

## **Personal Data Protection Statement for the Slovak Interbank Payment System (SIPS)**

SIPS is a retail payment system owned and operated by Národná banka Slovenska (NBS). SIPS participants may submit euro payment orders to SIPS, with the payments then undergoing final settlement in the participants' accounts held in the TARGET system (entities that may be SIPS participants are defined in Section 2(2) of 2 [NBS Decision No 1/2025 of 24 March on the rules of the Slovak Interbank Payment System \(SIPS\)](#), as amended).

For its participants, SIPS processes both domestic and cross-border credit transfers and direct debits (hereinafter also referred to as 'payments' or 'payment orders'). The processing of cross-border payments is ensured through STEP2, a pan-European automated clearing house operated by EBA Clearing.

The vast majority of payment orders processed in SIPS originate from its participants. Payment orders may relate either to payments between payment service providers on their own account (i.e. interbank payments) or to payments of payment service providers' non-bank clients, whether legal entities or natural persons.

SIPS provides its participants with services through which they can monitor their accounts and their incoming and outgoing payment orders. Access to monitoring tools is restricted to duly authorised SIPS users. SIPS users are natural persons, typically participants' employees authorised by statutory bodies and authorised NBS employees.

### **What is our legal framework?**

All personal data are processed in accordance with the European Union's General Data Protection Regulation and Slovakia's Act No 18/2018 on the protection of personal data (and amending certain laws), as amended.

### **Why are personal data processed?**

SIPS processes personal data for the following purposes:

- to enable system participants to assign payments in their own accounting systems to the accounts of payers or payees who are their natural person customers. The accounting systems of individual SIPS participants do not fall within the scope of the SIPS system. SIPS forwards payments as received from the sending payment service provider to the receiving payment service provider without any modifications;
- the identification of persons authorised to operate as a SIPS methodologist or a SIPS administrator when such persons provide advisory and support services related to the operation of SIPS;

- the archiving of accounting records related to SIPS data.

SIPS processes payment orders between participants on the basis of their identification data (as listed, for example, in the identification code converter for domestic payment transactions in the Slovak Republic), on the basis of the payment service providers' Business Identifier Codes (BICs) or on the basis of their account numbers.

The actual processing of payment orders in SIPS does not require the use of any personal data; however, personal data may be included in a payment order if the payer and/or the payee are natural persons. At the same time, it cannot be excluded or prevented that other personal data (e.g. address, personal identification number) may be included in the free-text fields of payment orders.

Personal data are not necessary for the SIPS processing of payment orders. However, in accordance with personal data protection rules, SIPS processes any and all data, including personal data, contained in payment orders.

If authorised authorities (e.g. law enforcement authorities) submit a legitimate request for access to SIPS data, access to the requested data may also include access to any personal data included in the relevant payment order.

### **What is the legal basis for processing your personal data?**

Personal data in SIPS are processed exclusively by Národná banka Slovenska. The processing of personal data is based on the statutory obligation of NBS as the operator of SIPS, laid down in Section 45(3)(a) of Act No 492/2009 on payment services (and amending certain laws), as amended.

### **Who are the recipients of your personal data?**

The recipients of your personal data are the payment service providers that send or receive your payment order and the operators of interconnected payment infrastructures (e.g. EBA Clearing, SWIFT), which process such data in accordance with their internal rules.

### **What types of personal data are collected?**

In SIPS, payment orders are based on the standard payment message format in accordance with the ISO 20022 standard, which contains information relating to both the payer and the payee, as well as their respective payment service providers. If the payer and/or the payee are natural persons, the payment order will include personal data such as forename, surname and account number. Other personal data may, but need not be, included in other free-text fields of the payment order. Therefore, various types of personal data may be included in payment orders.

**Will your personal data (in readable or encrypted form) be processed (e.g. transferred, disclosed or stored) in third countries or by international organisations?**

No, your personal data will not be processed in third countries or by international organisations.

**For how long does NBS store personal data?**

Accounting records related to SIPS data, including your personal data, are stored for a maximum of ten years.

**What are your rights?**

You have the right to access your personal data and to request the rectification of any personal data that are inaccurate or incomplete. You also have (within the limits set by national laws and regulations) the right to request the erasure of your personal data and the restriction of their processing.

**Who can you contact with questions or requests?**

You may exercise your rights by contacting the NBS Data Protection Officer

either by email at [dpo@nbs.sk](mailto:dpo@nbs.sk)

or in writing at the following address:

Personal data protection  
Information Technology Department  
Národná banka Slovenska  
Imricha Karvaša 1  
813 25 Bratislava.

This statement was updated in July 2025.