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Child Protection Policy

1. Introduction

The mission of the Intercultural Institute Timisoara (IIT) is to promote intercultural values, active citizenship and respect for human rights. IIT recognises the value of intercultural and civic education in schools among pupils and also among teachers. For many years we have implemented civic education projects for children and young people and we are committed to continue in this direction.

The present document (CPP) will cover IIT's projects in which there are direct or indirect activities with children and youth. Such projects may involve educational programmes aimed at teachers and adult educators, but also direct activities with children: phone or online discussions, questionnaires, focus groups, consultation on a training and documents, pilot testing of a training or other activity, workshops, visits at schools, participation in meetings/conferences, etc.

The present Child protection policy represents IIT's statement and set of measures aimed at protecting children from harm and creating a safe organizational culture that embeds democratic values.

Child safeguarding consists of a set of measures and conditions through which IIT limits the risks the children may be exposed to during the activities involving the adult personnel, trainees or volunteers or during their collaboration with IIT.

Abuse can take many forms. In this document we define it as a misuse of power and control that one person has over another.

2. Scope of application

The Intercultural Institute Timisoara's Child Protection policy applies to:

- All Staff, Board Members, Trainees and volunteers

- All those acting on behalf of IIT, such as consultants, experts, trainers, editors etc.
- All those who participate in IIT's events and meetings involving children.

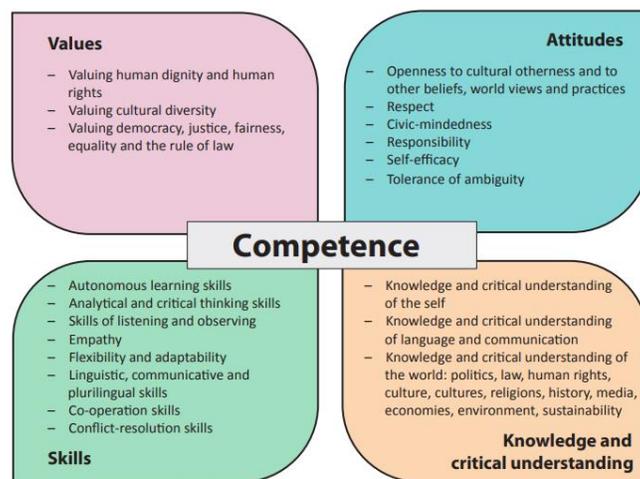
3. Legal framework

The present policy is informed by the principles of the **United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child**.

Data protection for children: As provided for in the GDPR, children may consent to data processing in accordance with member state legislation. The legal rules in Romania are mainly set in the **Law No. 190/2018 Implementing the General Data Protection Regulation (Regulation (EU) 2016/679)** .

Council of Europe's Reference Framework of Competences for Democratic Culture: The Framework offers a systematic approach to designing the teaching, learning and assessment of competences for democratic culture (CDC), and introducing them into education systems in ways which are coherent, comprehensive and transparent for all concerned. The heart of the Framework is a model of the competences that need to be acquired by learners if they are to participate effectively in a culture of democracy and live peacefully together with others in culturally diverse democratic societies.

Model of Competences for Democratic Culture



The Intercultural Institute Timisoara acts in accordance with the 2007 Strategy of the Romanian Ministry of Education, Research and Youth regarding reducing the phenomenon of violence in pre-university education institutions.

The main principles of the strategy include:

- Prevention of violence in schools
- Ecological model
- Interventions at individual level
 - Early identification of pupils with violent behaviours and the causes of their behaviour
 - Elaboration of individualised assistance programmes
 - Active involvement of pupils
- Interventions at relational level
 - Recommendations regarding families and their collaboration with schools
 - Recommendations within schools and their internal regulations
- Interventions at curricular level
 - Debate, information among pupils
 - Programmes of intra- and inter-generational education
 - Raising awareness of the teachers regarding violence in schools
- Interventions at community level
- Interventions on social level.

In all our activities with children and with other target groups in projects which might affect children, we are following the **Law nr. 272/2004 regarding the protection and promotion of the rights of children.**

4. Domains of application and procedures

4.1 Recruitment and staff procedures

IIT includes questions about risk of harm to children and safeguarding child and youth during interview processes. All IIT staff is required to accept the Child Protection Policy as part of their employment contracts.

4.2 Data protection procedures

All employees, trainees and volunteers of IIT must respect the procedures regarding **data protection** before the start of the activities, therefore ensuring participants **information, approval and consent**. In the case of children and youth under 18 years old, the Consent form will be signed by one of the parents/ legal guardians.

Information is managed as confidential and is communicated to others without the consent of the persons concerned only if the duty of protecting the children against any prejudice is above the individual right to intimacy/ private life.

As part of digital citizenship education, IIT will address:

- privacy concerns, regarding the protection of one's own information and that of others, identity management and being in control of our online profile,
- online security and a person's awareness of how online actions and behaviour can create risks.

The privacy and security domain covers competences such as effectively managing information shared online and using tools (navigation filters, passwords, anti-virus and firewall software) to avoid dangerous or unpleasant situations or to retain some sense of anonymity. IIT will act on educating children to be responsible stakeholders in the digital society and economy, so that the internet becomes an environment of trust, where fundamental human rights and civic mindedness prevail.

4.3 Development of trainings, education programmes and educational resources

IIT is committed to safeguarding all children, irrespective of ability, ethnicity, faith, gender, sexuality and culture. In all the projects, educational programmes and other activities IIT will promote and respect the Framework of of Competences for Democratic Culture.

4.4 Children direct participation to IIT`s activities

The principles of the procedures regarding children direct participation to IIT`s activities are:

- Protecting children's rights and their best interests.
- Placing the child as the first priority when dealing with all identified or suspected cases of child abuse.
- Empowering and educating children on their rights, personal safety and steps they can take, if there is a problem.

In organising the activities that will involve children participation, IIT will:

- Ensure the equal opportunity to participate in programs regardless of gender, sexual orientation, disability, ethnicity or religion.
- Respect all data protection procedures regarding the children, youth and individuals featured in public materials prior to publication.
- Reduce the risk of harm, by ensuring appropriate adult supervision in situations of face-to-face interaction.
- Promote and contribute to the development of online safety competences of digital citizenship.

IIT staff and representatives will:

- avoid any action or behavior that may be inappropriate or potentially offensive to minors. IIT advises to have at least two adults present with children.
- report any concern, suspicion or awareness of possible abuse or mistreatment of minors, as set
- respect the rights of children and treat them with respect, honesty and dignity;
- encourage children to participate in order to develop their ability to protect themselves.
- forth in this policy;

IIT staff and representatives are strictly prohibited from:

- hit, physically attack, physically or mentally abuse a minor;
- participate in sexual activity or have sexual relations with persons under the age of 18, regardless of the definition of adulthood or legally recognized consensus in different countries. Mistaken belief as to the age of the minor cannot be considered an acceptable defense;
- have relations with minors that can in any way be considered exploitation, harassment or abuse;
- use inappropriate language or give inappropriate and offensive suggestions and advice;
- act to embarrass, humiliate, belittle or despise a minor or commit any other form of emotional abuse;

- discriminate against minors or treat some of them separately, while excluding others.

4.5 Reporting incidents

For all reported child-abuse incidents, IIT requires that the child's best interest be the first priority. In addition, all incidents must be dealt with promptly, and they must be handled in a confidential manner that does not harm the victim or the person reporting the abuse.

It is mandatory for IIT professionals to report all forms of violence against children that were. IIT will collaborate with local and national Child Protection Authorities in any situation where a child abuse is reported.

4.6 Review

This CPC and will be regularly reviewed, in accordance with changes in legislation and guidance on the protection of children, following any changes within IIT.

Calin Rus,
Director

Intercultural Institute Timisoara

