



European Jewish Culture Days, 2023 Child Protection Code of Conduct of the Association of the Lithuanian Jewish (Litvak) Community

Project 'European Jewish Cultural Days 2023 - Memory' is organised by AEPJ, a network of institutions working to promote, protect and preserve Jewish heritage in Europe. The network is made up of 30 institutions representing 19 countries. For this particular project, a consortium of 11 institutions is in charge of the organisation, including AEPJ (Luxembourg), as well as SHOAH MEMORIAL (France), MAHJ (France), STITCHING LIBERATION ROUTE EUROPE (The Netherlands) and 7 AEPJ partners, B'NAI B'RITH (Belgium), TAUBE CENTER (Poland), TARBUS SIGHET (Romania), CALLGIRONA (Spain), LITHUANIAN JEWISH COMMUNITY (Lithuania), JECPI-FRANCE and RESEARCH SOCIETY BURGENLAND (Austria), promotion and reporting of the events at local, regional and national level, in cooperation with other local partners (e.g. , schools, universities, youth organisations, museums, cultural centres, municipalities, etc.) in selected locations.

The local partners of each consortium institution are bound by the guidelines of this document and will be selected by representatives of the consortium institutions on the basis of previous cooperation and trust. It is particularly worth underlining the responsibility of the partners to be sensitive to the target audience of the EDJC's activities aimed at adults as well as families and children. A wide range of audience members increases the likelihood of participation of minors.

The main task of AEPJ as lead partner is to coordinate and organise the various phases of the project. The lead partner does not recruit young people into the project, does not directly organise activities for children and has no direct influence on who will eventually participate in the youth events.

The project consortium and the partners will ensure at every step that the learning environment remains safe, respectful and non-discriminatory. The project may create content that will be accessible to the younger generation. Some of them may still be under 18 years of age, so it is necessary to include in this document ways to ensure their safety and care.

The policy aims to reduce the risk of child abuse and mistreatment of and among young people, to provide adequate training for youth workers, and to identify dangerous situations at an early stage and to develop procedures to protect young people as much as possible. It is a major responsibility to minimise the harm that may inadvertently result from planned youth activities and to ensure that any concerns of the project consortium regarding the safety of children are reported in a timely manner to the relevant authorities.

The Regulations will apply during the lifetime of the project, until its completion.

These regulations are in accordance with [the Child Protection Policy 2023 of the Lithuanian Jewish \(Litvak\) Community](#).

The project consortium is committed to the protection and safeguarding of young people regardless of their abilities, ethnicity, faith, gender, sexuality and culture. The project will prioritise their well-being and will do everything possible to prevent, not tolerate and take action to stop and address inappropriate behaviour such as:

- Acting in ways that are intended to embarrass, humiliate or degrade young people, or commit any form of emotional abuse;

- Discriminating, showing different attitudes or favouring certain young people to the exclusion of others;
- using inappropriate, abusive or insulting language and offering or suggesting such activities;
- forcing young people to participate in or witness events and activities against their will and without their own or their parents' consent.

During youth events and throughout the project, there may be a variety of situations that may directly or indirectly have a negative impact on the participants. One of the main challenges is to provide young people with an age-appropriate level of activity, thus avoiding drastic descriptions and photos. This means that scenes dealing with and depicting the brutal aspects of war, such as executions and torture, will not be directly shown in the exhibition and in the educational material. Instead, young people should explore their knowledge in a safe environment, respecting their emotional boundaries. The local organisers will also make sure that the activities will strike and maintain the right balance so that participants have the opportunity to learn and draw conclusions that are valid in today's world. The precise way in which youth activities are carried out depends largely on the partner institutions and their assumptions, which should be in line with the guidelines mentioned in this document.

There is also a clear commitment by those who will be working directly with young people to ensure child safety, which includes how they deal with the children they come into contact with, both outside and inside the work environment. In addition, safe recruitment procedures ensure that all educators provide and can prove a criminal record certificate before recruitment and participation - this is coordinated separately by each project partner.

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

- Child protection is everyone's responsibility; therefore, every partner and educator will make every effort to ensure the safety of the young people involved and to demonstrate a sense of responsibility in order to avoid bad practices or misbehaviour (as mentioned above) and to ensure that it does not go unchallenged.
- All project partners and representatives of the cooperating educational institutions must read this document. The project partners have been consulted on its content and have agreed to be bound by its provisions by accepting it.
- Each partner institution will adapt its policy on the basis of this framework document and upload it to its website so that it will be visible to all during the implementation of the project, in particular before and during its youth event.
- People with extensive experience in education and youth work will be appointed to deliver educational activities at youth events, which means that the pedagogical approach will meet the relevant criteria. This means that they will have the right expertise to create a safe environment for minors.
- Educational activities will take place in venues adapted to the needs of the participants, where exhibitions with drastic content (if any) will be separated.
- Direct parental consent is required for minors to participate in the organised events. Minors will be required to bring written parental consent to participate in the event if necessary. This depends on the internal rules of each country and is the task and responsibility of the partners.
- The project consortium will ensure that photographs and videos taken during youth events will only include pictures of participants who have given their written consent to share. Photographs of children must not show them undressed or in inappropriate poses. In addition, information attached to the images and included in related articles (websites, social media, documents) will not allow that child to be traced in his/her home or community.
- The rights, wishes and feelings of young people will be respected at every stage of the planned activities.

- The content and photos in the online exhibition will also be youth-friendly, avoiding brutal and detailed descriptions of violence, abuse and suffering. The authors will make every effort to present individual stories in as balanced a way as possible.

A strong response will be given to any signs of suspected misconduct or abuse of young people under this policy. The AEPJ and the other institutions in the consortium will follow appropriate reporting and evaluation procedures. These standards are integrated into the safeguarding requirements of each partner institution and are locally appropriate. For the organisation of youth events in partner institutions in different countries, situations harmful to children will initially be dealt with at the local level when such an adverse event occurs and when a breach of child safety rules is reported. The relevant procedures must be in line with national law and take into account the provision of local services.

All adults present at the event will be required to monitor the behaviour of young people and others closely. Any suspicion or concern about child abuse must be taken seriously. For this reason, it is essential that reporting procedures are strictly adhered to by anyone raising concerns. Particular attention should be paid to confidentiality and to sharing information with the people concerned.

If you have a concern or complaint, the next step is to immediately report the information to the designated person (preferably on the same day). This means that the child protection officer and the local reporting authority are directly responsible for taking the necessary measures to stop the harm and to ensure the young people's safety and psychological comfort. It also means that in the event of an incident, the management of the institution where the incident took place must be informed, as well as the relevant services (police, municipal police, children's ombudsman), leaving no doubt that a crime has been committed. The child protection officer or the local reporting authority will assess the scope of the case and immediately consult with child protection professionals through the available helplines.

Reporting procedures must also cover reports made by children. As mentioned above, Child Protection Officers are designated and trusted by the children, and teachers who will be attending the events are identified as the people to contact if they wish to report. Depending on the organisational capacity of the venues and the will of the organisers of the youth events, complaint boxes will be prepared for the young people to use conveniently and confidentially to report their complaint.

The AEPJ Child Protection Officer is Claudia de Benedetti, who is responsible for the overall coordination of the implementation of this policy throughout the project. A local reporting body will be selected from among the other consortium members to oversee child safety at local level when the event is organised. Specific names will be mentioned separately in the procedures adopted by each authority. All persons appointed to this function, whether from AEPJ or from the Consortium, will do their utmost to prevent child abuse, but they are not legally responsible for any damage.

The project consortium undertakes to regularly monitor and evaluate the following policies and procedures implementation. This policy will be made available online prior to the implementation of activities involving children at the following link, in a transparent manner to all those who interact with our organisation: <https://jewishheritage.org/edjc/2023-memory>

This Policy and these procedures will be reviewed regularly:

- Taking into account changes in legislation and guidelines on child protection, or any developments in AEPJ and other consortium institutions.
- Following any questions or concerns related to youth protection during the project.
- In all other cases, at least every six months.

Luxembourg, June 30th, 2023
François Moyse,
AEPJ President