



## **CIRIC Child Protection Policy**

CIRIC at Tallinn University is **fully committed** to safeguarding the welfare and protection of all children in its activities. Researchers and experts of CIRIC fully recognise the responsibility to promote safe practice and research and to protect children from harm, abuse and exploitation. We value difference and diversity and respect the rights of children. For the purposes of this policy and associated procedures, a child is recognised an individual under the age of 18 years.

Child protection is everyone's responsibility. CIRIC Child Protection Policy outlines commitment to protecting children based on the following **principles**, we:

- value, listen to and respect children – children have the right to express views on all matters which affect them, should they wish to do so;
- believe that the well-being of children is the primary concern at all times and all children, whatever their age, culture, disability, gender, language, racial origin, socio-economic status, religious belief and/or sexual identity have the right to protection from all forms of harm and abuse;
- consider children to be our partners and experts of their own lives;
- adopt safe practices in research and in other related procedures;
- recruit researchers, experts and volunteers who are eligible to conduct research with children;

**This policy applies to** all CIRIC stakeholders, including children and their families participating in research and projects. CIRIC is aware of its **legal and moral obligation** to protect the children in its research and project activities. We are committed to sharing concerns of child abuse, neglect, and harm with relevant institutions, such as Child Protective Services and the police.

We are committed to the **child participation and their empowerment** throughout our activities by:

- ensuring a safe environment for all participants is paramount, therefore our child protection policy is rigorously implemented to safeguard children from harm, enabling them to participate fully and confidently in our activities;
- respecting the wishes and feelings of children;
- prioritizing the empowerment of children by actively involving them in decision-making processes, ensuring their voices are heard and valued in shaping the projects and policies that affect their lives;
- being committed to promoting the rights and responsibilities of children, fostering an atmosphere of respect, understanding, and mutual support;
- providing training and resources to researchers, experts and volunteers to ensure they are equipped to support child and young people's participation effectively, recognizing their potential as change agents within their communities;

- ensuring feedback mechanisms to be integral within our activities, allowing children and young people to express their views and contribute to continuous improvement, ensuring their participation is meaningful and impactful.

This Policy will be **regularly reviewed**:

- in accordance with changes in legislation and guidance on the protection of children;
- when any issues or concerns are raised about the protection of children within CIRIC;
- in all other circumstances, at least once a year.

Signed by:



Karmen Toros, the founder of CIRIC

20.03.2024