



Will you be collecting data about individuals for your research project?

If you, through interviews, questionnaires, observations or other means, are gathering, registering, processing or storing information about individuals (i.e. personal data), then your project is likely to be subject to notification. This means that you are obligated to fill out a [notification form](#) (meldeskjema) and submit it to the Data Protection Official for Research.

The obligation to give notification is grounded in the Personal Data Act, and your institution has committed its researchers and students to notifying the Data Protection Official for Research.

Personal data is data which directly or indirectly can identify a person. A person's name, social security number or other personal characteristics is considered directly identifying data. Indirectly identifying data includes background information which makes it possible to trace the information back to an individual, for instance by combining information about place of residence or work with age, gender, occupation, nationality, diagnosis, etc. If you are processing personal data in connection with a research project, the project is likely to be subject to notification. The project is subject to notification even if the personal data is replaced by a code/reference number/pseudonym which refers to a separate list containing the personal data.

The use of audio or video recording may also be subject to notification if from the recording is processed by automatic means (i.e. on a computer), or if the transcriptions contain personal data and is processed by automatic means, or if the transcriptions contain sensitive personal data and is organised in a personal data filing system.

Even if the final report contains no personal data, the project may still be subject to notification if you process personal data while working on the project.

Please note that research projects covered by the Health Research Act must be approved in advance by the Regional Committee for Medical and Health Research Ethics.. Projects covered by the Health Research Act are research projects which intend to generate new knowledge about health and disease. Health related projects not covered by the Health Research Act must be submitted to the Data Protection Official for Research.

If you have any questions, or would like more information about data protection in research, please do not hesitate to [contact us](#). You may also find answers to your questions on our [website](#).

Sincerely,
the Data Protection Official for Research