EBRAINS Access Policy
version 1.1

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Version

Version	Description	Date
1.0	Initial policy	2020-04-29
1.1	sect 4: updated list of accessible data updated URLs	2020-06-11

1.   Introduction

The underlying objective of the European Brain ReseArch INfraStructure (EBRAINS) is to provide shared, open computing tools, models and data that serves to integrate brain science across disciplines. It provides a platform for researchers to share, find, and use data, to perform modelling, simulation and virtual experiments, and to access the required computing resources. This access policy is aimed at facilitating the responsible, transparent, extensive and appropriate sharing, access and use of the services and resources provided through EBRAINS. It ensures that the processes of applying for access to these services are simple and clear while facilitating ethically and legally responsible use of research data.

The following principles guide the procedures stipulated in this document.

2.   Principles of Access

EBRAINS operates with the following principles in accordance with the [EU Charter on Access to Research Infrastructure](#).

EBRAINS services and resources are available for legitimate purposes (e.g. research undertaken by universities, non-governmental organisations, government agencies, research institutions, commercial organizations, independent researchers) and not excluded by the Terms of Use (e.g. military research is excluded).

- Access to some resources are controlled and limited to specific conditions.
  - o Human datasets made available through EBRAINS services comply with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) provisions. Owing to the changing landscape of technology and the increasing possibility of a positive re-identification of human datasets, EBRAINS requires that applicants intending to use human datasets enter into an agreement not to make any attempt to re-identify data subjects.
  - o Multiple EBRAINS services accessible to users rely on cloud computing resources (including data repositories, supercomputing and neuromorphic computing). Use of these resources are reserved for brain research purposes. Additional supercomputing resources may be requested via EBRAINS open calls to the neuroscience community.

3. Definitions

Concepts	Description
Data User	Refers to the legal person (e.g. individual or organization) that accesses and/or uses available datasets and models shared through EBRAINS
EBRAINS access review committee (EARC)	Refers to the committee coordinated by EBRAINS who reviews applications for access to EBRAINS services (including data submission, use of data and other resources/services)
GDPR	General Data Protection Regulation http://ec.europa.eu/justice/data-protection/reform/files/regulation_oj_en.pdf
Human Dataset	Collection of related sets of information from human subject
Human Data Subject	Refers to the identifiable natural person (study participant) whose data are used in research and are accessed through the EBRAINS *Chapter 1, art 4 of the GDPR*
Service Provider	Refers to the institution providing EBRAINS services
Service User	Refers to legal person (e.g. individual or organization) that accesses and/or uses EBRAINS services (like software or computing services) that are not datasets

4. Permission for Access and User Registration

Users have access without an EBRAINS account to a limited set of services, currently non-human animal datasets and aggregated or post-mortem human datasets in the Knowledge Graph Search UI and the Atlas viewers. Access to those resources implies the user's approval of the EBRAINS General Terms of Use. Access to human datasets containing direct or indirect identifiers requires an EBRAINS account and agreement to specific conditions.

In order to access additional EBRAINS services, users need to request an EBRAINS account. Requests shall be addressed via the EBRAINS website: https://ebrains.eu/register

EBRAINS maintains a list of institutions. Users from these institutions are granted access via a simple procedure managed by EBRAINS support. Requests from users from other institutions or independent users are processed by the EBRAINS Access Review Committee (EARC) who has the authority to validate requests.

Users are identified as being from a trusted institution based on their access to an email address from that institution. This institutional email address needs to remain valid for the user to keep his/her access. Users with obviously non-institutional email addresses (e.g. gmail) will be asked to use an institutional email address for registration or to provide a copy of legal identification, optionally followed up by a validation by videoconference.

Once the user's request for an account has been approved by EBRAINS, the user will receive an email with a link to an EBRAINS web page with access to EBRAINS General Terms of Use and the possibility of accepting these to finalize the creation of the user account.

Users will be asked to validate their institutional email address on a regular basis to keep access to their EBRAINS account. Failure to do so will eventually freeze the account. Once frozen, a user account can be accessed again by re-validating the institutional email address.

For the time being, a user changing institution will be treated as 2 different users. The same applies to a user working at 2 institutions if they choose to register from both institutions at the same time.

4.1   Levels of Access

Users are granted different levels of access to EBRAINS. Access to a service and/or a dataset may depend on the level of access granted to the user.

The first level of access is **Public Access** and does not require an EBRAINS account. This user can have access to limited EBRAINS datasets and services without any authentication process. The second level is the **Registered Access** and requires the user to have an EBRAINS account.

An EBRAINS account does not give a user access to all datasets and services. However, with an EBRAINS account, a user can request access to controlled datasets and services. Requests for some reserved datasets/resources/services (such as consuming services including computing, storage, support and consulting) will be reviewed by the EARC and granted on a case by case basis.

In the future, EBRAINS may offer specialist access to some users, e.g. for institutions from an EBRAINS contributing/founding member country or based on commercial motivations. Information regarding this will be provided when it is introduced.

5.   User Access Requirements

5.1   Data Users

The data user is required to accept the EBRAINS General Terms of Use to confirm that the user will comply with all applicable laws, regulations, rules and approvals in the use and sharing of the data from EBRAINS, including the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

Beyond complying with the provisions of the terms of use, the user must adhere to basic ethical principles of respect for autonomy, human rights, dignity, non-discrimination, social benefits and the principles of Responsible Research and Innovation that help the anticipation and assessment

of potential implications of research and innovation to align research and technology with values, needs and expectations of society.

Non-EU users must agree to comply with the provisions of the GDPR especially with regard to data subject rights to: access, rectification, restriction of processing, erasure, data portability, object and automated individual decision-making (see *GDPR* chapter 3 article 12-23).

5.2   Service Users

EBRAINS users who are accessing available services may be required to accept specific terms of use to confirm that they:
- Use the services only for the purposes for which access was granted
- Understand that no guarantees are offered regarding reliability and availability

EBRAINS service users must also adhere to the ethical principles outlined in section 6.1 of this policy.

6.   Access Charges

EBRAINS seeks to provide services to the research community without Access Charges. Information will be added when services requiring such charges are introduced.

7.   EBRAINS Privacy Policy

The EBRAINS privacy policy can be found at https://ebrains.eu/terms.

8.   Terms and Conditions

Access to EBRAINS services implies the user's approval of the EBRAINS General Terms of Use which can be found at https://ebrains.eu/terms and any additional Terms of Use specific to each EBRAINS service being used.

9.   Termination of Access

EBRAINS and its service providers reserve the right to monitor the use of a user account and to terminate access to EBRAINS data and services with or without notice in case of breach of EBRAINS Terms of Use (general or service specific) or for other reasons considered adequate by the EARC.

10. EBRAINS Liabilities

The EBRAINS does not provide explicit or implied warranties for the datasets or services provided. Datasets may contain advice, opinions, statements or other information by various authors or entities. Reliance upon any such advice, opinion, statement or other information is at the user's own risk.

11. Implementation and Compliance

It is the responsibility of users to demonstrate compliance to this policy. This should be provided upon request by the EBRAINS Access Review Committee (EARC). Data concerning major breaches of the conditions set out in this policy will be gathered by the EBRAINS support team and submitted to the EARC.