

The Anti-Corruption Research Network (ACRN) Privacy Policy

ACRN is an online platform for sharing expertise and ideas on anti-corruption and corruption-related research. It is managed by the Transparency International Secretariat (TI-S), located in Berlin, Germany (TI-S with its limited capacity as ACRN manager is referred to as “We” hereafter).

The ACRN web platform (“ACRN”) enables researchers to present their latest findings on a wide variety of anti-corruption topics. It helps bring innovative research findings to the attention of a global community of anti-corruption researchers and practitioners. It also helps researchers and practitioners to share information on upcoming conferences, events, job and funding opportunities, research tenders, call for papers and corruption related courses and curriculum.

ACRN is an interactive platform which enables users to comment on and share on posted items. Registered members (from hereafter referred to as the “Users” or addressed as “you”) can also participate in discussions on corruption and anti-corruption research topics in the Forum.

1. Platform’s General Purpose:

1. The purpose of ACRN is to permit Users to voluntarily provide information about themselves for the purposes of developing, maintaining and enhancing a network of anti-corruption research contacts. You willingly provide us certain personal information, which we collect in order to allow you to benefit from the ACRN website. If you have any hesitation about providing such information to us and/or having such information displayed on ACRN or otherwise used in any manner permitted in this Privacy Policy and the User Agreement, you should not become a member of the ACRN community.

2. Principles Concerning your Privacy:

1. We do not:
 - a. Sell or lease/let/rent your personally identifiable information to third parties for any purpose.
 - b. Share your contact information with another User without your prior consent.
2. We do:
 - a. Occasionally share information such as email contact and areas of expertise, however only internally with TI-S colleagues, based in Berlin, that seek to identify anti-corruption researchers for invitations to specific research projects or conferences.
 - b. Secure your personally identifiable information with industry standard protocols and technology.
 - c. Reserve the right to amend this privacy policy at any time. Therefore, please review frequently. If such changes are material, we will notify you by email or via a notice on the ACRN website. Consent to the updated privacy policy will be presumed if the User continues to use ACRN following the notice of material changes.

3. Personal Information Management:

1. To become a User, you must create an account/profile (interchangeable terms) on our website.

- a. You are required to provide the following information, which you recognize and expressly acknowledge is personal information allowing others, including ACRN, to identify you: your name, e-mail address, country, location, affiliated institution, occupation, a summary of your professional background and an ACRN password as well as other information which is added to the User's ACRN profile ("Profile") by the User following registration.
- b. You may, though are not required to, provide additional information in your Profile section. This could include, for instance: your research areas, research interests, a short biography and providing links to your personal academic websites/ blogs.
- c. Your short Profile is viewable to visitors (non-registered users) of the site. The information viewable by these users include only member name, location and area(s) of research.
- d. Any information you provide at registration or in the Profile section that is not personally identifiable may be used in the same manner and extent to which other information that is not personally identifiable is permitted to be used hereunder.

2. Cookies and other reconnaissance technologies are used by the Platform to recognize you, the User, and your personal customisations.

A cookie is a tiny data file which resides on your computer which allows ACRN to recognize you as a User when you return to the ACRN website using the same computer and web browser, to track site usage, to customize your experience on the Platform, and to identify User trends and improve the quality of the ACRN Platform.

3. Other information We automatically receive includes your IP address of your computer or the proxy server you use to access the internet, your computer operating system, the URLs of external sites from which you arrive or leave the Platform as well as the type of browser you use.

The link between your IP address and your personally identifiable information is not shared with third-parties without your permission or except when required by law.

4. The information stated in the above points is used to:
 - a. Customise the Platform for Users as well as to administer your Profile on ACRN.
 - b. Send you, via email and notices on ACRN and subject to your acceptance, customised information, including forum updates and the ACRN newsletter.
5. Though ACRN does not collect sensitive personal information from you as a requirement for opening an account on the ACRN website, some information you may voluntarily choose to provide on the Platform may reveal or allow others to identify your nationality, ethnic origin, religion or other aspects of your private life.
 - a. ACRN discourages its Users from revealing sensitive information on the Platform.
 - b. Any additional personal information provided to ACRN by the User is done so voluntarily.
 - c. By providing information to ACRN for the purposes of opening your ACRN account, you are expressly and voluntarily accepting the terms and conditions of this Privacy Policy and ACRN User Agreement.
 - d. You have the right to withdraw your consent at any time, in accordance with the terms of this Privacy Policy and the User Agreement, though such a withdrawal will not have retroactive effect.

6. We do not sell, let/lease/rent or otherwise make your personal identifiable information available to any third parties for marketing or other non-research related purposes.
 - a. We may, however, provide aggregated anonymous data about the usage of our services to third parties for such purposes as we deem, in our sole discretion, to be appropriate, including to current or prospective donors to ACRN.
 - b. We may segment our Users by role (i.e. researchers, practitioners), sector, geographic location, or affiliated organisations. If you would like to be excluded from the aggregated research or products based upon aggregated data about our Users' activities on the site, please email ACRN_privacy@transparency.org.
 - c. We may retain certain data contributed by you if we believe it may be necessary to prevent fraud or future abuse, or for legitimate business purposes, such as analysis of aggregated, non-personally identifiable data, account recovery, or if required by law.
 7. As a User, you have the ability to:
 - a. Control whether or not your contact information is shared with another User.
 - b. Determine whether you communicate with other Users.
 - c. Review or edit your personal information, edit personalised settings for your ACRN account, including contact preferences and email address at any time via your personal Profile page.
 - d. Close your ACRN account.
 1. You are able to close your ACRN account through the ACRN website.
 2. To do so, please send your request to acrn_privacy@transparency.org from the email account with which you registered with ACRN. A response to your request will be sent within five business days of your email's receipt.
 3. If you decide to close your account, your name and other personally identifiable information will be removed from our publicly viewable database. Please however note our policy regarding aggregated, non-identifiable data above in point 3.6. We also have no obligation to remove items posted by you in the ACRN Marketplace, Events Calendar, Datasets page, Forum or in comments.
 8. We can delete all your personal information if you ask us to, but then you will not be able to use the Platform anymore. We retain the right to, if We deem necessary and at our discretion, keep a copy of other information which you originally provided to us in our archives for uses documented herein.
4. Security of Information:
1. Personal information you provide will be secured with industry standards and technology.
 2. Access to your profile and data on ACRN is password-protected – with sensitive data secured by SSL encryption when data is exchanged between the ACRN website and your browser.
 3. It is your responsibility to protect the security of your login information.
 4. Emails, forum posts and other forms of ACRN communication with other ACRN users are not encrypted. We strongly discourage the sharing of any confidential information through these means.

5. TI-S does not warrant or guarantee the security of any information during transmission to and from the ACRN Platform. If any breaches, theft or misuse of such information occurs during transmission, TI-S shall not be responsible or liable to Users for any damage or other consequences suffered by them.

5. Contact:

1. Your rights are a serious concern of ours. We therefore encourage you to exercise them if you deem this to be appropriate. You may exercise these rights by emailing us at acrn_privacy@transparency.org or contacting us at:

ACRN c/o Transparency International Secretariat
Attn: Privacy Policy Issues
Alt Moabit 96
10059 Berlin, Germany

6. Communication to and with other users:

1. It is up to you to share your contact information with another user if you wish to establish email contact with him/her. Your email address will not be automatically revealed to the other user without your approval.
2. Via the ACRN forums, chats or blogs: You should be aware that any personally identifiable information you choose to reveal when you post on any of the ACRN Forums, the ACRN Marketplace, ACRN Calendar or comments may be read, collected or used by other Users. If you reveal your contact information through such use, it could be used by other Users or third parties to send you unsolicited messages.

7. Minors

Children are not eligible to use the ACRN service and Platform. We ask that minors (those under the age of 18) do not submit any personal information to us or use the service.

8. Disclaimer

1. We may need to disclose your personal information to law enforcement authorities as a result of a civil court, criminal court, or another law enforcement request.
2. Any information which we disclose will only be done in a good faith belief that our act is a mandatory measure to comply with an ongoing judicial proceeding, a court order or other legal process or an enforceable request to ACRN. We will make reasonable efforts to limit such mandatory disclosures as much as possible.
3. As a User of ACRN, you have certain obligations with regards us as service providers, as well as other Users. Some of these obligations are imposed by applicable regulations and laws, and others are documented in the ACRN User Agreement.
4. You must respect the terms and conditions of the then-current Privacy Policy and the User Agreement at all times. All intellectual property rights which may belong to third parties is also included in this obligation.
 - a. Unless stated otherwise, our current Privacy Policy applies to all personal information that we have about you and your account. If you use the ACRN service after notice of changes, material or otherwise, have been either published on the ACRN website or have been emailed to you directly, you hereby provide your consent to the Privacy Policy changes.