



CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

This document is the Child Protection Policy that applies to Law and Internet Foundation (LIF) activities, which will be followed by all staff members and promoted by LIF Chairperson – Prof. Dr. George Dimitrov, by LIF Management board and by LIF Executive director – Assoc. Prof. Dr. Daniela Ilieva-Koleva. This child protection policy applies to all staff members regarding their involvement in all activities carried out by LIF.

LIF Chairperson, Management board, Executive director and team acknowledge that being a child or a young person makes them vulnerable to abuse by both adults and peers. The purpose of this policy is to make sure that the actions of any adult in the context of LIF activities implementation are transparent and safeguard and also promote the welfare of all children and young people.

If any parent or young person/child has any concerns about the conduct of any staff member of LIF team, this should be raised in the first instance with the LIF Chairperson.

This document is written in accordance with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union.

Principles upon which the LIF Child Protection Policy is based:

- The welfare of a child or young person will always be paramount.
- The rights, wishes and feelings of children, young people and their families will be respected and listened to.
- Those people in positions of responsibility within LIF team will work in accordance with the interests of children and young people and follow the policy outlined below.
- Those people in positions of responsibility within the organisation will ensure that the same opportunities are available to everyone and that all differences between individuals will be treated with respect.

The main elements of LIF child protection policy are:

- Ensuring the practice safe recruitment in checking the suitability of staff members who work with children indirectly online and directly online.
- Guarantee that the established by LIF digital environments are free from any type of discrimination and no bias will be tolerated.
- Developing and then implementing procedures for identifying and reporting cases, or suspected cases, of online abuse.
- Establishing a safe online environment where children can learn and develop their skills in terms of safeguarding their rights in the EU and their home country in cases of violence.

LIF team recognises that even though most of its activities envisaging child participation will be implemented entirely digitally and the contact between children and project staff will be indirect. LIF staff will therefore:

- Establish and maintain digital environment where children feel secure, are encouraged to share experiences, seek advice and are able to express their opinion in accordance with the Lundy model of child participation.
- Refer children to professionals if they feel the need to.

As far as guaranteeing the respect the current child protection policy, LIF Chairperson, Management board and Executive director will:

- Ensure all staff members understand their responsibilities in being alert to the signs of abuse report and responsibility for referring any concerns to the Chairperson.
- Ensure that the LIF team fully respects the current child protection policy and engage in all its tasks complying with it.
- Ensure that the online content both staff and user generated is monitored and moderated to comply with the current child protection policy.
- Notify social services if there is a violence or abuse report.
- Keep all digital records about children securely using encryption.