

CHILD PROTECTION POLICY DECLARATION

PARTICIPANT: **South Transdanubian Innovation Agency Nonprofit Ltd. (STRIA)**
PIC number: 954379994

Project name and acronym: EU Citizens. Our continent. Our responsibility. - EUCOR

Child Protection Policy

1. Introduction

This Child Protection Policy establishes legal and professional guidelines for all employees, external associates, and others who may come into contact with children through their association with South Transdanubian Innovation Agency Nonprofit Ltd. (hereinafter STRIA). The purpose is to protect children [any person under the age of 18] and youth from any form of physical or emotional violence, harm, abuse, neglect maltreatment, or exploitation, including sexual abuse, always prioritizing the best interests of the child.

STRIA (DDRIÜ – South Transdanubian Regional Innovation Agency, <https://ddriu.hu>) operates as a regional innovation agency supporting sustainable development, innovation, and international cooperation. The organisation works with a wide range of stakeholders across the public, private, and civil sectors, contributing to regional development and capacity building. STRIA has extensive experience in EU-funded projects and is committed to promoting a culture where safeguarding children is everyone's responsibility.

2. Applicable National and International Laws

STRIA adheres to the following key legal frameworks protecting children's rights and welfare:

- United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child;
- European Convention on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms;
- European Convention on the Exercise of Children's Rights;
- Directive 2011/93/EU on combating the Sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children and child pornography;
- Directive 2072/29/EU establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime;
- Constitution of Hungary and relevant national legislation:
 - Act XXXI of 1997 on the Protection of Children and Guardianship Administration
 - Act C of 2012 – Criminal Code
 - Act V of 2013 – Civil Code

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- Act LXXXIV of 1998 on Family Support
- Act CXC of 2011 on National Public Education
- Act CXII of 2011 on Informational Self-Determination and Freedom of Information
- protocols and national guidelines for the protection of children from abuse and neglect.

3. Purpose of the Policy

The purpose of the STRIA Child Protection Policy is to ensure clear guidelines for employees, associates, and anyone connected with STRIA in their interactions with children, to ensure that children are always safeguarded from any form of abuse, and to provide procedures for reporting suspected cases of abuse or neglect. In all actions concerning children and youth, STRIA will act according to international standards, especially the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, ensuring that the child's best interests are the primary consideration.

4. Values and Principles

STRIA is committed to:

- Ensuring that all activities involving children and youth are guided by their best interests;
- Treating all children and youth with dignity and respect without discrimination on any grounds such as gender, race, ethnicity, religion, disability, social status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or any other characteristic;
- Holding all employees, volunteers, and associates accountable for safeguarding children's health, safety, and well-being,
- Respecting the privacy and confidentiality of all information concerning children and youth;
- Empowering children and youth to express their views and raising their awareness of rights and acceptable/unacceptable behaviour;
- Mandating the immediate reporting of any concerns or suspicions of child abuse;
- Ensuring that all partner organizations uphold the same minimum standards for child protection.

5. Code of Conduct

STRIA prescribes clear obligations and responsibilities for employees, volunteers, and associates who come into contact with children:

All personnel must always:

- Report and document any suspicion or incident of child abuse immediately;
- Organize work to minimize risks to children and youth;
- Be transparent and accountable in all interactions with children;

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- Protect the confidentiality of children's and families' personal data;
- Follow the Child Protection Policy and reporting procedures;
- Encourage children and youth to express concerns and opinions;
- Discipline using non-violent methods that respect the dignity of the child.

All personnel must never:

- Engage in physical, emotional, or sexual abuse of children;
- Hit, physically harm, humiliate, or belittle children;
- Engage in sexual activities or inappropriate behaviour with children;
- Develop exploitative or overly personal relationships with children;
- Use degrading language or discriminatory behaviour;
- Fail to report dangerous or abusive behaviour;
- Favor or discriminate against certain children;
- Participate in illegal, unsafe, or abusive activities involving children,

6. Recruitment, Training and Management of People

To uphold safeguarding standards:

- All employees, volunteers, and associates must undergo background checks, including criminal record checks where required;
- Child safeguarding responsibilities will be integrated into relevant job descriptions and performance appraisals;
- All employees and associates will be required to sign a Data privacy statement;
- Before starting work all personnel will be trained on child protection principles, the
- Child Protection Policy, and reporting obligations;
- ongoing professional development will be encouraged through attendance at seminars, workshops, and conferences related to child safeguarding,

7. Procedures for Responding to Concerns

STRIA has a clear mechanism for responding to safeguarding concerns

- Any concern or suspicion regarding the safety of a child must be reported immediately to the designated Child Protection Officer within STRIA;
- The child protection officer will document concerns and determine necessary steps, including referral to relevant external authorities (social services, police);
- STRIA will take interim protective measures if needed to ensure the child's safety;
- Confidentiality will be maintained at all stages, protecting both the child and the reporting individual;
- Retaliation against anyone reporting concerns in good faith will not be tolerated,

8. Accountability, Monitoring, and Enforcement

STRIA is committed to:

- Assigning clear child protection responsibilities within the organization (including a designated Child Protection Officer);
- Regularly reviewing and updating this child protection policy to ensure continued alignment with best practices and legal obligations (at least annually);
- Monitoring the implementation of safeguarding measures through periodic internal reviews and audits;
- Taking disciplinary action against any employee, volunteer, or associate who breaches safeguarding policies or standards;
- Promoting a safe, respectful, and accountable organizational culture.

Adopted by: South Transdanubian Innovation Agency Nonprofit Ltd. (STRIA)

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