

Terms and Conditions of Use of the Unified Interpreting Corpus (UNIC) Platform

26 September 2024

1. Scope of the Terms and Conditions of Use

This document (the “Terms and Conditions of Use”) sets out the terms and conditions of use of the Unified Interpreting Corpus (UNIC) platform (“UNIC”). UNIC can be found at <https://unic.dipintra.it> (the “Website”). The terms of use of UNIC are based on data protection and copyright provisions.

2. General characteristics of UNIC

UNIC is a web-based data repository operated by Alma Mater Studiorum – University of Bologna (“University”) under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant agreement No. 101108651. UNIC enables exploring, using and sharing spoken and signed language interpreting corpora in compliance with the FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable; <https://www.go-fair.org/fair-principles/>) and CARE (Collective benefit, Authority to control, Responsibility, and Ethics; <https://www.gida-global.org/care>) principles.

UNIC can be used by scholars, educators, students, and professionals in two modalities: (i) “Explore UNIC” to search the corpora available on UNIC (“Users” and each of them a “User”), and (ii) “Explore UNIC, Register your corpus, Share your corpus, and Use shared data” upon “Registration” with a valid name, brief data use plan, email address, and password (“Authorised Users” and each of them an “Authorised User”).

3. Provisions of UNIC

UNIC provides, free of charge, the technological infrastructure needed to upload, explore, use and share interpreting corpora and perform cross-corpus investigations in accordance with these Terms and Conditions of Use.

Corpora hosted on UNIC will be accompanied by descriptive metadata according to a format defined by UNIC, which Authorised Users provide under their sole responsibility. Metadata include information on the corpus, event, actor, source text, interpreter, target text, transcriber, annotation, and alignment.

UNIC undertakes to show on the Website the licence to use the corpus, as indicated by the Authorised User during corpus registration, which defines the terms and conditions of use of the corpus itself by any Authorised Users or Users of UNIC.

All metadata are public and under the Creative Commons licence CC0 1.0 Universal Public Domain Dedication (<https://creativecommons.org/publicdomain/zero/1.0/>).

The following clauses cover how to register to access UNIC and upload, explore and use the corpus metadata, data, and associated files, as well as specific warranties and reservations.

4. Registration

In order to apply for registration to UNIC, Authorised Users are required to

- a. read the Terms and Conditions of Use and expressly accept these Terms and Conditions of Use by selecting 'I accept the Terms and Conditions of Use' upon registration;
- b. fill in all the required fields of the registration form, especially the reason for using the data stored on UNIC.

The Authorised User will receive a notification of registration results after 1–2 working days. Failure to accept these Terms and Conditions of Use will prevent corpus registration, uploading, using and sharing the data on UNIC.

5. Metadata and corpus registration and uploading

Authorised Users can access UNIC by logging in using a valid email address and password. To register their corpus metadata, Authorised Users shall specify the corpus name, acronym, citation of the dataset, description, availability, publication date, source and target languages, anonymisation flag, transcription, annotation, and alignment status.

To upload their corpus metadata, Authorised Users shall register their corpus metadata and upload a JavaScript Object Notation (JSON) file compliant with the UNIC metadata schema for interpreting corpora.

To share their corpus data, Authorised Users shall register and upload their corpus metadata, indicate the licence name and URL of data usage, and upload the data following UNIC procedures.

6. Data and metadata authorisations

By registering to UNIC and accepting these Terms and Conditions of Use, Authorised Users expressly authorise the University, not exclusively, free of charge and without territorial or time restrictions, to the extent permitted by applicable law

- a. to make the data and metadata available to the public, free of charge, without territorial or time restrictions, through UNIC, in accordance with the applicable corpus licence, granting all relevant powers and authorisations.

7. Terms and conditions of use of corpus data and metadata on UNIC

When uploading corpus data to UNIC, Authorised Users must indicate the corpus licence and URL. The IT system of UNIC will record the Authorised User's licence choice, and as such it can be used as evidence.

The data provided may be used in the following contexts, subject to personal rights and copyright and within the scope of the right to quote:

- as a database for research projects and technology development,

- for the training of young scientists, e.g. in courses,
- as illustrative materials in scientific events,
- in scientific publications.

When presenting or publishing extracts from the data, Users undertake, in particular, to

- to mask personal information appropriately and
- to comply with copyright regulations.

The source, the “Unified Interpreting Corpus (UNIC)”, and the citation information of UNIC and the respective corpus must be indicated.

Passing on UNIC data to third parties for redistribution or crawling UNIC data in any form is not permitted.

If Authorised Users indicate that their corpus data are unavailable under a public licence or expressly prohibit crawling, passing on those corpus data to third parties for redistribution or to unauthorised users or crawling those data is not permitted.

8. Data check and availability to the public

Corpora uploading on UNIC will be completed after UNIC staff successfully checks the suitability and conformity of the formats.

It is expressly understood that the University will not check the lawfulness of the corpus content, for which the Authorised User will be solely responsible; will not put in place any technological protection measures for the metadata, corpora and associated materials made available to the public via UNIC, including but not limited to access protection or copy protection measures; will accept no responsibility with regard to any protection measures taken directly by the Authorised User.

9. Warranties

Authorised Users represent and warrant that:

- a. they are the author or co-author of the corpora;
- b. the data are original and authentic;
- c. they wish to use UNIC to gain access to sound data produced by the scholarly community and disseminate and give visibility to their datasets and investigations;
- d. they are the holder of all the exploitation rights necessary to allow the University to lawfully store all data on UNIC, and in any case, they have obtained the consent of any third-party holders of such rights, including any co-authors;
- e. there are no copyright or related rights of third parties (including database rights and image rights), patent rights or other industrial or intellectual property rights, rights to trade secrets and protected know-how, or other third-party rights that could be infringed by making corpus

data, metadata and associated materials publicly available, in whole or in part; alternatively, they have obtained lawful consent from the holders for all purposes;

- f. no materials contained in the corpus metadata, data and associated materials infringe confidentiality rights or other personality rights (e.g. personal image rights);
- g. the metadata and data have been deposited in the best form possible, and the University has been provided with full, true and accurate descriptive metadata, and the Authorised Users assume full responsibility for the accuracy of such metadata;
- h. they are responsible for all access to UNIC by means of the chosen Authorised User identity, whether or not the Authorised User has knowledge of such access and use. UNIC reserves the right to cancel any Authorised User identity without notice.

Authorised Users undertake to indemnify and hold the University harmless from all claims, complaints, liability, demands or legal actions of third parties, including reasonable legal costs, regarding the deposit, availability to the public and reproduction of the data, their content and descriptive metadata.

10. Research ethics

The Authorised User agrees to observe best practices regarding research ethics. This includes treating colleagues, stakeholders, customers, suppliers and the public respectfully and professionally, taking into account confidentiality when appropriate, respecting cultural differences and having an open and explicit relationship with government, the public, the private sector and other funders.

11. Termination

If the Authorised User violates the letter or spirit of this Terms and Conditions of Use, or otherwise creates a risk or possible legal exposure for UNIC, UNIC can stop providing all or part of UNIC services. UNIC will notify the Authorised User at the next time he or she attempts to access the UNIC services.

12. Limitation of liability

With regard to the upload of corpus metadata, data and associated materials, the University:

- a. will not be liable towards the Authorised User and, in general, towards the author/copyright holder for copyright infringements or violations of other rights to corpus metadata, data and associated materials, which are committed via the Website or resulting from the Users' and Authorised Users' access to the Website; likewise, the University will not be required to bring a legal action on behalf of the author for copyright infringements or violations of other rights to the metadata, corpora and associated materials;
- b. will not be liable for any delays in the upload, publication and dissemination of corpus metadata, data and associated materials through UNIC, for access disruptions or data losses due to unforeseen circumstances or to maintenance and technical upgrades;

- c. can change the Terms and Conditions of Use or make UNIC unavailable even without notice at any time and at the University's sole discretion.

13. Applicable law and jurisdiction

These Terms and Conditions of Use are regulated by the Italian Law. The Court of Bologna will have exclusive jurisdiction over any dispute related to or however arising out of these Terms and Conditions of Use.

14. Information

For information, communications or special needs in relation to UNIC and all related procedures, unless otherwise indicated, please send an email to unic@dipintra.it.