



European Research Council  
Established by the European Commission

## Participant Information Sheet

You are hereby invited to participate in the research project:  
*Lobbying (A)symmetry: The Dynamics behind informed Policy*  
(*LOBBYMETRY*)

Please read this participant information sheet and the attached further information on the processing of personal data (GDPR information obligation) before deciding whether you wish to participate.

### What is the study about?

The LOBBYMETRY project studies how interest organisations and companies inform political debates and policy decisions. We contact approximately 9,000 organisations across 11 countries and at EU-level, as well as staff members in public affairs companies to collect comparative data about the role that stakeholders play in informing the policy process for a diverse set of issues.

### Who is conducting the study?

This study is conducted by researchers at the University of Copenhagen, under the leadership of Associate Professor Wiebke Marie Junk (Principal Investigator (PI)). It is funded by the European Research Council (ERC) through a grant awarded to the Principal Investigator.

### Why have I been invited to participate?

We are contacting staff members responsible for advocacy, public affairs or policy-related work in NGOs, business associations, trade unions, associations of professionals, companies and public affairs consultancies. In organisations, where no position exists for these tasks (or is not made public), we are contacting the chairperson, CEO or equivalent. You have been selected, because you have been identified as the best available contact within your organisation based on information accessed on organisations' websites and/or in lobby registers, complemented by other online sources. Names and contact information were collected and checked by the project's research assistants. Where appropriate, AI-tools were used to support this manual collection of publicly available data.

### What does my participation entail?

The survey collects information about experiences with lobbying and information exchange on political issues participants have worked on recently, followed by hypothetical scenarios the participant is asked to evaluate. It takes approximately 20-30 minutes to complete the survey.

Participants can opt-in to receive a respondent report, summarizing trends in information environments across the studied countries (expected in fall/winter 2026).

### Voluntary participation and right to withdraw

Participation is entirely voluntary, and you may at any time choose to withdraw from the project without providing a reason and without any negative consequences for you. Participants can skip parts of the survey, leave answers empty, or stop taking the survey. It is also possible to pause and resume the survey; opening the link will bring respondents back to where they had left it. Partially completed surveys can be used in the analysis, unless participants request otherwise by contacting the PI.

### Potential disadvantages or risks of participation

No specific risks are expected from participation other than the time required to complete the survey.

### **Confidentiality**

Information about individual participants and organizations will be treated as confidential and stored without access by unauthorised persons. After completion of the survey, data is stored in pseudonymised form on secure, University-approved servers. A fully anonymised version of the data will eventually be made open access. Qualitative answers (in open text boxes) will not be made public in this dataset. Under no circumstances, will it be possible to trace the identity of participants or their organisations from the published data or results in project outputs.

### **Processing of Personal Data**

The processing of your personal data is carried out in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). Together with this participant information, you will receive separate information (information obligation) regarding the processing of your personal data, where you can read more about which data is processed, the purpose and legal basis, the storage period, disclosure, and your rights.

### **Publication of results**

Results are expected to be published open access in international peer-reviewed scientific journals and disseminated widely in other formats (at conferences/events, in policy reports, blog posts or op-eds). Individual participants or their organisations will not be identifiable in these publications or in the dissemination of the research project.

### **Project Responsible**

Name: Wiebke Marie Junk

Position: Associate Professor

Institution: University of Copenhagen

E-mail: [wiebke.junk@ifs.ku.dk](mailto:wiebke.junk@ifs.ku.dk)

Phone: +45 35333812 (work) +4591871729 (mobile)

### **Consent to Participate**

Participation is accepted by:

By answering the online survey, you agree to participate.