

EU BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP REGISTERS: OVERVIEW OF LEGITIMATE INTEREST ACCESS PROVISIONS

Country	When was legitimate interest provisions established?	Who has legitimate interest?	Who assesses?	Type of access	E-identification?
Austria	Amendment to the Beneficial Ownership Register Act (July 2023)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Members of the journalistic profession, members of science, as well as civil society organisations that have a connection to the prevention of money laundering, terrorist financing or the evasion of sanction measures. As proof, a relevant journalistic or scientific article or a copy of the statute or mission statement, which contains an obligation on the part of the applicant to carry out relevant activities, or other evidence of concrete, successful activities in this regard must be submitted. Companies obliged to do so in accordance with the 5th Money Laundering Directive (or corresponding third-country companies) which are not already authorised. In this case, suitable evidence must be presented to the supervisory authority. Applicants who wish to enter into a business relationship with a legal entity that is suitable for the legal entity due to economic or personal elements, a sufficient interest in the person of the beneficial owner of the legal entity must be established. In this case, the intended business relationship and sufficient interest must be proven. In this case, for example in the case of real estate transactions or assignments of company shares, extracts can also be obtained directly from the party representative entrusted with the transaction. 	Registry authority	Case-by-case: After the application has been approved, the applicant receives an email with a link to pay the usage fee (€4) and subsequently access the extract, which is valid for a period of four weeks.	Yes, access using e-ID. Citizens and entities without a valid e-ID in Austria, can submit a written, providing proof of identity in an appropriate form.
Belgium	Royal Decree of 30 July 2018 (as amended in Feb 2023)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> The applicant has a purpose or carries out activities related to the fight against money laundering, financing of terrorism and related underlying criminal activities in a sustainable and effective manner. The applicant is acting in court in connection with the purpose or activities referred to under 1°, with a view to defending an interest related to that purpose or those activities. The applicant will enter into an economic relationship or carry out transactions with a reporting agent (legal 	Registry authority	Case-by-case (at least for now)	e-ID or digital keys of recognised partners

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Finland	None (in practice)	<p>entity), is involved in activities relevant to the prevention of or the fight against money laundering, the financing of terrorism and related underlying criminal activities and does not yet have access to the register in another capacity.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Finnish supervisory authorities defined in the Act on Money Laundering; 2. Companies defined in the Act on Money Laundering who have an obligation to know their customers; 3. Finnish media; and 4. Other Finland-based parties whose purpose of use of the details complies with the Act on Money Laundering. 	Registry authority	<p>Case-by-case: Those with legitimate interest can order a single extract on beneficial owners as a document order. They need to fill out and file the document order form; fill out the report on the purpose of use and send it to the Registry Authority (purpose of access extracts via the use of the details must comply with the Act on Money Laundering), fill in the report on the purpose of use and send it as secure email.</p> <p>General access: Those who need details on a large number of beneficial owners can consider becoming a “contract client” and obtain extracts through this route, for an annual fee and at discounted rates.</p>	<p>The Registry Authority verifies the identity of the requester and may ask the requester to identify oneself online. Contract clients are provided with log-in information and can access extracts via the online platform.</p>
Germany	No specific legislation	Members of the public must now justify their requests for access to the Transparency Register and demonstrate a legitimate interest in inspection.	Registry Authority	Case-by-case	Registration with registry authority required and then demonstration of legitimate interest also to access specific information.

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Ireland	S.I. No. 308/2023 - European Union (Anti-Money Laundering: Beneficial Ownership of Corporate Entities) (Amendment) Regulations June 2023	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> The person is engaged in the prevention, detection or investigation of money laundering or terrorist financing offences; The person is seeking to inspect the information for the purposes of the activity related to the condition spelled out above; The company subject of the access request (i) is connected with persons convicted (whether in the State or elsewhere) of an offence consisting of money laundering or terrorist financing, or (ii) holds assets in a high-risk third country. 	Registry Authority	Case-by-case	Requester will have to send an e-mail to the registry authority. There is no clear process outlined in the legislation or the registry website.
Italy	Decree 12 of April of 2023 annulled provisions on public access. There has been no further regulation of legitimate interest access.	Italy annulled provisions of a 2022 decree that determined that members of the public could request access to beneficial ownership information without restrictions. Now that the register has become operational, legitimate interest provisions that apply to accessing information on trusts should apply also to legal entities, according to authorities. There are no further details on the criteria for qualifying for access.	Local chambers of commerce	Case-by-case	Authorities are expected to establish a platform through which requests can be submitted and information shared
Lithuania	Regulations of the information system of participants of legal entities (2013, amended August 2022)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> State authorities and institutions entitled to receive the data for the fulfilment of the functions prescribed by laws and other legal acts; Legal entities, who submitted data on their participants, have the right to receive all the data on their participants and their lists; Legal entities' participants, both natural and legal persons who submitted their beneficial ownership data, have the right to receive all the data about themselves and the lists of participants of those legal entities to which they are participants; Other Lithuanian or Lithuania-based natural and legal entities who are entitled to receive data in the cases established by law. 	Registry authority	<p>Case-by-case: Application may be submitted (a) electronically through the registry's self-service system, (b) by e-mail, which should be electronically signed or (c) in person at the Client Service Offices of the register.</p> <p>General access: Persons interested in signing an agreement must apply for it and specify the purpose of data use and legal grounds. The application needs to be electronically signed and</p>	<p>Self-service system requires a mobile electronic signature, cryptographic USB storage device or a chip card which can be obtained by Lithuanian citizens and residents; applications submitted via email which should be electronically signed; those with an agreement are provided user log-ins.</p>

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				authorised by the organisation's manager.	
Luxembourg	No specific amendment, but agreement with journalists	Luxembourg journalists recognised by the local Press Council can access the register.	Registry authority and the Press Council	General access: Recognised local journalists can freely search in the register.	Digital token
Spain	Royal Decree 609/2023 (July 2023)	Legitimate interest shall be presumed in the case of (i) the media, (ii) civil society organisations involved in the prevention and combating of money laundering and terrorist financing, (iii) the legal person (trust or similar entity) concerned and (iv) the beneficial owner.	Registry Authority	General access: Once media and civil society organisations submit documents and have their presumed legitimate interest confirmed, they can nominate three individuals to gain access to the register.	Log-in credentials