



## Mediterranean practitioners' network & capacity building for effective response to emerging security challenges

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Additional information about the project and the consortium can be found at [www.medeaproject.eu](http://www.medeaproject.eu)

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### Abstract

This deliverable examines if a declaration on compliance and authorisation is required under national law for collecting and processing personal data as described in the MEDEA Description on Action.

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## Executive summary

Research ethics as it is practiced in all Horizon 2020 research activities requires informed consent. Voluntary participation and informed consent is at the very core of all research activities, so information must be presented to enable participants to voluntarily decide whether or not to take part as research subjects. It ensures respect for people by providing the opportunity for thoughtful consent to ensure that participation is voluntary. The MEDEA network of practitioners will seek to ensure that the following general requirements of informed consent are satisfied:

- Informed consent will be prospectively obtained from the participants or their legally authorized representatives;
- Information will be conveyed in understandable language;
- Subjects will be given adequate opportunity to consider whether they want to participate;
- Consent will be given without pressure or undue influence; and
- Subjects will not be made to give up legal rights or be given the impression that they are being asked to do so.

In addition, in the EU Regulation passed by the European Parliament, Establishing the Horizon 2020, Article 19 ('Ethical principles') sets out that: *"All the research and innovation activities carried out under Horizon 2020 shall comply with ethical principles and relevant national, Union and international legislation, including the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union and the European Convention on Human Rights and its Supplementary Protocols"*.

The MEDEA consortium will pay particular attention to the **principle of proportionality**, the **right to privacy** and the **right to the protection of personal data**. Individual research subjects have an absolute right to privacy and to the protection of their own personal data. Personal data may be defined as any data permitting to identify the person involved. Data that human subjects give to a research collection will be treated such that it is not accessible to anyone other than the individual and the researcher involved.

Individuals research subjects should be fully informed about all aspects of the research in which they are being asked to participate, including the future use of the data they might provide, the complete details and possible dangers they might face. As noted above, the research should not imply procedures or experiences more invasive than necessary or requiring the human subject to go beyond the stated research objectives.