

**ATHENS
LIFELONG
LEARNING
INSTITUTE**

**SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN AND YOUTH POLICY
PROCEDURES –
CHILD PROTECTION POLICY**

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PREAMBLE

The Athens Lifelong Learning Institute has been operating since 2017, as a research and education institute. The Athens Lifelong Learning Institute has the mission to foster and enhance innovation processes mainly in the areas of education, lifelong learning, human capital development, labor markets, knowledge society and social inclusion in a local, national and European context. It develops and implements projects at a national and European level, all of which address issues related to social inclusion, minority and underprivileged/ disadvantaged social groups, equality and fundamental rights. The target groups which benefit from the Institute's projects are migrants and asylum seekers, prisoners and ex-prisoners, the Roma community, unemployed people, low skilled and low qualified youth, women, unaccompanied minors and children in care. The Athens Lifelong Learning Institute has a large network of partners which cooperate in the design, development and implementation of the Institute's projects. These organizations include all major NGOs in Greece and Europe, education and training institutes, local and national authorities (such as Ministries and Municipalities), and research centers. The Athens Lifelong Learning Institute is based in Athens, while it undertakes interventions throughout the country.

The current document is issued in Athens and it is officially and duly approved by Athens Lifelong Learning Institute administrative council in order to be implemented by all people directly or indirectly involved in the activities of the Institute.

This Child Protection Policy applies to and binds all directors, managers, staff, consultants, volunteers and partners of the Athens Lifelong Learning Institute in any situation where they are involved in the Institute's function, activities, projects and works.

A statement is signed by all the aforementioned persons before engaging in any activity of the Athens Lifelong Learning Institute, confirming that they have been made fully aware of, understand, agree and follow the contents of the Safeguarding Policy and Procedures.

INTRODUCTION: SCOPE AND PRINCIPLES

A. The Athens Lifelong Learning Institute's Aims and Mission

The Athens Lifelong Learning Institute has the mission to foster and enhance innovation processes mainly in the areas of education, lifelong learning, human capital development, labour markets, knowledge society and social inclusion in a local, national and European context. The Athens Lifelong Learning Institute's mission is to take actions for the prevention and combat of social exclusion and inequality as well as the integration of vulnerable social groups, with a special focus on the groups of unaccompanied minors, the Roma group living in Greece and low skilled youth and adults. In this framework, the Athens Lifelong Learning Institute develops new methodologies and support tools, organizes and participates in cooperative networks, cooperates with public and private bodies and develops projects and proposals for the social policy concerning disadvantaged groups, especially children and youth belonging in vulnerable social groups. The Athens Lifelong Learning Institute also implements actions in the areas of formal and non-formal education and training, employment, care system, human rights awareness and protection with an emphasis on the social capital development.

Its function, services and activities are primarily based on the respect of equality, solidarity and democratic values.

The Athens Lifelong Learning Institute activities are implemented on local, national and transnational level and they are developed through the cooperation with public and private stakeholders and networks.

The Athens Lifelong Learning Institute offers its services to people, including children and young individuals who live under conditions of poverty, neglect, victimization, conflict, disapproval, exploitation, isolation and racism. It also offers special services to public and private organizations whose personnel comes into direct contact with minority and vulnerable populations, such as teachers, civil servants in local authorities and personnel in the public sector.

The Athens Lifelong Learning Institute services mainly include social, educational and employment support, as well as social, educational and training activities.

B. The Scope of the Policy

The scope of this document is to set out the Athens Lifelong Learning Institute's Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy and Procedures in conjunction with the organization's Statute and statutory purposes.

The present Child Protection Policy has been issued by the Athens Lifelong Learning Institute in order to address the issue of safeguarding those children and youth who come into direct or indirect contact with staff, volunteers and partners of the Institute. The Policy underlines the responsibility that the organization has to make sure its 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 the communities in which it works, are reported to the appropriate authorities. The "Do no harm" principle is a principle that has been used in the humanitarian sector but can equally be applied to the development field. It refers to organisations' responsibility to minimise the harm they may be doing inadvertently as a result of their organisational activities.

This policy mainly aims at:

- preventing cases of child abuse and reducing the number of incidents (child-to-child, adult to-child) in activities and programmes in each member association,
- making children aware of their rights and their active role in child protection,
- informing children, co-workers, board members, family and community members, volunteers and partners (educators, mentors, governmental authorities, etc.) about the child protection policy and related procedures
- encouraging co-workers directly involved with children to apply the skills needed to contribute to each child's protection,
- fostering open and honest discussions on child abuse in meetings and workshops in all programmes and activities amongst all stakeholders (children, young adults and their families, child and youth care co-workers, management staff, board members, fundraising staff, teachers, etc.),
- putting in place fair, secure and transparent reporting channels in all types of programmes that guarantee the right of stakeholders (children, parents, staff) to be heard,

The Institute acknowledges that it is difficult to define "harm" to children because children can be abused in so many ways depending on the context and culture. They may be abused in a family, an institution, community or faith setting, or via social media/internet. They may be harmed by an adult or adults or another child or children.

By stating this policy and procedures the Athens Lifelong Learning Institute:

- Recognizes the right of every individual to stay safe
- Aims to ensure that the Institute undertakes its responsibilities with regard to protection of children and youth and will respond to concerns appropriately.
- Frames the principles and procedures for the support of the staff, partners, volunteers in their practices and clarifies the Institute's expectations, meaning that the actions of any adult in the context of the work carried out by the Institute are

transparent and safeguard and promote the welfare of all children and young people. Therefore, this policy is to make sure that procedures to protect children and report any concerns about their welfare to appropriate authorities shall be followed.

- Promotes good practice, providing children and young people with appropriate safety/protection whilst in the care of and in contact with the Athens Lifelong Learning Institute and allows staff and volunteers to make informed and confident responses to specific child and youth protection issues.

Finally, the key goals of the Child Protection Policy of the Athens Lifelong Learning Institute can be summarized as follows:

- Awareness: to raise awareness on issues related to child protection and child abuse in the framework of the Institute's projects
- Prevention: to provide guidance on how to safeguard and protect children
- Reporting: to create and apply a clear reporting procedure
- Responding: to ensure that proper actions are taken when child abuse is suspected or reported.

C. Principles of the Policy

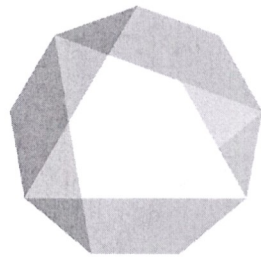
This document is written in accordance with the national and international legislation and norms concerning children and youth rights, safety and support.

Main principles upon which the Safeguarding Policy is based are:

- The welfare of children, youth and their families will always be paramount and it will be promoted and everyone has the responsibility to support the protection of children.
- The rights, wishes and feelings of children, young people and their families will be respected and listened to. If organizations work with partners, they have a responsibility to help partners meet the minimum requirements on protection.
- The respect of children and youth rights by staff with designated authority, partners, consultants and volunteers, at all times, during and outside the Athens Lifelong Learning Institute works and tasks, emphasizing on the core principle that children are not subjected to any form of abuse (physical, emotional, sexual and neglect) and are equally treated and protected.
- Those people in positions of responsibility within the Institute will work in accordance with the best interests of children, vulnerable adults and young people and follow the policy outlined below.

D. Definitions

- A child is under the age of 18 (as defined in the United Nations convention on the Rights of a Child).
- Youth are those belonging to the age group 15 to 25 years (in line with main provisions of Greek legislation).
- Safeguarding is about embedding practices throughout the organization to ensure the protection of children, youth and vulnerable adults wherever possible. In contrast, child and adult protection is about responding to circumstances that arise.
- Abuse is perceived according to the meaning of the term “abuse” as it is outlined in the Greek legal framework and jurisprudence as well as in the relevant international norms. It may take various forms, including the following: Physical abuse, Sexual abuse, Emotional abuse, Bullying, Neglect, Financial (or material) abuse.
- Physical abuse: actual or potential physical harm perpetrated by another person, adult or child. It may involve hitting, shaking, poisoning, drowning and burning. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer fabricates the symptoms of, or deliberately induces illness in a child.
- Sexual abuse: forcing or enticing a child to take part in sexual activities that he or she does not fully understand and has little choice in consenting to. It may also include involving children in looking at, or producing sexual images, watching sexual activities and encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways.
- Child sexual exploitation: a form of sexual abuse that involves children being engaged in any sexual activity in exchange for money, gifts, food, accommodation, affection, status, or anything else that they or their family needs. It usually involves a child being manipulated or coerced, which may involve befriending children, gaining their trust, and subjecting them to drugs and alcohol.
- Neglect and negligent treatment: allowing for context, resources and circumstances, neglect and negligent treatment refers to a persistent failure to meet a child’s basic physical and/or psychological needs, which is likely to result in serious impairment of a child’s healthy physical, spiritual, moral and mental development. It includes the failure to properly supervise and protect children from harm and provide for nutrition, shelter and safe living/working conditions. It may also involve the neglect and ill treatment of a disabled child.



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PART 1. POLICY IMPLEMENTATION AND PROCEDURES

1. Implementation of Linked Policies and Procedures Towards the Realization of the Child Protection Policy

The scope of this Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy is broad ranging and in practice it will be implemented via a range of policies and procedures within the organization.

These include:

1.1. Safe recruitment policy

The Athens Lifelong Learning Institute ensures safe recruitment through the following processes:

- Recruitment adverts or application details shall state that the 'recruitment is done in line with safe recruitment practices.
- Clear definition of jobs and roles descriptions with clear reference to safeguarding responsibilities, and clear specifications of roles concerning child and youth protection.
- Short listing through formal application process, that shall be based on criteria set in accordance with the job/role's specifications, required qualifications and principles of Safeguarding Policy.
- Interviews are conducted according to equal opportunity principles and interview questions are based on the relevant job description and person specification. All interviews shall include a discussion on child safeguarding, the candidate's understanding of this and the organisation's commitment.
- References from previous employees or others who have knowledge of the candidate's experience and suitability to work with children will be requested.
- A written declaration shall be provided declaring that they have no criminal records regarding an offence towards a child and do not know of any reason why anyone would deem them unsuitable to work with children. In certain cases, criminal record documents may be required by the candidate and Criminal Bureau Records checks will be conducted for specific roles for all staff (paid or unpaid) working with children and vulnerable youth.
- Formal job offers are made after checks for suitability in line with this Policy and in conjunction with job's specifications. Therefore, any document concerning health, education and generally any necessary information may be requested, provided that it is absolutely necessary for the certain purpose, its use will be strictly limited within this purpose and it is in line with the privacy and data protection legislative principles.

Regarding the recruitment of volunteers, the Institute will also:

- Never leave an unchecked volunteer unsupervised or allow them to work in

regulated activity.

- Carry out a check for all volunteers who are not in regulated activity, but who have an opportunity to come into contact with children on a regular basis, for example, supervised volunteers.

1.2. Service delivery contracting and sub-contracting policy issues

Partnerships with individuals or other institutions (contracting and sub-contracting) shall not be in contrast with the scope and principles of this Policy and there will be a systematic checking towards this.

Contracts and memorandums of agreement for partnership delivery work will include clear minimum requirements, arrangements for safeguarding and non-compliance procedures.

1.3. Other policies linked with the Safeguarding Policy, include issues of:

- Whistle blowing ability to inform on other staff / practices within the organization.
- Grievance and disciplinary procedures – to address breaches of procedures/policies.
- Health and Safety policy, including lone working procedures, mitigating risk to staff and clients.
- Equal Opportunities policy – ensuring safeguarding procedures are in line with this policy, in particular around discriminatory abuse and ensuring that the safeguarding policy and procedures are not discriminatory.
- Data protection (how records are stored and access to those records).
- Confidentiality (or limited confidentiality policy) ensuring that service users are aware of the duty to disclose.
- Staff training.

1.4. Special focus on communications, training and support

The Athens Lifelong Learning Institute develops effective induction, communications and support mechanisms concerning all the staff (permanent staff, partners, etc.) towards the implementation of Safeguarding Policy.

Induction includes:

- Discussion about the Safeguarding Policy and confirmation of reading and understanding it. A relevant statement shall be ensured, referring to the fact that the concerned person has been made fully aware of, and understand the contents of the Safeguarding Policy and Procedures. Within the latter discussion, the other

relevant policies shall be included.

- Clear information and guidance of all staff (including partners) so as to ensure familiarity with reporting processes, and the hierarchical roles (e.g., senior managers etc. and who acts in their absence).
- Initial training on safe working practices, on child and youth protection with a special focus on those belonging in vulnerable groups (such as unaccompanied minors and children in care).

Training includes:

All staff members will undertake safeguarding and child protection training at induction, including on whistleblowing procedures, to ensure they understand the Institute's safeguarding system and policies and their responsibilities, and can identify signs of possible abuse or neglect. This training will be regularly updated. Staff will also receive regular safeguarding and child protection updates (for example, through emails and staff meetings) as required, but at least annually. Volunteers will receive appropriate training prior to the provision of voluntary work.

Apart from the initial training, regular, systematic and continuous (refresh) training shall be provided to staff and volunteers and people who regularly come into contact with the Institute (such as trainers, mentors, etc.).

The training shall be based on certain criteria concerning the appropriate method of training and the appropriate selection of the trainer (internal or external trainer).

The latter criteria and the implementation of the training shall be in line with:

- The assessment of the (expressed) staff's needs.
- The assessment of the (expressed) beneficiaries needs.
- The goals and works included in a certain task/job position/project, etc.

Communications mechanism:

Communications and discussions mechanisms are necessary for the effective dissemination and implementation of the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy within the organization.

Meetings, regularly and occasionally organized, on the basis of a clear agenda are the most typical form for the development of a communication mechanism.

Depending on the case the meetings are:

- One to one meeting
- Team meetings
- Senior management meetings

- Plenary meetings
- Board meetings

Aspects to be considered within this mechanism are:

- Inclusion of all staff
- Inclusion of volunteers and beneficiaries
- Encouraging open discussion and effective participation of all participants
- Open and flexible process for the establishment of agenda issues
- Clear and coordinated discussion process based on equality principles and mutual respect.

Staff and Volunteers' support includes:

The need for the support of all the staff (permanent, temporary, external partners) and volunteers is based on the recognition of the fact that they may be involved in situations where there is additional stress, risk or actual harm. Support mechanisms typically include:

- Constant support provided through the communications mechanisms and training
- Access to appropriate special counseling in special cases when needed
- Immediate and proper access to the senior management and board team

1.5. Professional boundaries and mandatory Code of Conduct

Professional boundaries are established to safeguard the professional integrity, the correct detachment and the proper relationship between a support worker and a beneficiary, and they are based on a mandatory code of conduct.

The following boundaries and rules apply to and bind all directors, managers, consultants, designated staff (permanent staff, contractors, external partners) and volunteers and dictate their duty to never ignore or omit to report any concern, suspected violation or violation of the current safeguarding policy principles and arrangements:

- Treat every child, youth and adult equally and respectfully, without any form of discrimination, racist, xenophobic behavior and approaching them with positive, friendly and non-violent ways, with respect of their personal and cultural identity in line with the principles stated in the current Policy (see Introduction point C).
- Respect of the children's and young adults right to be heard and to participate in the procedures and decisions that concern them, inform, encourage and empower them towards the claiming and realization of their rights.

- Respect of the principles of trust, confidentiality and personal data protection. In conjunction with these principles, a safe information sharing process among the competent involved professionals/ stakeholders shall be followed. It is noted that any information, data, photo concerning the beneficiary's personality and story shall be published only under his/her explicitly given permission, and provided that he/she is not exposed to any danger or risk of stigmatization. Special care shall be taking concerning the children's cases (see below).
- It is prohibited to:
 - Develop personal relationships between a member of staff (paid or unpaid) and a beneficiary who is a current service user, and to enter into a personal relationship (including social networks) with a person who has been a service user/ beneficiary over the past 12 months.
 - Passing on service users' personal contact details.
 - Accepting responsibility for any valuables on behalf of a beneficiary.
 - Use of abusive language or response to inappropriate behavior / language and the use of punishment or chastisement, or any abusive behavior.
 - Behave in disrespectful way (for example using disrespectful vocabulary or bad manner toward anybody etc.) and working under the influence of drugs or alcohol. It is reminded that they must behave with modesty and dignity and serve as role- models of behavior for children and youth.
 - Never watch, publish, produce, or share pornography showing children, and/or show pornographic material to children at all times, during and outside work.
- Especially with regard to children, it must be ensured that:
 - Never a staff member or volunteer is left alone with a child for any reason.
 - Never a child is used as an interpreter in processes and responsibilities (such as interview, social history, etc.)
 - Never fondle, hold, hug, kiss or touch children in an improper way, taking into account what the child itself believes is improper, based on their cultural, ethnical, religious background and their gender.
 - Never collaborate with any private actor that acts in any way against the best interest of the child.
 - Never have any form of sexual relations with anyone under 18 years old at all times, never touch children or use language or make suggestions in an inappropriate manner, never provoke, harass or degrade the child or show disrespect for cultural practices. Never behave in a way that has negative impact on the child's confidence and self-worth.
 - Never exploit a child for labor (ex. through domestic work).
 - Never show children's faces in presentations or publications and never publish a story or image which may endanger the child, their family or community or

stigmatize the child.

- Never give or encourage other people to give money directly to children, especially those being in vulnerable situations.
- Never use any information or image of the children without the written permission by children's parents/guardians and take into account the children's will and opinion, without forcing them to any kind of public expose. Any information or photo concerning the children's story shall in no way expose them to any danger or to any risk of stigmatization.
- The Athens Lifelong Learning Institute does not allow paid or unpaid staff to give gifts/money to or receive gifts/money from beneficiaries. However, gifts may be provided by the organization as part of a planned activity.
- It is also reminded that each of the aforementioned professionals is additionally bound to the principles and rules of his/her professional code of conduct; the latter code is the one that it is formally and legally approved by each competent professional union in accordance with the Greek legal framework.
- If a case of conflict of interests arises, the person/professional in concern shall refer and discuss it with the designated senior manager and/or the Athens Lifelong Learning Institute board.

If the professional boundaries and/or policies are breached this could result in disciplinary procedures or enactment of the allegation management procedures.

A written declaration shall be provided confirming the reading, understanding and agreement with the current Policy and the mandatory code of conduct and declaring the commitment to work in accordance with it, also including the agreement that any failure to uphold it may result in the termination of their engagement with the Athens Lifelong Learning Institute or further disciplinary or judicial proceedings as mentioned above.

1. 6. Reporting and allegations procedures

The Athens Lifelong Learning Institute establishes a special process regarding the stages of reporting safeguarding issues and concerns. This process refers to the immediate actions that shall be taken in case of safeguarding concerns.

1.6.1. Important procedural issues

- Procedural principles:

The process is based on the Athens Lifelong Learning Institute statutory mission and objectives, on the specific scope and the principles of this Policy stated in the current document.

- Main involved persons in the process - staff with designated authority:
 - Referring person/submitting the report

- Immediate manager of the referring person (if the concern is communicated by a staff, partner or volunteer member)
- Principal contact - referral person
- Recording of the reports:

A written record of concerns reports shall be kept, including the actions that have been taken for its handling and the follow up actions. The person in charge for this record is the “principal contact - referral person” appointed by the Athens Lifelong Learning Institute’s Board in cooperation with the Senior Management Team.

- Information sharing, data protection and confidentiality:

Respect of the principles of trust, confidentiality and personal data protection is required. A safe information sharing process among the competent involved professionals/ stakeholders shall be followed. Data protection and confidentiality duty is expanded throughout the involvement in the Athens Lifelong Learning Institute works, projects, activities and tasks and even after that. The current legislation regarding the protection of privacy and personal data shall be respected.

1.6.2. A step-by-step process

1. Report of the concern - Communication:

- Any concern shall be communicated by the referring staff member to his/her immediate manager and to the principal contact. If the concern is related to the immediate manager’s behavior/acts, then the referral person shall be directly communicated.
- Any concern or complain by a third person or by a beneficiary shall be referred to the principal contact – referral person or (in absence of this person) to the Athens Lifelong Learning Institute Board.
- The referral person is responsible for properly and immediately refer to the Athens Lifelong Learning Institute Board.

2. Immediate attention and support:

If needed, medical and physiological attention and support shall be immediately accessed. Special care shall be taken for the assistance and protection of the children.

3. Contact with concerned persons:

If the concern refers to a child or vulnerable young adult, the family/parents/guardian of the child shall be contacted – provided that there is a family/supportive environment.

4. Assessment and decision making (decision options):

The principal contact - referral person shall try to understand what has happened and establish the facts in the most objective and immediate manner possible. After assessing

the reported concern, he submits his/her conclusions and suggestions to the Athens Lifelong Learning Institute Board.

The latter in cooperation with the referral person and, if needed, with the Senior Management Team shall make a decision on a how - to -proceed action plan (this may include -depending on the case-: further protection actions in a safe and appropriate way, reference to local authorities, allegations process, conflict/complaint resolution process, disciplinary process etc).

Following to the aforementioned 4 step process, and depending on the assessment of the case and the decision made on it, the steps below may follow:

5. Reference to competent authorities:

In case of serious safeguarding concerns or allegations, the Athens Lifelong Learning Institute Board shall report it to the competent local authority and ask for advice. The advice given shall be followed. Depending on the case, it may initiate judicial proceedings and/or other disciplinary process.

6. Disciplinary process

The Athens Lifelong Learning Institute Board in any case of alleged abuse and/or misconduct and/or infringement of the current Policy may proceed to the implementation of appropriate disciplinary measures, that, may indicatively include: the expulsion/termination /suspension (depending on the case) of the cooperation with the engaged alleged person, the withdrawal from the job, partner, volunteer contract (depending on the case), report to the competent official authorities and judicial authorities.

PART 2. POLICY MANAGEMENT

2. Roles and Responsibilities

All staff (including permanent staff, contractors, partners, volunteers) is bound to the principles and guidance laid out in this policy and linked policies. Specifically, staff, within the context of each define role/job position, is expected:

- to use the required procedures,
 - to promote good practice and to contribute to discussions about safeguarding,
 - to ensure that the voice of the beneficiaries children, youth or adults, to the protection of which the current Policy is concerned is listened and it is taken into account
 - to respect the professional boundaries and professional code of conduct referred in this document
- The Administrative Council/Board and the Senior Management Team are bound by this Policy as prescribed right above, and have the additional responsibilities:
- to appropriately put in place this Policy and make sure that it is accessible to any concern person,
 - to monitor and review the Policy,
 - to ensure that all staff have access to appropriate training/information,
 - to make sure that sufficient resources (time and money) are allocated to ensure that the policy can be effectively implemented,
 - to receive staff and beneficiaries' concerns about safeguarding and respond to all seriously, swiftly and appropriately,
 - to keep up to date with local arrangements, develop and maintain effective links with relevant agencies.
- The Athens Lifelong Learning Institute Administrative Council/ Board with the assistance of the Senior Management Team has the final responsibility for:
- The implementation, monitoring and reviewing of the current Policy and
 - Appointing a principal contact - referral person. The latter shall be responsible for:
 - a) Receiving the safeguarding concern reports and collecting any available data/information related to the reports.
 - b) Keeping an updated written record of such reports.

- c) For immediately referring to the Athens Lifelong Learning Institute Board about the reports and any information/data collected.
- d) Collecting and assessing all the relevant data concerning the overall implementation of the Policy, giving relevant feedback and formulating suggestions to the Athens Lifelong Learning Institute Board and Senior Management Team towards the proper monitoring and evaluation of the Policy.
- e) Coordinating the required activities and procedures towards the effective implementation, monitoring, reviewing of the current policy.
- f) In case a concern or allegation is against the aforementioned principal contact - referral person the report is directly adhered to the Athens Lifelong Learning Institute board.

2.1. Policy's main monitoring aspects

- The main aspects of Safeguarding Policy that shall be monitored are related to:
- Safe recruitment process
- Staff training and support
- Compliance of the Policy with the current socio – legal framework and norms
- Assessing the report process of the safeguarding concerns and follow up of the relevant cases
- Examining the need for reviewing the current report process based on the aforementioned assessment
- Inclusion of the staff and beneficiaries' views and opinions.

2.2. Communicating and commitment to the Policy

2.2.1. Ensuring beneficiaries' awareness

The Athens Lifelong Learning Institute will make beneficiaries aware of the Safeguarding Policy, using appropriate means that are in line with the age and the specific profile of each beneficiary, so as to ensure that the principles and procedures of this policy are adequately understood. Indicatively, these means may be:

- Easily accessible and comprehensive information pack on safeguarding arrangements, i.e., through brochures, documents, web displayed information, etc.
- Discussion and agreement with each beneficiary about safeguarding arrangements and concern/complain procedures.

2.2.2. Ensuring volunteers' and visitors' awareness

Confirmation of awareness and explicit commitment to the Policy

Any person such as contractors, suppliers, donors, journalists, consultants, supporters (occasional visitors) who visit the Athens Lifelong Learning Institute infrastructures or offices and may come into contact and/or interact with children and young adults (the Athens Lifelong Learning Institute's beneficiaries):

- are given a copy of this Policy and are made aware that they must act in accordance and comply with it whilst visiting the Athens Lifelong Learning Institute infrastructures or offices,
- declare their written commitment to respect and comply with the safeguarding policy principles (especially see point A to C, Introduction), as well as with the principles and rules provided in the mandatory code of conduct,
- are properly informed on the report process and report any concern for the wellbeing of a child or adult to the principal contact – referral person.

Special issues for the protection of the beneficiaries

- The safety of beneficiaries and their families must be appropriately ensured.
- Any information and/or experience concerning the profile, identity, story of the beneficiaries shall be used under the Athens Lifelong Learning Institute approval and with the appropriate consent of the concerned persons
- Photographs, video and other images are forbidden to be taken and/or published or publicly displayed except in cases where an appropriate consent is given, provided that these pictures are respectful, they do not expose beneficiaries to any danger or risk, they do not infringe personal data protection provisions and they could not be interpreted as sexually suggestive. The pictures of children cannot be used in order to gain money in any way nor for journalistic purposes without written permission from the Athens Lifelong Learning Institute.

Special issues concerning volunteers and visitors

Apart from risking the safety of beneficiaries, visitors and volunteers may themselves face the risk of being falsely accused of improper behavior or abuse towards children, youth and other beneficiaries. Therefore, the following specific rules are set both towards the beneficiaries and volunteers and visitors' protection. Visitors and occasional volunteers:

- In case they refuse to commit to or they do not comply with their written declaration commitment to respect the current Policy and mandatory code of conduct their volunteering shall be terminated and/or visit will be ended.
- The volunteering/visit shall be always prearranged.
- They shall comply with the instructions of the designated staff member of the Athens Lifelong Learning Institute who will supervise their work or guide them during their visit.

2.3. Reviewing of the Policy

This policy will be reviewed by the Athens Lifelong Learning Institute Board in cooperation with Senior Management Team through an inclusive and transparent democratic procedure, during which the feedback by all staff as well as beneficiaries needs and views will be considered.

The need for reviewing will be regularly examined every three years and when there are changes in legislation or in circumstances or as a result of any other significant change or event.

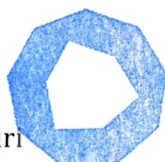
The content of this policy is based on the safeguarded principles concerning children and youth rights and protections; the relevant templates, guidance, guidelines, policy principles and provisions that are proposed and/or adopted by other relevant institutions in child and youth protection field have been taken into account and they have been directly/precisely or indirectly included in this Policy.

For further information on the policy, please contact via email: info@athenslifelonglearning.gr

This policy is the responsibility of the Athens Lifelong Learning Institute Administrative Council and it is undersigned by its members.



Ourania Xylouri
Managing Director
Athens Lifelong Learning Institute



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