

## Explanation on active vs passive informed consent

### Active consent

Active consent means an affirmative agreement to indicate their willingness to participate in the research ("opt-in"). By default consent is active. Good practice: active and documented informed consent is preferred. Participants are not obliged to sign a refusal to participate.

### Passive consent

Passive consent means that individuals' consent is assumed if they do not explicitly object to participation after they have been informed about the study ("opt-out"). Passive consent can be considered under special circumstances, but only if

- (a) active consent leads to substantial and demonstrable disadvantages with respect to the quality or aim of the research, and/or the interests of the participants;
- (b) there is minimal burden and no risk for participants;
- (c) special care is taken to inform participants and/or their representatives of the study and the possibility to opt out;
- (d) the opt-out procedure is straightforward.

Any opt-out procedure is to be reviewed by the Ethics Review Board. **Important:** passive consent is not possible if you collect personal data.