

Child Protection Policy

(www.informa-giovani.net/protezione)

Foreword

The following Child Protection Policy of InformaGiovani was approved by unanimous consent of the Board of Directors on 20 November 2023, testifying to the Association's commitment to provide a safe and stimulating environment for all children who take part in its activities or with whom, in any way and for any reason, the Association comes into contact

By adopting this policy, InformaGiovani underlines its dedication not only to the safety of the children but also to their personal growth and development through enriching and formative experiences of non-formal education, volunteering and mobility, national and international. Ensuring the protection of children and promoting their psychological and physical well-being in any context, including digital ones, remains at the core of our mission.

1) **Introduction**

- a) The InformaGiovani association is dedicated to promoting volunteer, national and international mobility opportunities for young people and minors.
Aware of the fundamental importance of providing a safe and supportive environment, we are committed to protecting the rights and welfare of all children involved in our activities as well as all boys and girls in general.
- b) This child and adolescent protection policy reflects our commitment to operate in full compliance with the principles of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, the Constitution and Italian laws, as well as to actively promote the psychological and physical well-being of children also in digital environments.

2) **Purpose**

This Policy lays down the rules and procedures for the protection and promotion of the welfare of minors, to be scrupulously observed by all InformaGiovani staff, volunteers and trainees, in all voluntary activities, national and international mobility, formal, informal and non-formal education, as well as in information and awareness-raising activities promoted by the Association or in which it is involved in any capacity.

3) **Guiding Principles**

- a) **Health and Well-being:** in addition to the best interests of the child, InformaGiovani places special emphasis on promoting the health, psychological and physical well-being of children, recognising the importance of a holistic approach to their protection.
- b) **Positive Environment:** We are committed to creating and maintaining an environment that supports the personal and social development of children, encouraging their active participation in a safe and respectful environment.
- c) **Prevention by default:** the commitment to protecting the wellbeing of minors in all its forms must be the basis around which all the Association's activities are built, providing for forms of prevention at every stage of these activities, right from the moment they are conceived, and envisaging adequate measures to manage any risks or situations that may in any way constitute grounds for danger, stress or harm for the young participants or beneficiaries.

4) **Definitions**

- a) For the purposes of this Protection Policy, the definitions of 'harm' as proposed by the International Child Safeguarding Standards adopted by the International Coalition 'Keeping children safe' – London (i)
 - i) **Physical abuse**
An actual or potential physical harm perpetrated by another person, adult or child. This may be

beating, shaking, poisoning, drowning and burning. Physical harm can also be caused when a parent or caregiver deliberately induces an illness or disease in a child.

ii) **Sexual abuse**

Forcing or enticing a child to take part in sexual activities that they do not fully understand and to which they have no choice in giving consent. This may include, but is not limited to, rape, oral sex, penetration or non-penetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing and touching. It may also include involving children in looking at or producing sexual images, watching sexual images, witnessing sexual activities, and encouraging children to behave in a sexually inappropriate manner.

iii) **Sexual exploitation of children**

A form of sexual abuse involving children in any sexual activity in exchange for money, gifts, food, shelter, affection, status or anything else they or their family need. It usually involves the manipulation or coercion of a child, which may involve befriending them, gaining their trust and using drugs and alcohol. The abusive relationship between victim and perpetrator involves an imbalance of power in which the victim's options are limited. It is a form of abuse that can be misunderstood by children and adults as consensual. Child sexual exploitation manifests itself in different ways. It may involve an older perpetrator exercising financial, emotional or physical control over a young person. It may involve peers manipulating or coercing victims into sexual activities, sometimes within gangs and in gang-affected neighbourhoods. It may also involve opportunistic or organised networks of offenders who profit financially from trafficking young victims between different locations to engage in sexual activities with multiple men.

iv) **Neglect and negligent treatment**

Taking into account context, resources and circumstances, neglect and negligent treatment refers to a persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, which could seriously impair the child's healthy physical, spiritual, moral and mental development. It includes a failure to adequately supervise and protect children from harm and to provide nutrition, shelter and safe living conditions. It may also cover maternal neglect during pregnancy as a result of drug or alcohol abuse, as well as the abandonment and neglect of a child during pregnancy, of drugs or alcohol and the abandonment and maltreatment of a disabled child.

v) **Emotional abuse**

Persistent emotional maltreatment that has an impact on a child's emotional development. Acts of emotional abuse include restriction of movement, degradation, humiliation, bullying (including cyberbullying), threatening, scaring, discrimination, ridiculing or other non-physical forms of hostile treatment or rejection.

vi) **Commercial exploitation**

Exploitation of a child in labour or other activities for the benefit of others and to the detriment of the child's physical or mental health, education, morals or socio-emotional development. It includes, but is not limited to, child labour.

- b) To the definitions in point a), Associazione InformaGiovani deems it necessary to add, due to the peculiarities of the form of violence exercised, the potential damage and, above all, the pervasiveness of digital tools and technologies, also **Instigation or induction of digital addiction**. Any deliberate choice by anyone, by means of analogue or digital tools and procedures, aimed at stimulating compulsive behaviour linked to an excessive use of the Internet and digital technologies that may interfere with the daily life of minors, their psycho-physical well-being, their social or school life.

5) **Responsibility and Implementation**

- a) Training programmes: specific training sessions, aimed both inside and outside the association, will include modules on the psychological and physical well-being of minors, offering participants the tools to recognise and meet the needs of the minors they work with or who benefit from association activities.

- b) Continuous support: InformaGiovani will provide continuous support to staff, volunteers and trainees through regular supervision and access to professional resources for the management of complex situations related to the well-being of children.
 - c) Customised projects: in the national and international mobility projects, as well as in any other activity carried out by the Association in which the participation of minors is envisaged, the individual needs of each minor will be assessed and taken into account, ensuring that the activities are appropriate to the age, level of development and psychological and physical needs, including special needs, of each participant.
 - d) Well-being promotion: activities and programmes will be designed not only to protect children from harm, but also to actively promote their well-being, including mental and physical health and social development.
 - e) Safety, wellbeing and privacy in the digital environment: in view of the pervasiveness and relevance of the digital world in the lives of minors, InformaGiovani expresses a specific commitment to online safety, protecting minors from all forms of violence and abuse also in digital contexts, promoting a safe and responsible use of technologies and social media and providing appropriate information activities addressed to adults in relation to the impact of digital technology on the lives of minors.
- 6) **Obligations of and in relation to staff, volunteers and trainees**
- a) All staff members, as well as volunteers, members and trainees who may be involved in any capacity in the association's activities with children and young people under the age of 18, or who are deemed likely to come into contact with children in the course of their duties, must provide a national criminal record certificate in accordance with Presidential Decree No. 313 of 14 November 2002, in particular Article 25a.
 - b) It is the responsibility of the Executive Committee to ensure the fulfilment of point a) of this Article in accordance with the law.
 - c) All personnel, as well as volunteers, members and trainees are required to report to the Steering Committee, in the form indicated below, any behaviour or facts within the Association, by anyone, that do not comply with the provisions of this Protection Policy, unless what is to be reported constitutes or may constitute an offence to be reported to the competent Authorities.
 - d) In the case of the selection of new personnel, all applicants must authorise the Association to carry out checks with possible suppliers of references as well as to carry out the checks referred to in point a) of this Article beforehand.
- 7) **Personal Data Protection**
- a) The Privacy and Data Protection Policy of InformaGiovani (ii) is hereby reproduced in its entirety, insofar as it applies to the protection of minors.
 - b) The following rules also apply to the proper handling of data concerning minors, compliance with which must be monitored by the Steering Committee:
 - i) Written informed consent: whenever it is necessary to collect personal data concerning minors, or their image, the consent of the minor concerned must be requested, as well as the mandatory consent of a parent or person exercising parental authority;
 - ii) Disclosure of information: the disclosure of information (including images) identifying minors who come into contact with our Association or who participate in its activities must be limited to what is strictly necessary for the purposes of, for example, reporting on the activity carried out to the financial backers;
 - iii) Necessity of data: the data collected, including images, must be limited to those strictly necessary for the success of the specific activity or project. Their use must therefore be limited to the duration and purpose of the specific activity.
 - iv) For the storage and protection of data, please refer to the General Privacy Policy.
- 8) **Parental authorisation for participation in mobility activities**
- a) For all minors who take part in activities organised by InformaGiovani, it is the obligation of the staff person/volunteer/trainee who coordinates such activities on behalf of the Association to ensure

that the declaration of authorisation set out in Annex A, which forms an integral part of this Protection Policy, has been duly completed and signed by a relative or parental authority.

- b) Without prejudice to the above-mentioned statement regarding responsibilities and coverage of costs, it is the obligation of the staff/volunteer/intern responsible for the specific activity on behalf of InformaGiovani to ensure that at all times, also on the part of any national/international partner involved, the principles of precaution and prevention are applied, and that priority is always given to protecting the psycho-physical well-being of the minor concerned.
- 9) **Arrangements for reporting incidents and behaviour contrary to the Protection Policy**
- a) Employees, volunteers and trainees are obliged to report any fact or behaviour of which they have become directly or indirectly aware relating to established or suspected violations of this Protection Policy.
 - b) The report must be made in writing, by means of a standard report form (Annex B to this Policy, of which it is an integral part) to be sent by e-mail to abuse@informa-giovani.net, which will be supervised by the Steering Committee for this purpose. If the report concerns one or more members of the Steering Committee itself, the person informed of the facts is required to report the facts to the competent Police Authorities. If the person informed of alleged violations has reason to fear for the imminent physical and psychological safety of a minor, he/she is obliged to notify the Authorities also by using the international emergency number 112.
 - c) Reports will be dealt with by the Steering Committee, which will assess each case on the basis of the seriousness of the facts alleged and the perpetrator, and will consider the action to be taken.
 - d) In the case of reported violations involving employees, the rules of contestation and disciplinary measures of the category contract apply, where the facts do not constitute or may constitute an offence to be reported to the competent authorities.
 - e) In the event of reported violations involving members of the Association, the rules on disciplinary measures laid down in the Articles of Association apply, where the facts do not or may not constitute a crime to be reported to the competent authorities.
 - f) In the event of reported violations involving a partner association or body, the Executive Board will assess how to intervene, and, on the basis of the feedback received, will consider the termination of the cooperation, if the facts do not constitute or may constitute an offence to be reported to the competent Authorities.
- 10) **Monitoring and Review**
- a) InformaGiovani is committed to continuously monitoring the effectiveness of this Child Protection and Welfare Policy and ensuring that it is kept up-to-date with best practice and legislative developments. Regular reviews will allow for the integration of new knowledge and feedback from the direct experiences of the child(ren), their coordinators and caregivers.

Palermo, 20 November 2023

i - <https://commission.europa.eu/system/files/2023-10/KCS-CS-Standards-ENG-200218.pdf>

ii - <https://www.informa-giovani.net/privacy-policy>