



CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

Measures of children protection within all the activities implemented by
the Education Inspiring Peace Laboratory

INTRODUCTION

The present document represents the Child Protection Policy of the Education Inspiring Peace Laboratory (EIP Lab), Sanremo (Italy). In general terms, the Lab is committed to the safety and well-being of everyone connected to its work. Hence, Child Protection also represents a key aspect of the Lab's work principles. All members and collaborators of the Lab are involved in promoting child safety in all its forms.

The Lab recognises the concept of children protection and safeguarding as stated by the document *"Child Safeguarding Standards and how to implement them"* of the Keeping Children Safe Organisation in 2014: *Child safeguarding is the responsibility that organisations have to make sure their staff, operations, and programmes do no harm to children, that is that they do not expose children to the risk of harm and abuse, and that any concerns the organisation has about children's safety within the communities in which they work, are reported to the appropriate authorities. (Keeping Children Safe, 2014, p. 3)*

In this regard, the Lab adheres to the principle of children's interest as a guideline and priority value in any activities in which it is involved, through the adoption of measures at preventing any risk of causing harm to children, and through the promotion of activities aimed at the enhancing the active participation of children in the community.

The Child Protection Policy of the Education Inspiring Peace Laboratory lays its foundation in the Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC, 1989), in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (United Nations, 1948), and in the European and Italian legislation.

The Policy shall be intended as referring to all activities involving the Institute and its staff and its personnel, involved in any way and regardless of the financing resources.

PRINCIPLES AND VALUES

A child is defined as any individual younger than 18 (UNCRC, art. 1) and 'in all actions concerning children *whether undertaken by public or private social welfare institutions, courts of law, administrative authorities or legislative bodies, the best interests of the child shall be a primary consideration*' (UNCRC, art. 3). In accordance with these statements, the Lab is deeply committed to ensure the dignity, respect, care, protection of children throughout all its activities. Hence in all decisions affecting children, the Lab shall put children's interests, specific needs and vulnerabilities as a priority.

In regard to all activities involving children, the Lab is committed to the following principles and values:

- All children are recognised as rights holders;
- Protection from harm in all its forms is a primary right of every child;
- Children care and safety shall be always enhanced and considered a priority in any activities carried out by the Lab;
- Any interaction or activities involving children implemented within the Lab work are inspired by the principles of dignity, responsibilities and respect of the children rights;
- In case the activities of the Lab involving children are implemented together with other partners, the Lab must ensure that partners fulfil the minimum requirements on child protection and safety;
- The best interest of the child is the guiding principle of any actions undertaken by the Lab;
- Through this document, children are recognised the right of accepting or denying their availability in interacting with the Staff of the Lab or being involved in its work;
- The personal history and identity of any kind of any child involved in the Lab's activity is recognised, respected and considered. In the event of children with disabilities, their specific needs shall be

recognised and respected: all activities of the Lab involving children with disabilities should be implemented by taking into consideration their necessities.

The Lab's Child Protection Policy complies with:

a) The international Charters on child safety: more specifically, with the Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989), Universal Declaration of Human Rights (United Nations, 1948)

b) The European Legislation: the European Charter on the Rights of the Child (Strasbourg, 25/01/1996), ratified by law 20/03/2003 and the Convention of the fundamental rights of the European Union (2000, art. 24)

c) The Italian Legislation: the Constitutional Charter of the Italian Republic (arts.3, 9, and 33)

OBJECTIVES

This document's objectives are in line with the above mentioned Charters and legislations, as well as with the Statute of the Lab, whose main objective is to convey the most effective international practices and innovations in the fields of peace education, citizenship education, migrants and asylum seekers integration and participatory democracy.

This Child Protection Policy aims at protecting children from all forms of harms in any activities implemented within the work of the Lab. In order to do so, the Lab is committed to the following objectives:

- Preventing any forms of harm (threats, abuses, discriminations, etc.) that children may experience during their involvement in the Institute activity;
- Promoting awareness among the Lab staff (its members and collaborators) and the Lab partners involved in children-related activities regarding the child safety and risks;
- Defining the standards and ethical criteria related to the protection of children involved in the Lab activities;
- Identifying the member of the staff within the Lab in charge of children safety;
- Providing for the intervention measures of child protection in case of harm.

CODE OF CONDUCT

This Lab and its entire staff (members and collaborators) are committed to the respect of the following principles in regard to all Institute activities involving children:

1. Working to prevent any kind of harm against children
2. Treating all children with respect and equality
3. Avoiding any discrimination against children
4. Promoting children wellbeing
5. Valorising the participation of children
6. Positively and actively encouraging children participation
7. Modelling appropriate adult behaviour
8. Immediately reporting any child abuse

General rules for the Lab activities involving children

Throughout all the phases of the activities, the Lab's staff (members and collaborators) shall commit to the following actions:

- Activities design and planning: during the design and planning of every activity, child's safety is preserved in all its forms. In this regards, children dignity, entire wellbeing, needs, freedom and interested are recognised and upheld;
- In all activities involving any interactions with children, these are primarily taken into consideration, respected and enhanced;
- Prevention measures represent a key aspect of activity design and implementation: prevention measures are taken to minimize the risk of child abuse, and to prevent any harm which may occur against children (such as damage, manipulation or exploitation);
- Intervention measures: in case children safety is threat in any ways, the Lab will immediately intervene and put into practice actions to provide children protection and psychological support;
- Unfair, discriminatory or dangerous behaviour aimed at damaging children's dignity and wellbeing is not tolerated and it must be promptly notified to the President and the Executive Board of the Lab;
- During all stages of the activities (design, implementation, etc) privacy of all people involved (adults and children) is safeguarded and respected. In case of suspects of any criminal offence, informing competent authority must be a priority over privacy. People notifying the criminal offences must be protected from discrimination, or any other forms of prosecution;
- The present Child Protection Policy and all relevant rules concerning children safety are made available to the Lab's staff.

STAFF, RECRUITMENT

The Lab is committed to select employees and collaborators possessing appropriate skills and competences. Recruitment shall take place through transparent procedures. During staff recruitment, the Lab shall outline its commitment to child protection. During the recruitment process, candidates are informed about the Child Protection Policy of the Lab. Candidates consistent with the Policy shall be identified. All newly recruited staff will have to familiarize themselves with the Policy. All staff must be properly made aware of the principles included in the Policy.

ACTIVITIES IDEATION, PLANNING, IMPLEMENTATION AND DISSEMINATION

Ideation and planning: All activities implemented by the Lab are designed to minimise the risk of causing harm against all children involved. To do so, in all activities involving children a monitoring process and a risk assessment and management procedure must be set up. All activities involving children must be adapted to assure protection to children. The planning of the involvement of children in the activities shall also include the prevention of stigmatisation and discrimination. Children and parents or guardians shall be provided with transparent and complete information regarding the Institute activities. The information must include: potential risks children may encounter throughout the activities, direct benefits to children coming from their participation, members of the staff in charge of children safety, data controller for personal and sensitive data, privacy policy, methods of disseminations of the results of project activities.

Implementation: During the implementation phase, the Lab will provide measures to minimise the risks to harm children. Children shall be treated equally throughout the entire development of the activities and zero-tolerance standards against discrimination are foreseen. During the activities, children must be listened

to and respected. Privacy of children must be ensured, as well as the collection of personal data should be limited to only what is really necessary for the implementation of the activities.

Results dissemination: activities results shall be disseminated in an appropriate way and in the best interest of participants. Results dissemination should take place through a user-friendly format. Privacy of children is of extreme importance: children must not be identifiable in any ways.

PREVENTION

The coordinators of each activity implemented by the Lab is in charge of carrying out a **preliminary assessment of the potential risks of harm towards children and adopting suitable protection measures, by ordering periodic monitoring activities**. The entire staff of the Lab is committed to ensure that the dignity, freedom, interests, needs, and psychophysical wellbeing of the children involved are respected, by adopting relevant behaviours and methodological and linguistic tools.

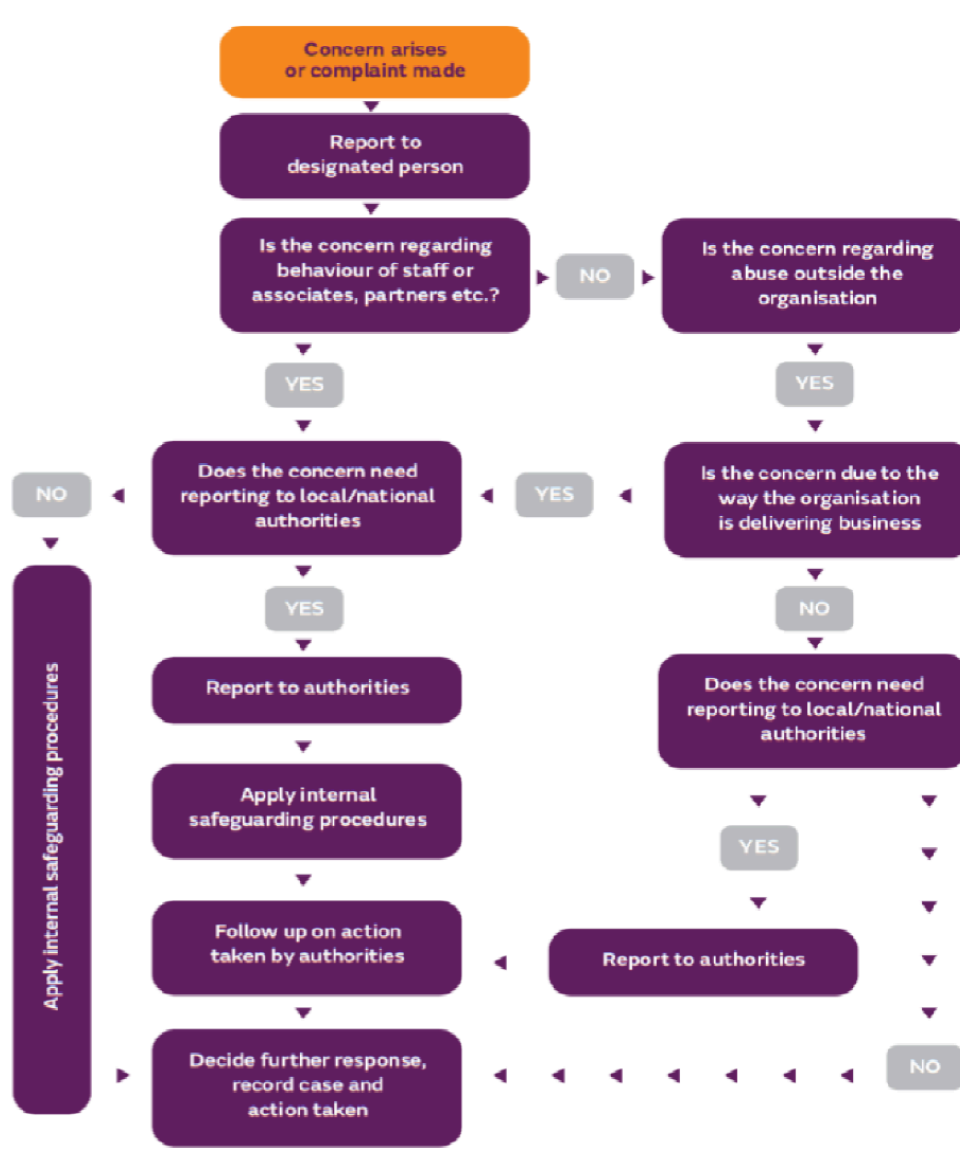
The following actions should be carried out in order to prevent any possible harm against children:

1. Conduction of research on the possibilities of child abuse in all the activities in which they may be involved
2. Integration of a safety situation analysis for all the activities involving children
3. Establishment of regular meetings between children and staff in charge of their safety and wellbeing
4. Enhancement of a recruitment process attentive to children protection concerns
5. Introduction of partnership agreements which include child safeguarding measures
6. If needed, inclusion of funding for child safeguarding in partnership agreement
7. If needed, inclusion of a developmental age expert to assess and improve activities or to help the Institute staff in the interaction with children

REPORTING

In case any members and/or collaborators of the Lab notice a violation of the principles stated in this Policy, reporting procedure should be implemented. Guiding principle of reporting is that the safety and interests of the child are always the most important element to be considered.

The following reporting procedure was arranged following the model proposed by the “*Child Safeguarding Standards and how to implement them*” of the Keeping Children Safe Organisation (2014). The procedure was discussed and agreed by the Lab proper statutory bodies and spread among its staff:



Reports, children feedbacks or communities feedback plays a fundamental role in early identification of possible abuses. For this reason, the Lab regularly monitors child safeguarding also through these mechanisms. Reactive and punctual monitoring in case of problems not only allows to prevent an escalation of children unsafety, but it also provides an opportunity for the Lab to learn from mistakes and avoid similar issues in the future.

Internal audits are also included in the reporting procedures of the Lab. The Lab adopts the Self-Audit Tool proposed by the Keeping Children Safe organization.

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