and ftp sites, and 2) demonstrate the usage of these services.

2. Processing of personal data

2.1 EPN components

Content: In order to perform its role as Central Bureau of the EPN, ROB maintains information on agencies and associated contact persons providing EPN data, products or services (DPS). These contact persons are involved in the operation of EPN components such as GNSS stations, Operational Centers, Data Centers, or Analysis Centers. For the contact persons, ROB collects names, business telephone numbers, and email addresses.

Purpose: ROB uses the names and business email addresses of the contact persons solely for sending emails related to proper functioning of the EPN components in which the contact persons are involved.

Location: ROB stores the personal data of the EPN contact persons in its internal database. For users who have provided their consent, the personal data are also publicly available without restrictions from our web and ftp sites.

Editing and removal:

- GNSS station or operational center contact persons can use M³G <https://gnss-metadata.eu> (also maintained by ROB) to update, correct, and remove on-line their personal data. In addition, they can indicate if they agree (or not) that ROB makes their personal data publicly available without restrictions. See the M³G privacy policy (https://gnss-metadata.eu/Guidelines/GDPR_M3G.pdf) for details.
- EPN Analysis Center and Data Center contact persons can edit or ask a removal of their personal data by sending a request by email to epncb@oma.be.

Re-use: For the contact persons who have agreed with public release, their personal data are public and published on the EPN CB web and ftp sites. This is done to allow EPN users to contact EPN DPS providers whenever there is a need for clarification about one of the provided DPS.

Historical info: The personal data is kept at ROB as long as the agency is providing DPS to the EPN. In some cases, the personal data go back to 1996 when the EPN was created, but when personal data are updated or replaced by the personal data of another person, the old data are deleted.

2.2 Mailing lists

ROB maintains the list of subscribers to three email exploders: the EUREF, EUREF-IP and EUREF LAC mail exploders. Each mail exploder has its own list of subscribers.

By sending a message to one of the email exploders, you are consenting that ROB archives internally this message and distributes it to the subscribers to the mailing list. It is recommended to avoid inserting personal data into the messages sent to the email exploders.

Content:

- For each email exploder, the list of subscribers contains person names and email addresses.
- The email messages distributed by the email exploder contain information related to EPN operations.

Purpose:

- For each email exploder, ROB uses the personal data of the subscribers solely for distributing the emails sent to one of the email exploders. These emails are subject to a dedicated filter to make sure no spam is distributed through the mailing lists.
- ROB uses the email messages sent via the email exploders to be informed about relevant events affecting EPN performances.

Location:

- The list of subscribers to the email exploders is kept internally at ROB.
- The email messages sent via the email exploders are kept internally at ROB.

Historical info:

- ROB does not keep any personal data of previous subscribers who unsubscribed from the email exploders.
- ROB keeps an internal copy of all emails sent to the email exploders since the setup of the mail exploders.

Editing and removal: The personal data of the subscribers to the mail exploders can be edited or removed by contacting epncb@oma.be.

2.3 Personal data in EPN data and product files

ROB maintains a scientific data repository that provides open access to GNSS data and data product files from the EUREF Permanent GNSS Network.

Content: Some of the GNSS data and product files available on the EPN CB ftp site may contain personal data as part of the file headers. The data providers are aware that the data and product files are provided with the intent to make them publicly available without any restrictions. It is up to the provider of these files to decide to include personal data in the files or not.

Location: ROB does not read the personal data in the GNSS data and product files nor stores them in any internal or external database or file.

Re-use: The GNSS data and data product files are publicly available, including the personal data that have been provided in these files.

Historical info: The GNSS data and data product files go back to the observation time and production time of the data and product files. They go maximally back to 1996.

Editing, removal: Upon request at epncb@oma.be, the personal data in the GNSS data and product files can be edited or removed.