



Privacy Policy

Pro-democracy platform advocacy: Fostering social media's accountability to dissident voices under authoritarianism (ProPA)

Version 1.0 – Last update: 6/12/2023

The project “Pro-democracy platform advocacy: Fostering social media’s accountability to dissident voices under authoritarianism (ProPA)” is funded by the European Union and part of the Vrije Universiteit Brussel. Like other academic projects, ProPA processes personal data. This privacy statement explains our guidelines for handling personal data, the questions and services you can request from us, and further information regarding privacy and data protection by ProPA according to the principles stipulated by the new European General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) that was enforced on 25 May 2018.

Protection of Personal Data

ProPA attaches great importance to the protection of your personal privacy. ProPA reserves the right to make changes to the privacy statement if needed, to address the needs and requirements of society, as well as abide by the relevant laws and regulations. Therefore, ProPA advises you to consult this statement regularly.

Guarantees for Processing Personal Data

The Vrije Universiteit Brussel, with registered offices at Pleinlaan 2, 1050 Elsene (KBO 0449.012.406), is responsible for processing personal data from students, researchers and staff, alumni, third party experts and visitors. We process this data for different reasons, which we explain in detail in the “purpose and legal basis” section.

Your personal data is always treated in accordance with the applicable privacy regulations. Processing of personal data is limited to the intended objective. Personal data will not be disclosed to third parties and will not be used for direct marketing, unless you have agreed to this yourself via an 'opt in'. ProPA takes the best possible security measures to prevent third parties from misusing your personal data.

Indirect processing of personal data

ProPA will, wherever possible, inform you about any indirect processing of personal data. We will give information on the source of this personal data and the categories of personal data that are processed.

Data, Purpose, Legal Basis, Transfer and Retention Time

We will not use your personal data for commercial purposes or other purposes than the ones described below. Nor will we share your data with any other organizations.

- When using our website you can access most of the information without you having to provide any personal information.
- Certain personal data, such as those processed through cookies, are used to develop user statistics and to improve the security of our website. You can read our Cookie Policy [here](#).

- Social media content analysis

The research tracks the availability of (1) Thai pro-democracy content and (2) Burmese, Thai, and Khmer anti-democracy content on Facebook, YouTube, TikTok, and Telegram during February – April 2024.

Data: public social media content, their URLs, publication time, and number of interactions

Purpose: to examine the effect of advocacy efforts that urge social media platforms to adopt a human-rights based content moderation practice with regards to Burmese, Thai, and Khmer content

Legal basis: public interest (art. 6.1.e GDPR) for academic scientific research serving the advancement of general knowledge to the advantage of society, as recognized in the Flemish Codex Hoger Onderwijs

Transfer: your data will not be shared with any third parties

Retention time: 5 years

Privacy Policies of Other Websites

ProPA website contains links to other websites. Our privacy policy applies only to our website, so if you click on a link to another website, you should read their privacy policy.

Storage of Your Personal Data

ProPA securely stores your personal data throughout the indicated retention time. For storage, we apply the following protection and security measures:

- Data are sent encrypted via https to dedicated servers that are secured in line with the market
- Data are treated confidentially
- Data are only published in a summarized or aggregated way so that reidentification is impossible
- VUB has appointed a Data Protection Officer

Data subjects' rights

ProPA would like to make sure you are fully aware of all your data protection rights. Every user is entitled to the following:

- **right to access** – You have the right to request ProPA for copies of your personal data.
- **right to rectification** – You have the right to request that ProPA corrects any information you believe is inaccurate. You also have the right to request ProPA to complete the information you believe is incomplete.
- **right to erasure** – You have the right to request that ProPA deletes your personal data under the conditions determined by law.
- **right to restrict processing** – You have the right to request that ProPA restricts the processing of your personal data, under certain conditions.
- **right to object to processing** – Whenever the processing is based on general or legitimate interest (art. 6.1.e & f GDPR), you have the right to object to ProPA processing of your personal data, under certain conditions.
- **right to data portability** – You have the right to request that ProPA transfers the data that we have collected to another organization, or directly to you, under certain conditions and as far as it is technically possible.

To exercise your rights as a concerned party, it suffices to send your question to dpo@vub.be or send a written request to Pleinlaan 2, 1050 Brussels – Building M – Office 508. In both cases, add a copy of your identity card that only shows the front side, your name and your ID picture. If you do not wish to share a scan of your ID documentation, please provide us with other information by which we can verify the legitimacy of your request.

Accountability and processing – data protection officer

The Vrije Universiteit Brussel values your right to privacy. The Vrije Universiteit Brussel, with registered office at Pleinlaan 2, 1050 Brussel, represented by its rector is responsible for processing your personal data. In case you have specific questions about your rights concerning the processing of your data, you can contact the university's data protection officer, by email on dpo@vub.be.

Complaints

Finally, should you wish to file a complaint about how your information is treated, you can contact the Belgian Data Protection Authority who is responsible for upholding the law on data protection: **Data Protection Authority (GBA)**, Drukpersstraat 35, 1000 Brussel, +32 2 274 48 00, contact@apd-gba.be, www.gegevensbeschermingsautoriteit.be



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Complaints filed with the GBA do not limit your right to lodge legal proceedings before the competent court in any way; nor does it limit the possibility to request compensation for damage suffered.

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Funded by the
European Union

The Brussels School of Governance is an alliance between
the Institute for European Studies (Vrije Universiteit Brussel) and Vesalius College.

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