



## Child Protection Policy

European Movement in the Republic of North Macedonia is fully committed to ensuring the safety, well-being, and rights of all children involved in or affected by our project. In line with the *Keeping Children Safe: International Child Safeguarding Standards*, we have established a robust set of child protection measures grounded in the following core principles:

### Core Principles

#### 1. Equal Right to Protection from Harm

All children, regardless of gender, ethnicity, ability, socio-economic background, or any other status, have an equal right to protection from all forms of harm, abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

#### 2. Shared Responsibility

Protecting children is a shared responsibility. Every individual involved in our organisation — including staff, volunteers, partners, and contractors — holds a responsibility to act in a manner that safeguards children and promotes their well-being.

#### 3. Organisational Duty of Care

Our organisation has a clear duty of care towards all children with whom we work, interact, or who may be impacted by our operations. This includes a proactive approach to risk identification, prevention, and appropriate responses to any safeguarding concerns.

#### 4. Best Interests of the Child

In all decisions and actions, the best interests of the child shall be a primary consideration. The child's welfare and development are central to our safeguarding approach.

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### Practical Safeguarding Measures within Project Activities

To operationalise these principles, the following measures will be integrated into every aspect of the project:

#### 1. Informed Consent

- Prior to any child's participation, comprehensive and age-appropriate information will be provided to both the child and their legal guardians.
- This will include details about the project's purpose, activities involved, potential risks, and the child's rights, including the right to withdraw.
- Where applicable, contact information for local child protection services and support resources will be shared, especially if a participant experiences distress during the project.

#### 2. Voluntary Participation

- Participation by children in any aspect of the project is entirely voluntary.
- Children and their guardians are free to decline or withdraw from participation at any time, without any pressure or requirement to provide a reason.



### 3. Do No Harm

- All project activities will be designed and implemented with the utmost care to ensure no harm, whether physical, emotional, or psychological, is caused to any child participant.
- This includes protecting children's dignity, self-esteem, privacy, and emotional well-being.
- Staff will be trained to identify and mitigate any potential safeguarding risks.

### 4. Criminal Background Checks

- Any individual (staff, volunteers, consultants, etc.) who will be in direct contact with children as part of the project will undergo a formal criminal background check.
- Only those who pass this screening will be permitted to engage directly with child participants.

### 5. Data Protection and Privacy

- The collection, storage, processing, and sharing of any personal data — including images, recordings, or identifying information of child participants — will be strictly in accordance with the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).
- Informed consent will be obtained for any data collection, and the data will be securely stored and accessed only by authorised personnel.
- No personal data will be published or shared publicly without explicit permission from the child's guardian.

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## Implementation and Monitoring

- All project staff will receive appropriate training on child safeguarding policies and practices.
- Safeguarding protocols will be embedded in project planning, implementation, and evaluation processes.
- Any safeguarding concerns or incidents will be reported, documented, and responded to in accordance with our organisation's child protection procedures.

By adopting these measures, our organisation reaffirms its commitment to creating a safe, respectful, and inclusive environment for all child participants throughout the duration of the project.