

## EASHW TIPS – RESEARCH FEES

*As a researcher, you strive for fair compensation for participants.*

Reimbursements require reflection on the nature and extent of the fee. You may also need identity data to be able to reimburse participants, which implies that your study is non-anonymous and legal permission for the use of identity data is required.

### 5. COMPENSATION: IF YOU REIMBURSE PARTICIPANTS FOR PARTICIPATION, COULD THIS FEE POSSIBLY BE CONSIDERED UNETHICAL?

From an ethical point of view, participation should always be voluntary. Reimbursements for the time and any (travel) expenses that participants invest in the study are acceptable. **If fees become 'tempting to participate', you have to ask whether participation remains voluntary.**

- If participants are reimbursed, estimate whether or not that compensation tempts participants to participate.
- Be extra vigilant when working with children or other target groups that can easily be tempted.

**Very low fees or not using any reimbursement can also be unethical;** This aches towards the potential exploitation of participants. For example: collecting data from people in chronic poverty where you take valuable time may require compensation.

**If you collect data abroad:** be sure to check if there are local guidelines that you can follow.

→ Think about these aspects, and explain how you will work with any fees.

### 6. COMPENSATION: DO YOU COLLECT CONTACT DETAILS FOR THE REIMBURSEMENT OF PARTICIPANTS? AND CAN YOU CONNECT THESE CONTACT DETAILS TO THE RESEARCH DATA?

For many reimbursements to participants, the financial service requires an overview of identity data for accounting. Even handing over a gift card may require you to request identity information from each person who receives a voucher. **Consult with the financial service in advance** to be sure whether you will have to request additional data with which participants are recognizable.

If you need identity information to reimburse participants, keep in mind that:

- Legal, written consent is required for the use of identity information (GDPR legislation).
- From an ethical point of view, risks only occur if this identity data can be linked to research data.

EASHW therefore advises:

- Identity data required for reimbursements should be obtained and stored separately from all other data.
- Identity data required for reimbursements should only be kept for as long as these data are needed, not longer.
- For an online survey: Set up a separate survey for reimbursements.

- At the end of the research survey (in which you collect the research data) you thank the participant for participating and state something like: *"If you want to be eligible for compensation, click on the link below to fill in your contact details. We do this in a separate survey to ensure that your personal data will be stored separately and cannot be linked to the data of this research questionnaire,"*
- In the new survey you not only ask for the contact details but also for written permission for the use of this data (take a look in the informed consent templates for how this is done),
- You keep this data in a separate and secure file,
- Once the fees have been transferred, delete this file.