



# Child Protection Policy

What is it and why is it important?

# What is a Child Protection Policy?

- A **safeguarding or child protection policy (CPP)** is a document that **makes clear what an organisation does to keep children safe** mainly from **abuses** and **harm** (intentional or unintentional) of different types (sexual, physical, emotional, neglect) and **misconducts** (like sexual harassment, bullying).
- In a CPP you need to find:
  - the organisation's commitment to protect all children
  - the policies and procedures that the organisation has put in place to keep children safe and respond to child protection concerns.



A child is defined as anyone under the age of 18 (UNCRC, 1989)

*“Child safeguarding is the responsibility that organisations have to make sure their **staff, operations, and programmes do no harm** to children, that is that they do not expose children to the risk of harm and abuse and that **any concerns the organization has about children’s safety** within communities in which they work, are **reported to the relevant authorities**”*

**Keeping Children Safe, 2014**

# Why having a CPP is important?

1<sup>st</sup> of all because **children have the right to be protected from harm**: this is clearly highlighted in many international and EU laws and entails obligations for States, authorities, private actors and individuals to respect such right.

## Why is it important for organisations?

Having a **CPP** contributes to **improving the organisation's functioning, accountability**, and ultimately, its **credibility as a child rights organisation**

## Why is it important for the Commission?

Requesting a **CPP** to the organisations that the EC funds is **in line with**:

- **EU Treaties, EU *acquis* and EU policies**
- **international donor community's practice**

# When do we ask for a CPP?

- **In all calls for proposals under the Justice and CERV Programmes** (even if it is highly relevant in particular for 2 calls: Daphne and CHILD) for **projects** that foresee a **direct contact with children**

Direct contact with children	Indirect contact with children
It means <b>being in the physical presence of a child/children</b> (occasionally or regularly, for a short or long-term)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Having access to information on children</b> such as children's names, addresses, photographs, case studies...</li><li>• <b>Providing funding for organisations that work directly with children:</b> although indirectly, this has an impact on children and confers upon the donor organisation the responsibility of child protection issues</li></ul>

- **Only** for the partners who will organise activities with direct contacts with children during the project
- **Concerning public bodies:** they are rarely the ones who work directly with children and usually they do not have a CPP in place. Often, public bodies send proofs of how they are bound by national/EU legislations on child abuse like **protocols** and **statutes** that we can accept.

Questions?



# Child Protection Policies

Must-have elements of a CPP

# SAFE STANDARDS

FOUR AREAS:

## 1 POLICY

The organisation has a policy that describes how it is committed to preventing and responding appropriately to harm to children

## 2 PEOPLE

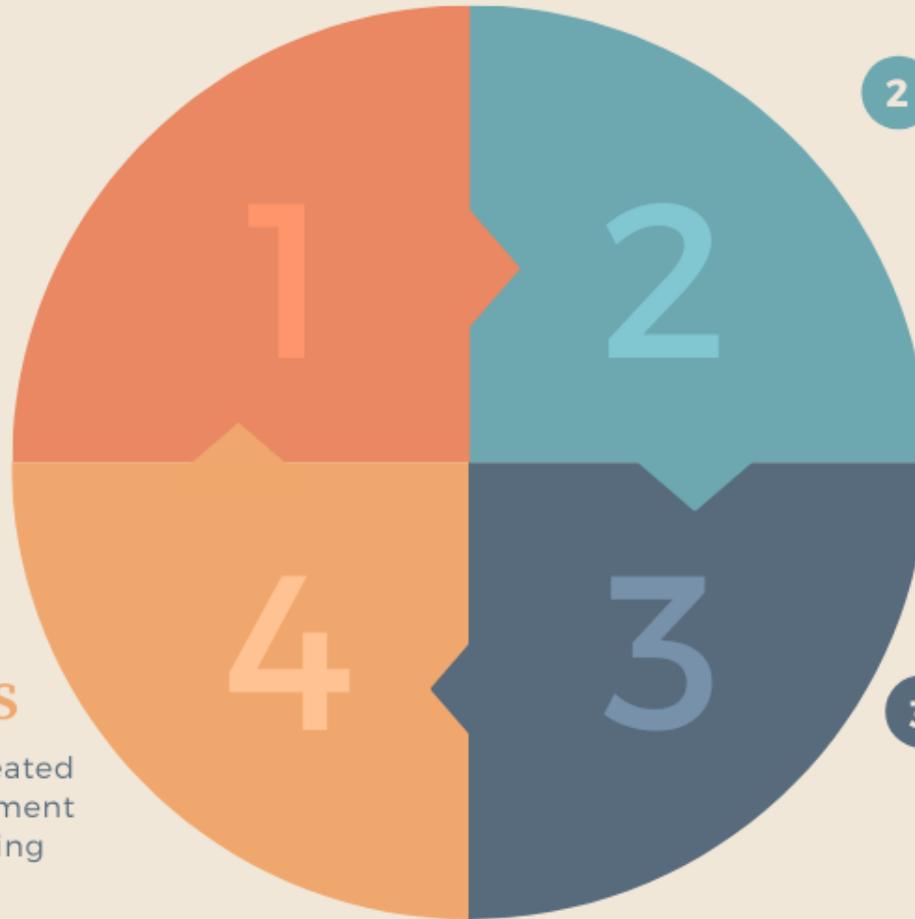
The organisation places clear responsibilities and expectations on its staff and supports them to understand and act in line with these

## 4 PROCEDURES

The organisation created a child-safe environment through implementing child safeguarding procedures

## 3 ACCOUNTABILITY

The organisation monitors and reviews its safeguarding measures





**1**

### **POLICY**

- Link with the **main missions/activities** of the organisation and the **risks that may affect children** in this specific context;
- clear **definitions** (like the **definition of “child”** as per **UNCRC**) and **references** to relevant **EU/International/national legislation**
- **Code of conduct** (in particular for big organisations)

**2**

### **PEOPLE**

- The **CPP applies to all staff** (volunteers and trainees included)
- The **staff must be informed** about the policy + continuous training
- Information about who will act as a **child protection officer /reporting authority** (above all for big organisations)

**3**

### **ACCOUNTABILITY**

- The CPP must be written with a **clear and strong language to show a clear commitment**;
- Information about **how the CPP is monitored and revised** (in this regard, the CPP needs to have a **date**);
- The **CPP must be signed** by the President/Director/Senior management team since this proves that the organisation is committed to implement it fully;
- The CPP must be **available online**.

**4**

### **PROCEDURES**

- Clear information about the **recruitment of all staff** (including trainees and volunteers): **background checks** (vetting) and a **criminal record** must be provided for staff in contact with children
- Clear procedures for **data protection** and **informed consent** of children and their parents or legal guardians
- **Reporting rules and procedures** to follow in case of abuse/harm detection internally or committed outside the organisation
- **Complaint mechanism** available
- Procedures to apply to **external staff** who might be involved in activities with children (like videos, interviews etc.)





QUESTIONS?  
DOUBTS?  
REMARKS?



*Thank you  
for  
your attention!*

