

# Child Protection Policy

As a non-university research and educational institution, it has always been a concern of the Research Society Burgenland to make the elaborated contents accessible to the general public in an easily understandable and low-threshold way. Of course, this also includes children.

Among many other activities, the Research Society Burgenland has also been organizing the "European Days of Jewish Culture" in Burgenland (EDJC) since 2014. Thereby, sensitive topics are also dealt with in open public. The lecturers are always carefully selected and are encouraged to create a safe environment for all participants during their activities, especially for children.

There is a clear commitment for those who want to participate in this framework to pay attention to the safety of minorities, especially children. This includes language, behavior and many other aspects. All local partners with whom the Research Society Burgenland works are required to comply with the guidelines set out in this document and will be chosen by representatives of the institutions under the consortium on the basis of previous cooperation and trust. It is especially worth emphasizing the responsibility of the sub-partners to be sensitive to the target audience of the EDJC activities, which are aimed to adults, as well as families, and children. The wide scope of audience members increases the likelihood of the participation of minors.

This policy is designed to minimise the risk of child abuse and inappropriate behaviour towards and among young people, properly prepare employees to work with youth, as well as to early identify dangerous situations and develop procedures that will protect young people as much as possible. It is a great responsibility to minimise the harm that may inadvertently arise from planned youth activities and make sure that any concerns the project consortium has about children's safety are reported to the appropriate authorities in a timely manner.

The provisions hereby presented will apply during the project implementation, until its completion.

The project consortium is committed to protecting and safeguarding youth regardless of their ability, ethnicity, faith, gender, sexuality and culture. Their welfare is given priority during the project implementation, and all will be done to avoid, condone and act upon inappropriate behaviours such as:

acting in ways intended to shame, humiliate, belittle or degrade young people, or otherwise perpetrating any form of emotional abuse;

discriminating against, showing differential treatment, or favouring particular young people to the exclusion of others;

using inappropriate, offensive and abusive language, and suggesting or offering advice of this nature;

forcing young people to participate in or witness events and activities against their will and without their own or the parents' consent.

During the youth events and throughout the project, there may be various situations which may directly or indirectly affect their participants in an unbeneficial way. One of the most important challenges is to provide young people with a level of activity appropriate to their age, thus avoiding drastic descriptions and photos. It means that scenes relating to and depicting brutal aspects of the war, such as executions and tortures, will not be shown directly. Instead, young people should explore their knowledge in a safe environment, respecting their emotional boundaries. The local organisers will also make sure to introduce and uphold an appropriate balance in the conducted activities in such a way that the



participants have the opportunity to draw lessons and conclusions valid in the modern world. The exact way of conducting activities for young people depends mainly on the partner institutions and their assumptions, which should be consistent with the guidelines mentioned in this document.

These child protection objectives will also be achieved in the following ways:

- Child protection is everyone's responsibility; therefore, each partner and educator will make every effort to ensure the safety of the young people participating and demonstrate a sense of accountability so that poor practice or inappropriate behaviour (as the formerly mentioned) is avoided and does not go unchallenged.
- All project partners and representatives of the collaborating educational institutions are required to read this document. Its content was consulted with the project partners, and by accepting it, they agreed to respect its provisions.
- Each partner institution will adapt its own policy, based on this main document and will upload it on its website to be visible for everyone during the project implementation, especially shortly before and during its own youth event.
- People with extensive experience in the fields of education and work with young people will be assigned to conduct educational activities in the framework of the youth events, which means that the pedagogical approach will meet the appropriate criteria. It means that they will have proper competences to create a safe environment for minors.
- Educational activities will be held in places appropriately adapted to the needs of participants, where exhibitions containing drastic content will be separated (if any).
- The presence of minors at organised events requires their parents' direct consent to their participation. When necessary, minors will be required to bring their parents' written consent to participate in the event. It depends on the internal regulations in each country, and it belongs to the task and responsibility of sub-partners.
- The project consortium will ensure that the photos and videos taken during the youth events only contain images of those participants who have provided written consent to share it. Images of children must not show them in states of undressed or in inappropriate poses. What is more, details attached to images and included in related articles (websites, social media, papers) will not allow that child to be traced to their home or community.
- The rights, wishes and feelings of youth will be respected at each stage of the planned activities.
- The content and photos available in the online exhibition will also be adapted to young people, which means avoiding brutal and detailed descriptions of violence, abuse and suffering. The authors will do their best to present individual stories in an as balanced way as possible.

There will be a strong response to signs of any allegations of misconduct or abuse of youth in line with this policy. Relevant reporting and assessment procedures will be conducted by the Research Society Burgenland as well as other institutions under the consortium. These standards are integrated with safeguarding requirements within each partner institution and locally appropriate. Due to the organisation of youth events at partner institutions in different countries, situations harmful to children will be dealt with at the local level at first, where such an adverse event takes place and where a breach of child safety rules is reported. The relevant procedures must remain in accordance with national law and take into account the operation of local services.



All adults present at an event will be required to carefully observe the behaviour of youngsters as well as the others. Any allegation or concern regarding the abuse of a child must be treated seriously. For this reason, it is vital that anyone raising a concern should strictly follow reporting procedures. Particular care should be taken in regard to confidentiality and the sharing of information with appropriate people.

If a concern or complaint arises, the next step is to report this piece of information to the designated person immediately (ideally on the same day). This means that the child protection officer and the local reporting authority are directly responsible for undertaking necessary measures to stop the harm and seek the safety and psychological comfort of young people. This also implies informing the management of the institution where the incident took place, as well as the relevant services (police, municipal police, ombudsman for children) in the event of an incident leaving no doubt that a crime has been committed. The child protection officer or the local reporting authority will assess the scale of the case and immediately consult the child protection specialists via the available helplines.

Reporting procedures also need to encompass reports being made by children. As mentioned above, there are designated child safety officers who are trusted by children and teachers who will be present during those events are identified as the people to go to if wanting to report. Depending on the organisational capacity of the venues and the will of the youth event organisers, complaints boxes will be prepared for young people to use them comfortably and report their complaint confidentially.

The child protection officer on the part of the Research Society Burgenland is Michael Schreiber who is responsible for the overall coordination of implementing this policy throughout the project. On the part of the other members of the consortium, a local reporting authority will be selected to oversee the safety of children at a local level when the event is organised. Specific names will be mentioned in the procedures adopted in each institution separately. All appointees to this function from both the Research Society Burgenland and the consortium will do their best to prevent child abuse, but they are not legally responsible for any harm.

The project consortium commits to regularly monitor and evaluate the implementation of this policy and these procedures. This policy will become available online before the activities involving children are implemented, at the following link, transparent to all those who come in contact with our organisation:  
[http://www.forschungsgesellschaft.at/edjc/downloads/edjc\\_2023\\_cpp\\_bfg.pdf](http://www.forschungsgesellschaft.at/edjc/downloads/edjc_2023_cpp_bfg.pdf)



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**Alfred LANG, Director**

