## 1. Cookies

#### 1.1 What are cookies?

When you visit our website, small text files called **cookies** are stored on your device. These are saved by your browser to remember certain information. Next time you visit the site using the same device, this information is sent back either to our website (called a **first-party cookie**) or to another website the cookie belongs to (a **third-party cookie**).

## 1.2 Why do we use cookies?

Cookies help us recognize if you've visited before using the same browser. This allows us to display the site in a way that matches your preferences. We only identify your device using the cookie – no personal data is collected unless you give us explicit consent, or the data is strictly necessary to provide the service you're using.

### 1.3 Legal basis

We use cookies to improve your experience and tailor our services to your needs. The legal basis is your **consent** under Article 6(1)(a) of the GDPR. Cookies that need your consent are mostly for advertising purposes.

## 1.4 How to give consent

You can give consent by clicking the checkbox for each cookie type on the website. Below we explain which cookies don't require your consent.

## 1.5 Types of cookies we use:

- Strictly necessary cookies
- Functionality & performance cookies
- Consent-based cookies

# 1.7 Strictly necessary cookies

#### 1.7.1

These cookies are essential for the website to function properly. We (the website operator) are the only ones who use them, so they are first-party cookies.

#### 1.7.2

They make sure, for example, that you stay logged in while browsing different pages, so you don't have to log in again on every page.

## 1.7.3

These cookies don't require your consent and can't be individually turned off – but you can disable all cookies in your browser settings.

## 1.7.4 Legal basis: GDPR Article 6(1)(b)

# 1.8 Functionality & performance cookies

## 1.8.1 Functionality cookies:

They remember things like your username or language selection and help personalize your experience. They only collect anonymous data.

#### 1.8.2 Performance cookies:

These track how the website is used to help us improve its content and features – for example, which pages are most visited or how long users stay.

They may track:

- Page visits
- Time spent on site
- Order of pages viewed
- Search terms used
- Country, region, city of the visitor
- Use of mobile devices
- Mouse movements, clicks, and scrolling

#### 1.8.3

This information is used anonymously for statistics, not linked to your name or profile. Your IP address is anonymized for privacy.

### 1.8.4 Legal basis: GDPR Article 6(1)(f)

# 1.9 Consent-based cookies (e.g. advertising cookies)

### 1.9.1

These cookies are only used with your explicit consent. They include marketing and advertising cookies.

#### 1.9.2

We may use anonymized data from these cookies to show you relevant ads based on your interests and browsing habits – so you see fewer irrelevant ads.

#### 1.9.3

Marketing cookies often come from third parties and help show you ads tailored to your interests.

## 1.9.4 Legal basis: GDPR Article 6(1)(a)

#### 1.9.5

You can opt out of advertising cookies via tools like:

- aboutads.info
- youronlinechoices.com

You can also change cookie settings in your browser at any time.

#### 1.9.6

If you don't want Google Analytics to track your visit, you can install the <u>Google Analytics</u> <u>Opt-out Browser Add-on</u>.

# 1.10 Managing and deleting cookies

You can set your browser to block cookies or ask for permission each time. You can also delete cookies any time. Note: disabling cookies may affect website functionality.

# 1.11 Google Analytics

#### 1.11.1

We use **Google Analytics**, a web analytics service from Google. It uses cookies to analyze how visitors use our website. This data is usually stored on Google servers in the USA.

#### 1.11.2

You can prevent cookie storage by changing your browser settings or installing the <u>Google opt-out plugin</u>.

#### 1.11.3

You can also turn off Google cross-device tracking in your Google account under "My Info" > "Personal Info".

# 1.11.4 Legal basis: GDPR Article 6(1)(f)

# 1.12 External advertising providers

### 1.12.1

Our ads may be shown on other websites by external partners like Google. These providers use both their own and third-party cookies to analyze past visits and show personalized ads.

## 1.12.2 Legal basis: GDPR Article 6(1)(f)