

## **CHILD PROTECTION POLICY OF ERI**

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The Educational Research Institute (ERI) is a public research institute which, in all of its research, pedagogy, journalistic and publishing activities involving children and adolescents, adheres to the principles defined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989), the European Convention on the Exercise of Children's Rights (1996), the European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity (ESF, 2011) and the Personal Data Protection Act (ZVOP-1\_UPB1, 2004, 2005, 2007).

All of our activities are directed towards the dissemination and deepening of scientific and professional knowledge about children and adolescents and are intended to promote their general well-being. In accordance with the ERI strategic documents, only certified researchers and specially trained interviewers, trainers and teaching professionals can engage in direct work with children and adolescents.

### Principles:

- Protecting the well-being of a child or an adolescent by providing professional planning, management and implementation of the project.
- Respecting human (child) rights at all stages of research. This includes enabling informed participation in the project to all who express their readiness and interest.
- Respecting human (child) rights during preparation and implementation of appropriate programs of activities and methods of communication by ensuring acceptability for participants in terms of differences in the level of psychosocial and physical development, socio-cultural background and gender.
- Respecting the privacy and anonymity of participants by protecting their identity and obtaining an informed consent from their parents agreeing to participate in research and other activities and agreeing to the use of personal data and photographs.
- Respecting children's rights to express their views and to choose for themselves. This includes enabling pupils and students, within reasonable bounds, to make informed decisions about their participation in individual project activities.
- Accepting responsibility in case of ethical doubts by taking the decision to resign from executing a part of a research or other project. This also includes resigning from creating a control group, thus ensuring that no pupil or student will be deprived of participating in the project.
- Protecting the integrity of science and scientists by giving them authority to make decisions pertaining to the scientific and professional aspects of research or other projects.
- Committing to objectivity, accuracy and integrity at work using appropriate methods at all stages of the project, including preparation, development and evaluation.

Appropriate approvals need to be obtained for all ERI activities which involve minor children.

The ERI Scientific Council is responsible to monitor compliance with the ERI Child Protection Policy, while all employees and external employees are responsible for its implementation.