

Biometric authentication of Data Users by
– Keystroke Biometrics –
to ensure the security of access to data-processing systems of the
Leibniz Institute for Educational Trajectories (LifBi)

Information for the Data User

The Leibniz Institute for Educational Trajectories (LifBi), represented by the Directorate, as responsible institution for the National Educational Panel Study (NEPS) is required, according to Art. 32 GDPR, to implement the necessary organizational and technical measures to ensure data security and data integrity requirements. In addition to a separate obligation of each data user to maintain data confidentiality, only authorized data users are permitted to use NEPS data in order to ensure data security. Access to these data from outside the LifBi data security area requires an unambiguous, biometric authentication of the data user.

For this purpose, LifBi uses a biometric authentication system, so-called keystroke biometrics. It recognizes the data user exclusively by his individual keystroke behavior. For authentication the data user enters his user name and a sample sentence. This is checked against the stored user profile by a software using complex mathematical algorithms to compare specific features of typing habits with the stored user profile, which has been calculated from the last ten successful logins. If the current typing sample matches the stored data user profile, the keystroke biometric service will grant access to the systems where the data can then be retrieved. With each successful login process, the software will continuously learn and adapt the keystroke data so that security will be further enhanced. The process of keystroke biometrics is based on the finding that typing behavior is as unique as a personal handwriting.

Biometric data are personal data. Their processing is necessary for the implementation of the RemoteNEPS Supplementary Agreement, cf. Art. 6 para 1 sentence 1 lit b) GDPR. The keystroke biometrics will be deleted 10 years after termination of the contractual relationship with LifBi at the end of the calendar year.

We would like to draw your attention to the right to information, correction, deletion and restriction of processing of personal data. The same applies to the right of objection and the right of appeal to a data protection supervisory authority.

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