

# Child and Youngster Protection Policy of Notre Europe-Jacques Delors Institute

## 1. Introduction

Notre Europe-Jacques Delors Institute, hereinafter IJD, is a non-profit independent think tank, based in Paris, operating under the French Association Law 1901. Founded by Jacques Delors, who headed UNESCO's International Commission on Education for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century in 1996, our organization recognizes the importance of safeguarding the well-being and rights of children and youngsters who may occasionally be part of its projects or activities, knowing that children represent an especially vulnerable group.

The following policy is designed to ensure the protection of children and youngsters (any person under the age of 18 years old) involved within the framework of its activities, without any discrimination. Aligned with the legal and policy framework of child protection in France, IJD is committed to preventing physical and psychological violence, abuse, exploitation, neglect, and any form of harm that jeopardizes their safety, health, education, and overall development, including through internet and social networks. This policy outlines responsibilities and guidelines for IJD's staff, associates, and volunteers working with children, including interns, aiming to ensure their protection and welfare.

## 2. Guiding Principles

As a fundamental principle, IJD will always strive to exclude children and youngsters from its activities. If their involvement is necessary, IJD remains committed to ensuring their protection, both directly and indirectly. The following guiding principles underscore IJD's approach:

- **Adherence to French Legal Framework:** IJD will strictly adhere to the French legal and institutional child protection framework.
- **Parental Consent and Presence:** Children and youngsters can participate in IJD activities only with informed consent from parents or legal guardians. The welfare of the children is paramount.
- **Protection from Harm:** Children involved in IJD activities are protected from all forms of harm and abuse.
- **Rights and Expression:** Children and youngsters participating in IJD activities will enjoy the rights guaranteed by the French legislation on child protection, EU policies, the European Charter of Fundamental Rights (article 24-1), and the UNICEF's Convention on the Rights of the Child of 1989 ratified by France. This includes the right to freely express themselves, abstain, or withdraw from activities.
- **Health and Welfare:** IJD prioritizes the health and well-being of children in all activities that could involve them.
- **Safeguarding Procedures:** IJD implements robust procedures to safeguard children from abuse and harm.
- **Prompt Response:** IJD will promptly address any allegations of misconduct under this policy.

### 3. Measures to Protect Children and Youngsters during activities lead by IJD

- Children and youngsters must never be left unattended during any IJD activities.
- IJD staff members or any person involved in activities on its behalf are prohibited from being alone with an individual child or youngster and informed not to do so. At all times, at least two IJD staff members must be present when dealing with a child or youngster, even in situations requiring first aid or general distress.
- IJD staff members and associates are strictly forbidden from meeting a young person outside the activity premises without another person present.
- In cases where children or youngsters are involved in any IJD activity, complete details must be provided to parents or legal guardians, accompanied by their informed consent and preferably continuous presence.
- For any IJD research projects involving children or youngsters, its Director must review and approve special protection measures to ensure their well-being.

### 4. Reporting Mechanism

Any individual can submit verbal or written complaints regarding IJD's involvement with children or youngsters. Complaints can be sent through the official organization's email ([info@delorsinstitute.eu](mailto:info@delorsinstitute.eu)) or office telephone number +33 1 44 58 97 97. IJD's Administrative Manager is responsible for receiving and reviewing complaints and taking immediate and necessary actions in consultation with the Director.

This policy underscores IJD's commitment to protecting children and youngsters while recognizing their rights, safety, and well-being as paramount concerns in all activities.

### 5. Entry into force

This policy will enter into force on June 1st, 2024. From this date onwards, all staff members, including interns, are expected to comply with the policy and its requirements.

All IJD's staff members, associates, volunteers, interns, and any person involved in our organization's activities involving children and youngsters, especially personnel dedicated to activities of the Notre Europe Academy and its youth events, will be informed of this policy, which will be individually communicated to them by mail, communicated online and in all recruitments.

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