

Finnish Institute of Occupational Health

Ethical issues and data protection issues related to data collection and the Abilitator were addressed by the management team responsible for solutions client at the Finnish Institute of Occupational Health (28 September 2015 and the ethics working group of the Institute 14 June 2017). The Abilitator is a questionnaire that respondents can complete themselves or through an interview (a non-medical study), which does not interfere with the physical or psychological integrity of the individual involved. Data processing complies with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) of the EU that took effect on 25 May 2018, and with the new Finnish Data Protection Act.

An organisation that uses the Abilitator online service is a data controller referred to in legislation and, thus, responsible for its obligations prescribed in legislation, such as data protection and provision of information related to its customers. The Finnish Institute of Occupational Health is a data processor referred to in legislation that processes personal data on behalf of and for its customer organisation. The processing of personal data is agreed upon when the customer organisation accepts the terms of use of the Abilitator online service as it applies for user IDs. Information on the processing of personal data and complementing terms and conditions are available online at www.kykyviisari.fi.

Responses to the Abilitator are accumulated in the Abilitator database maintained by the Finnish Institute of Occupational Health (FIOH). Materials are stored, processed and analysed in accordance with the principles of data protection of FIOH. A more detailed description of the data protection principles can be found online at www.kykyviisari.fi.

The Finnish Institute of Occupational Health reports on the Abilitator results in national and international scientific and popularised publications and publishes statistics on working life and Finnish society openly. Before publishing or sharing, the information is processed in a way that makes it impossible to identify an individual person or organisation, even indirectly.

The Finnish Institute of Occupational Health is not able to connect the Abilitator data to an individual person, and the Institute does not have access to identifiable personal data. Only the customer organisation providing the service can connect personal Abilitator code on the system to an individual person. At the end of the contractual term, the Finnish Institute of Occupational Health will destroy the personal Abilitator code in the service. After this, it will be impossible to connect a person to any responses. The Finnish Institute of Occupational Health will retain the information it gathers and continue to use it in its statutory activities in a manner that makes it impossible to identify an individual even indirectly. The Finnish Institute of Occupational Health may, at its discretion, also share this unidentifiable data with third parties for scientific research purposes, for example.

By completing the Abilitator, the person consents to the use of the data in an unidentified form in the statutory activities of the Finnish Institute of Occupational Health. No separate written consent is required. In the role of the data controller, the service provider employees of the organisation must inform the participants/respondents about the processing of personal data as required by law and the General Data Protection Regulation of the EU. For more information on the processing of personal data and the provision of information to customers, please visit the website of the Office of the Data Protection Ombudsman at www.tietosuoja.fi.