



Child Protection Policy applied in the Project Against forgetting

This child protection policy serves as the basis for ensuring a safe environment for children and young people in the context of the activities planned by the partner consortium as part of the CERV application.

Everyone who participates in the Project is entitled to do so in an enjoyable and safe environment. **Mladinski svet Slovenije (National Youth Council of Slovenia)** has a moral and legal obligation to ensure that, when given responsibility for young people, coaches and volunteers provide them with the highest possible standard of care.

The Mladinski svet Slovenije (National Youth Council of Slovenia) is committed to devising and implementing policies so that everyone in sport accepts their responsibilities to safeguard children from harm and abuse. This means to follow procedures to protect children and report any concerns about their welfare to appropriate authorities.

The aim of the policy is to promote good practice, providing children and young people with appropriate safety/protection whilst in the care of **The Mladinski svet Slovenije (National Youth Council of Slovenia)** and to allow staff and volunteers to make informed and confident responses to specific child protection issues.

In this Policy, a child is defined as a person under the age of 18.

The Mladinski svet Slovenije (National Youth Council of Slovenia) is committed to the following:

- the welfare of the child is paramount
- all children, whatever their age, culture, ability, gender, language, racial origin, religious belief and/or sexual identity should be able to participate in the project in a fun and safe environment
- taking all reasonable steps to protect children from harm, discrimination and degrading treatment and to respect their rights, wishes and feelings
- all suspicions and allegations of poor practice or abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately
- **all Mladinski svet Slovenije (National Youth Council of Slovenia)** employees who work with children in this project will be recruited with regard to their suitability for that responsibility, and will be provided with guidance and/or training in good practice and child protection procedures
- working in partnership with parents and children is essential for the protection of children



The implementation of procedures should be regularly monitored and reviewed. The local Project Coordinator should regularly report progress, challenges, difficulties, achievements gaps and areas where changes are required to the PC.

The policy should be reviewed whenever there is a major change in the organisation or in relevant legislation.

Defining Child Abuse

Child abuse is any form of physical, emotional or sexual mistreatment or lack of care that leads to injury or harm, it commonly occurs within a relationship of trust or responsibility and is an abuse of power or a breach of trust. Abuse can happen to a young person regardless of their age, gender, race or ability.

There are four main types of abuse: **physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse and neglect**. Any individual may abuse or neglect a young person directly, or may be responsible for abuse because they fail to prevent another person harming the young person.

- **Physical Abuse:** where adults physically hurt or injure a young person e.g. hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning, biting, scalding, suffocating, drowning. Giving young people alcohol or inappropriate drugs would also constitute child abuse.
- **Sexual Abuse** occurs when adults (male and female) use children to meet their own sexual needs. This could include full sexual intercourse, masturbation, oral sex, anal intercourse and fondling. Showing young people pornography or talking to them in a sexually explicit manner are also forms of sexual abuse.
- **Emotional Abuse:** the persistent emotional ill treatment of a young person, likely to cause severe and lasting adverse effects on the child's emotional development. It may involve telling a young person they are useless, worthless, unloved, inadequate or valued in terms of only meeting the needs of another person. It may feature expectations of young people that are not appropriate to their age or development. Ill treatment of children, whatever form it takes, will always feature a degree of emotional abuse.
- **Neglect** occurs when an adult fails to meet the young person's basic physical and/or psychological needs, to an extent that is likely to result in serious impairment of the child's health or development.



Reporting System

A confidential reporting system is in place to report concerns about possible abuse or unsafe behavior. All reports are carefully investigated and care is taken to ensure that the protection of the child is paramount. A crisis and emergency plan is in place which also applies in the event of abuse. This emergency plan is known to all full-time and voluntary staff.

All suspicions and allegations will be reported appropriately. Any suspicion that a child has been abused by an employee or a volunteer should be reported to the Camps de Milles who will take appropriate steps to ensure the safety of the child in question and any other child who may be at risk.

Confidentiality

Every effort should be made to ensure that confidentiality is maintained for all concerned. Information should be handled and disseminated on a need to know basis only.

All information should be stored in a secure place with limited access to designated people, in line with data protection laws.

Recruiting and Selecting Personnel with Children

All employees who work with children and young people undergo a comprehensive selection process. Before taking up work for the project, all persons working with children and young people are required to submit a certificate of good conduct. All partners agree not to employ any persons who have a criminal record or a final conviction for the violation of the duty of care or upbringing, sexual abuse of wards, sexual abuse of children and adolescents, sexual abuse of children without physical contact with the child or similar offenses.

Training

Employees and volunteers involved in the Project will be required to undertake a training carried out to acceptable protocol and recommendations. All employees and volunteers should receive formal or informal induction during which:

- All employees receive regular training on the topic of child protection.
- Awareness-raising measures are taken to create an awareness of possible risks and appropriate behavior.
- Child Protection Procedures are explained and training needs identified e.g. basic child protection awareness.



Mladinski svet Slovenije (National Youth Council of Slovenia) will oversee the implementation of the Child Protection Policy and take all necessary steps to ensure it is adhered to.

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Applied by partner: Mladinski svet Slovenije (National Youth Council of Slovenia)

This policy is published here: <https://mss.si/projekti/opisi-aktualnih-projektov/>.

Signed in Ljubljana on 4. 4. 2025

For Mladinski svet Slovenije
Eva Kotnik, president