

CHILD PROTECTION POLICY (CPP)

ISIG – Istituto di Sociologia Internazionale di Gorizia

1. INTRODUCTION

ISIG – Institute of International Sociology of Gorizia, is committed to ensuring that all its activities are conducted in a safe, ethical, and responsible manner, in line with the “do no harm” principle and with full respect for fundamental rights.

This Child Protection Policy (CPP) establishes ISIG’s organisational commitment to safeguarding children and young people and to complying with the principles set out in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). While ISIG’s core activities are primarily focused on research, capacity-building, and stakeholder engagement, and do not specifically target children, this policy ensures that any interaction with minors is managed appropriately and responsibly.

2. SCOPE OF APPLICATION

This policy applies to:

- All ISIG staff members
- External experts, consultants, and collaborators engaged by ISIG
- All ISIG activities, including EU-funded projects (e.g. CERV, Horizon Europe, Interreg)

ISIG does not systematically implement activities targeting children. However, participation of young people aged 16+ may occur in specific contexts (e.g. workshops, civic engagement activities). In such cases, this policy applies.

All staff and collaborators are required to acknowledge and adhere to this policy.

3. LEGAL AND ETHICAL FRAMEWORK

This policy is aligned with:

- UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)
- Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union (Art. 24)
- Treaty on European Union (Art. 2 – EU values)
- EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)
- Relevant Italian legislation on minors and data protection

ISIG adheres to the following core principles:

- Non-discrimination
- Best interests of the child
- Participation and inclusion
- Protection from harm and exploitation
- Respect for dignity, integrity, and privacy

4. OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this policy are to:

- Ensure a safe and respectful environment for all participants.
- Prevent any form of harm, abuse, or inappropriate conduct.
- Guarantee ethical and responsible engagement with youth participants.
- Ensure compliance with data protection regulations, particularly for minors.
- Provide clear guidance for staff and collaborators.

5. GUIDING PRINCIPLES

ISIG commits to the following principles:

5.1 Do No Harm

All activities must avoid causing physical, psychological, or social harm.

5.2 Respect and Dignity

All participants are treated with respect, regardless of gender, age, origin, or background.

5.3 Voluntary Participation

Participation in ISIG activities is voluntary, with the right to withdraw at any time.

5.4 Inclusion and Non-Discrimination

ISIG promotes inclusive participation and equal opportunities.

5.5 Data Protection and Privacy

Personal data is processed in accordance with GDPR and ISIG's organisational policies.

6. SAFEGUARDING MEASURES

6.1 Engagement with Minors

Where minors (including youth aged 16–17) are involved:

- Activities are conducted in group settings (e.g. workshops, meetings, online sessions).
- No one-to-one unsupervised interactions are foreseen.
- Activities take place within structured and moderated environments.
- Communication remains transparent and professional at all times.

6.2 Recruitment and Vetting

ISIG ensures that:

- Staff and collaborators are selected based on professional competence and ethical standards.
- Individuals engaged in activities potentially involving minors are made aware of safeguarding responsibilities.
- Where relevant, ISIG may apply additional checks or requirements, proportionate to the level of interaction with minors.

All personnel are required to comply with this policy as part of their engagement with ISIG.

6.3 Code of Conduct for Staff and Collaborators

All personnel must:

- Treat all participants with respect and professionalism
- Use appropriate and non-discriminatory language
- Avoid any form of:
 - inappropriate behaviour
 - physical or verbal abuse
 - discriminatory or exclusionary conduct

In addition, staff must:

- Avoid private or informal communication with minors outside the project context.
- Ensure interactions take place in visible and accountable settings.
- Refrain from any behaviour that could be perceived as inappropriate.

6.4 Data Protection

ISIG processes personal data in accordance with the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and its organisational Privacy Policy, publicly available at: <https://isig.it/trasparenza/>

In particular:

- Data collection is limited to what is necessary and proportionate.
- Processing is based on lawful grounds, including informed consent where required.
- Where minors are involved, additional safeguards apply in line with national legislation.
- Any use of images, recordings, or personal data is subject to appropriate consent and transparency requirements.

7. REPORTING AND ACCOUNTABILITY

ISIG adopts a clear and proportionate reporting mechanism.

Any concern regarding:

- inappropriate behaviour
- breach of this policy
- potential risk to minors

should be reported to:

- the ISIG Project Coordinator, or
- a designated internal contact point (e.g. via official ISIG communication channels)

ISIG commits to:

- Treat all reports confidentially.
- Document and assess reported concerns.
- Act promptly and proportionately.
- Take corrective action where necessary.

8. TRAINING AND AWARENESS

ISIG ensures that staff and collaborators are:

- Informed about this policy and its application.
- Made aware of safeguarding principles and expected conduct.
- Provided with additional guidance or briefing where activities may involve minors.

Safeguarding considerations are integrated into project planning and implementation processes.

9. PUBLICATION AND TRANSPARENCY

This Child Protection Policy is:

- Publicly available on ISIG's website (Transparency section).
- Accessible to staff, partners, and stakeholders.

10. MONITORING AND REVIEW

This policy is subject to periodic review and may be updated:

- In response to organisational or project needs.
- In line with evolving regulatory or ethical standards.

11. COMMITMENT

ISIG reaffirms its commitment to:

- Upholding EU values and human rights principles.
- Ensuring safe, inclusive, and ethical participation.
- Applying a proportionate and responsible safeguarding approach across all its activities.

Gorizia, 20.03.2026

MICHELA CECOTTI – ISIG President

