

# Privacy Policy according to the General Data Protection Regulation regarding the use of the VEGANScreener Web App

The protection of your personal data is of particular concern to the Medical University of Vienna (MedUni Vienna).

This privacy policy aims to inform you about the fundamental aspects of data processing within the use of the VEGANScreener Web App, developed and provided by MedUni Vienna (Center for Public Health – Department of Epidemiology).

## 1. Data Processing

To use the Web App, you must first register, with a minimum age requirement of 18 years. After successful registration, you can complete a questionnaire about your vegan eating habits. You will then receive automatic feedback on your dietary quality. Please note that this is not medical advice for individuals. For medical or dietary advice, please consult qualified medical professionals.

During registration, your provided email address and demographic data (e.g., gender, year of birth, country of residence, educational level, marital status, health conditions) are collected and processed. Your email address is stored to restore access to your user profile in case you forget your password. The questionnaire responses are stored to allow users to compare their results over time and identify changes.

Data collection and processing are exclusively purpose-bound for using the Web App and building a data registry on vegan diets by the Center for Public Health – Department of Epidemiology. The data will not be used for commercial purposes.

Data processing is based on legal provisions (Art. 6 para. 1 GDPR), specifically your consent (lit a). If you voluntarily provide special categories of personal data as defined by Art. 9 para. 1 GDPR (e.g., health conditions), processing is also based on Art. 9 para. 2 lit a GDPR. Additionally, your data may be processed to fulfill a contract with you (Art. 6 para. 1 lit b GDPR) if you only use the app to receive automatic feedback on your dietary quality.

When registering, you may voluntarily consent to the following three options:

a) **Consent to data storage and processing for tracking dietary quality over time and improving your Web App experience (Register A).**

Data collection and processing are solely purpose-bound for using the Web App. Because demographic information and other details (e.g., health conditions) are entered during registration, you expressly consent to processing this data by using the app. Without consent for the electronic storage and processing of your data, using the Web App is not possible. The provision of data is therefore required for this data processing. Failure to provide the data may result in the Medical University of Vienna being unable to fulfill its obligations to you. External individuals have no access to the Web App backend or the collected data. Only authorized technical administrators of MedUni Vienna can access the database containing personal data for necessary control and maintenance purposes. This consent can also be granted retrospectively in the account settings.

You also agree to receive emails from the operator, including password reset links and annual reminders to complete the questionnaire.

**b) Consent for the stored data to be used for scientific purposes (Register B)**

If you consent, your provided demographic information and questionnaire responses will also be used for scientific research purposes related to epidemiology and statistically analyzed. Only pseudonymized data will be used, ensuring you are not directly identifiable. Your email address will never be used for these purposes. The data will only be linked to a user ID. Access to the registry containing data for scientific purposes is restricted to internal personnel of MedUni Vienna. Project partners working on future projects with registry data will not have direct access to the registry.

**c) Consent to be contacted via email with information about future research projects (Register C)**

With your consent, we may contact you by email with information about future research projects related to the Center for Public Health. Your email address will be stored without linking to additional details.

Consents can be withdrawn at any time through account settings or by contacting us (e.g., via email to the address below). The lawfulness of data processing based on consent remains unaffected until withdrawal. Your data will be stored on a MedUni Vienna server until withdrawal.

Data provided during registration and app usage will not be shared with third parties. If you consented to the use of your data for scientific purposes, data sharing within research projects may occur. However, only pseudonymized data will be shared, ensuring you are not directly identifiable (e.g., your email address will never be shared) – see **b) Consent for the stored data to be used for scientific purposes (Register B)**.

## 2. Technical Aspects

### 2.1. Cookies

The Web App uses cookies, which are small text files stored on your device. They do not cause any harm. Your browser accesses these files. Cookies improve the user-friendliness and security of the Web App. Most browsers allow you to disable cookies in their settings.

**Note:** It may not be possible to access all functions of the Web App without restrictions if cookies are disabled.

### 2.2. Logfiles

The Web App operator collects data on accesses to the Web App and stores them as "server log files." The following data is recorded: Date and time of access, Browser used, Operating system used, IP address used. Data processing is based on legal provisions (Art. 6 para. 1 GDPR), specifically the legal basis of the "overriding legitimate interests of MedUni Vienna" (lit f), as this data is technically essential for the provision of a functional Web App. The log files are deleted after a security-standard defined period of one year. The collected data is used solely for statistical analysis and to improve the Web App. However, the Web App operator reserves the right to review server log files if there are specific indications of unlawful use. This data will not be shared or transferred to third parties outside MedUni Vienna.

### 3. Your Rights

You have the following rights concerning your data:

- **Right to information**
- **Right to rectification**
- **Right to deletion**
- **Right to restriction of processing**
- **Right to data portability**
- **Right to object**

(Art. 15–21 GDPR)

If you believe that the processing of your data violates data protection laws or if your data protection rights have been infringed in any way, you can file a complaint with the supervisory authority: [Austrian Data Protection Authority](https://www.dsb.gv.at) (Österreichische Datenschutzbehörde, [www.dsb.gv.at](https://www.dsb.gv.at)).

### 4. Contact Information

For questions or concerns regarding the processing of personal data, please contact:

**Medical University of Vienna**

Center for Public Health – Department of Epidemiology

Kinderspitalgasse 15

1090 Vienna

**Email:** [epi-office@meduniwien.ac.at](mailto:epi-office@meduniwien.ac.at)

Our Data Protection Officer can be reached at:

**Medical University of Vienna**

Department of Law and Compliance

Spitalgasse 23

1090 Vienna

**Email:** [datenschutz@meduniwien.ac.at](mailto:datenschutz@meduniwien.ac.at)