



## VIEŠOJI ĮSTAIGA EDUKACINIAI PROJEKTAI

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Duomenys kaupiami ir saugomi Juridinių asmenų registre, 302474733

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### VŠĮ EDUKACINIAI PROJEKTAI CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

#### 1. Introduction

This document outlines the Child Protection Policy of VŠĮ EDUKACINIAI PROJEKTAI, applicable to all members, employees, and volunteers of the organization. It establishes procedures for safeguarding children and young people, ensuring their rights, safety, and well-being in accordance with Lithuanian law, including the Law on the Fundamentals of Child Rights Protection of the Republic of Lithuania, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, and EU regulations on child welfare and protection.

#### 2. Commitment to Child Protection

VŠĮ EDUKACINIAI PROJEKTAI is committed to:

- Ensuring a safe environment for children in all activities and programs.
- Preventing abuse, neglect, and exploitation of children.
- Responding swiftly and appropriately to any concerns about a child's safety and well-being.
- Promoting a child-centered approach where children's voices are heard and respected.
- Training staff and volunteers on child protection policies and procedures.
- Conducting risk assessments for all child-related activities to mitigate potential risks.
- Establishing safe digital communication guidelines for staff and children.

#### 3. Principles of Child Protection

- Best Interests of the Child: The welfare and well-being of children are paramount in all decisions.
- Non-Discrimination: Every child is entitled to equal protection, regardless of background, gender, race, ability, or any other factor.
- Confidentiality: Information related to child protection concerns will be handled sensitively and shared only on a need-to-know basis.
- Accountability: All staff, volunteers, and associates must adhere to child protection procedures.
- Child Participation: Children must have opportunities to express concerns, and a child-friendly version of this policy will be available.

#### 4. Recognizing and Responding to Abuse

Abuse can take many forms, including:

- Physical Abuse: Inflicting harm through physical means (hitting, shaking, etc.).
- Emotional Abuse: Persistent emotional maltreatment affecting a child's development.
- Sexual Abuse: Involving a child in sexual activities, including non-contact abuse (exposure to inappropriate materials).
- Neglect: Failing to meet a child's basic needs, leading to harm or developmental delay.

If any individual suspects that a child is experiencing abuse, they must:

- Listen to the child without leading or pressuring them.
- Reassure the child that they have done the right thing in speaking up.
- Record the details factually, noting the child's words where possible.
- Report the concern immediately to the designated Child Protection Officer (CPO).
- Ensure the child is provided access to support services such as counseling or medical care.

## **5. Reporting and Referral Process**

- The Child Protection Officer (CPO) is the designated person responsible for handling all child protection concerns within the organization.
- Any concerns must be reported to the CPO, who will assess the situation and determine the appropriate action, including referrals to Social Services or law enforcement if required.
- In cases of immediate danger, emergency services (112) must be contacted.
- A written report must be submitted within 48 hours of a verbal report.
- Staff can report concerns anonymously if needed to protect whistleblowers.

## **6. Safe Recruitment and Training**

- All staff and volunteers working with children must undergo background checks.
- Regular child protection training will be provided to all relevant personnel.
- Staff must adhere to professional conduct standards to maintain a safe and supportive environment.
- A safeguarding committee will oversee policy implementation and training.

## **7. Code of Conduct for Working with Children**

All employees and volunteers must:

- Treat children with dignity and respect at all times.
- Maintain professional boundaries, avoiding inappropriate physical contact.
- Never engage in exploitative or abusive behavior.
- Report any concerns regarding another staff member's behavior towards children.

## **8. Digital Safeguarding and Data Protection**

- Child protection records must be stored securely and only accessed by authorized personnel.
- Personal data related to child protection will be handled in compliance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).
- Digital communication with children must follow strict guidelines, including no private messaging and only using official organizational channels.
- Photography and videography of children require parental consent and must be used only for approved purposes.

## **9. Monitoring and Review**

- This policy will be reviewed annually to ensure it remains current and effective.
- Updates will reflect changes in national legislation and international best practices.
- An external review mechanism will be established to assess safeguarding effectiveness.

## **10. Contact Information**

- Child Protection Officer: Ieva Rodė
- Emergency Services: 112
- Child Protection Services Contact: +37061457509

For further information, contact VŠĮ EDUKACINIAI PROJEKTAI at [bendras@edupro.lt](mailto:bendras@edupro.lt) or visit [www.edupro.lt](http://www.edupro.lt).

Direktorė



*Gintarė Černikienė*

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