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"The past builds the future – Neighbours of equal rights"

REPORT
on the implementation
of the Child Protection Policy
within the project

The past builds the future – Neighbours of equal rights



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INTRODUCTION

Violence against children and adolescents includes physical, sexual, emotional abuse and neglect that significantly reduce child's ability to develop in an appropriate and healthy way. According to the definition of D.G. Gill, *child abuse is any action or inactivity of individuals, institutions or society as a whole, and any result of such action or inaction that undermines the equal rights and freedoms of children and / or interferes with their optimal development.*

The project "The past builds the future - Neighbours of equal rights" is implemented in a partnership for the members of which - schools and their supervisory authorities - the safety of children is an unconditional, obligatory, statutory and legal factor. Taking into account the profile of the beneficiaries participating in the project, this report is a practical summary of information on the application of rules and compliance with safety policies towards children under the project.

The report was prepared on the basis of the applicable law, documents, regulations and procedures that are mandatory for schools participating in the project.

The report addresses all four child safety policy standards: politics, people, procedures and accountability.

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INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROJECT

The project "The past builds the future – Neighbours of equal rights" aims to raise awareness among young Europeans from Poland, Latvia and Lithuania of common history, culture and cultural heritage, as well as honor the victims of crimes in totalitarian regimes. The implementation of the project will allow to commemorate the events in the contemporary history of Europe, including the causes and effects of authoritarian regimes and totalitarianism. This will help to raise awareness of the common history, culture, heritage and values among European citizens, thereby increase their understanding of the European Union, its origins, purpose, diversity and achievements, as well as to highlight the importance of mutual understanding and tolerance. The project is implemented by a partnership consisting of:

- City of Częstochowa - Leader
- Adam Mickiewicz High School in Częstochowa,
- Primary School No. 21 in Częstochowa,
- Schools' Complex No. 28 in Częstochowa,
- Junior High School in Rezekne,
- Junior High School of st. John Paul II in Vilnius.

Implementation period: 01/04/2022 - 31/03/2024.

Activities envisaged in the project:

1. Opening conference - a conference inaugurating the project, presenting the state of knowledge about the Holocaust,
2. Closing seminar – a seminar summarizing the project, youth debate on anti-Semitism,
3. A series of workshops / lessons in schools participating in the project - workshops / history lessons in all schools participating in the project in the form of discussions or lectures, with the use of artistic and musical expression, incl. performances,
4. Exhibition "The fate of children during the war" - the exhibition will be prepared in 5 languages - Hebrew, Lithuanian, Latvian, Polish and English,
5. Study visit in Częstochowa,
6. Study visit in Rezekne,
7. Study visit in Vilnius.



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Standard nr 1: Policy

The regulations obliging project partners to strictly respect the safety of children are laid down on several levels – starting from the national level, passing to the internal regulations of entities.

In Poland, Lithuania and Latvia, schools or school complexes operate on the basis of applicable legal documents, in particular: constitutions, the Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), detailed provisions on education law in these countries, and on the basis of approved statutes, regulations, codes, programs as well as developed and implemented procedures.

The most important document created for the needs of the school's activities and binding therein is the statute, which defines, inter alia, goals and tasks of the school, the way of its organization, tasks and competences of school bodies, rules of organizing help. The school statutes are the documents that detail the rights, procedures and obligations of students. The statutory and procedural provisions indicate the equal right to protection, irrespective of ethnic origin, sex, age, religion, disability or sexual orientation.

Schools have written policies regarding safe conduct. Employees benefit from support in case of doubts at the level of problem identification or during the process of solving it at the headmaster, school educator, school psychologist and other specialists. Children are informed about the right to protection from abuse as well as about the right to provide them with advice and support in the process of caring for their safety.

Educational programs implemented in schools are based on national policies in the field of: development of students' shared responsibility and life skills, personal role of parents (family) in cooperation with schools, implementation of common values, principles of upbringing incorporating the education, and finally getting students interested in the process of shaping their life.

To sum up, the legal and functional context in which the entities participating in the project are seated imposes an absolute obligation on them to respect children's rights and their safety. The regulations in force are complete and there is no need to multiply them for the purposes of project implementation.



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Standard 2: People

The responsibility for organizing safe working and learning conditions rests on the headmaster and all employees (teachers, administration and service employees).

Teachers are employed on the basis of applicable regulations - they must meet the relevant requirements and demonstrate qualifications necessary for teaching. It needs to be highlighted that no criminal or disciplinary proceedings or proceedings for incapacitation are pending against those persons, and they cannot be punished for an offense committed intentionally.

Schools create a school work plan and reports on the implementation of the school's work. The mentioned documents take into account aspects related to ensuring safe conditions and assure respecting the provisions (procedures, regulations) by students and school employees. Internal school regulations are regularly analyzed and updated. As a result of needs and threats evaluation, new procedures are introduced. Reporting systems regarding incidents and irregularities related to the safety of children are established. They include as well reporting on activities inconsistent with applicable law and health and safety rules (e.g. regulations for reporting internal violations of law, register of accidents and events). External authorities monitor the school's caring activities for the safety of children.

All regulations and procedures are approved by headmasters. School employees have access to the documents, they are obliged to be familiar with their content and to comply with their regulations. Before starting work, all employees are also familiarized with the Occupational Safety and Health Regulations.

All employees (teachers and administration employees), when contacting children, are obliged to shape proper social attitudes of students, respect basic social norms, respect human rights and children's rights.

School staff are regularly trained in safety in line with the educational policy of the state.

Additionally, in order to minimize the risk of possible threats, schools appoint the Student Ombudsman.



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Standard 3: Procedures

There are established procedures indicating specially designated, responsible persons to be informed in case of an incident. The identification and mitigation of risks related to child protection consists on risk assessment integrated into the procedures at all levels, i.e. from risk identification through planning activities that involve or affect children.

For all students, the schools perform a series of activities aimed at identifying a possible occurrence of threats. Creating such a “map” is based on pedagogical and medical procedures, as well as on the social interview referring to the family situation of the child.

Schools annually evaluate these safety procedures, adapting them to the current needs and changes in regulations.

The supervising teachers (obliged to keep the information under the clause of professional secrecy) keep the student's individual documentation, in which they collect documents and notes from observations regarding all the students and classes. Thanks to this, they can, in consultation with other teachers, headmaster and educators, react quickly to possible threats.

Regardless of this documentation, the school educators keep their own files (for students under special care). The purpose of keeping these records is in line with the educational and preventive program of the school.

School procedures also assume: observation of students' behavior in school environment, creating questionnaires on current threats for students, parents and teachers.

The applicable school procedures also include the process of reporting and responding to incidents related to child safety; they are directly linked to the partners' policies and disciplinary procedures.



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Standard 4: Accountability

The procedures implemented by the schools are regularly monitored by the pedagogical supervision and the authorities in charge of managing educational entities, as well as by internal tools measuring the quality of work, e.g. reports from the implementation of plans, observations, surveys, records in the documentation, conclusions.

Apart from external evaluation that the rules are subject to, (the authority in charge, pedagogical supervision), also self-evaluation takes place during periodical pedagogical councils.

The project partners ensure full transparency of the implemented procedures by publishing all documents, information and mechanisms on their websites - thus, they are available to students, as well as their parents and guardians.

This document has been consulted with the representatives of students' councils of schools participating in the project.

Child Protection Policy – review/survey

It is assumed that this document will be revised and updated as necessary. The update will be made by persons acting as the Child Protection Officer, taking into account the opinions of representatives of students' councils.

Child protection officer

In each institution participating in the project, a Child Protection Officer is appointed. Their duty is to supervise the implementation of the procedures described in this report and to act as an ombudsman for the rights of children participating in the project.

This function is entrusted to the headmasters of the schools participating in the project.



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Incident reporting procedure

Internal system

Contact details of Child protection officers under the project in each facility:

Szkoła Podstawowa nr 21 im. Ks. Stanisława Konarskiego w Częstochowie

Headmaster – Renata Krystek

ul. Sabinowska 7/9

42-202 Częstochowa, PL

tel/fax: 34 365 85 97

e-mail: sp21@edukacja.czestochowa.pl

Zespół Szkół Specjalnych nr 28 w Częstochowie

Headmaster – Agnieszka Cupiał

Ulica Św. Barbary 9/11

42-226 Częstochowa, PL

tel. 34 324-46-52

e-mail: zss28@edukacja.czestochowa.pl

V Liceum Ogólnokształcące im. A. Mickiewicza

Headmaster – Małgorzata Witek

ul. Krakowska 29

42-217 Częstochowa, PL

tel.: 343242314

email: vlo@vmickiewicz.pl

Rēzeknes valsts poļu ģimnāzija

Headmaster – Olga Burova

Lubanas iela 49

4600 Rezekne, LV

tel.: +371 64636680

e-mail: poluvsk@rezekne.lv

Vilniaus Sv Jono Pauliaus II Gimnazija in Vilnius

Headmaster – Adam Błaszkiwicz

ul. V. Druskio 11

04306 Wilno, LT

Tel. / Faks. (8 5) 244 4504

Email: adam.blaskevic@vilnius.lt



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External system

In case of incidents related to the safety of children, help can also be sought in external institutions - in entities whose activities are dedicated to supporting children, adolescents and their guardians in difficult situations. The collected information on institutions providing this type of assistance can be found on the following websites:

Poland

<https://unicef.pl/co-robimy/prawa-dziecka/gdzie-szukac-pomocy>

Lithuania

https://www.jp2.lt/str/pomoc_psychologiczna

Latvia

<https://www.bti.gov.lv/lv>



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WEBSITE ADDRESSES

All documents - statutes, regulations, programs are available on the Schools' websites:

V Liceum Ogólnokształcące im. A. Mickiewicza w Częstochowie - <https://vmickiewicz.pl/>

Szkoła Podstawowa nr 21 w Częstochowie - <http://sp21czest.szkolnastrona.pl/>

Zespół Szkół Specjalnych nr 28 w Częstochowie - <http://zssnr28.info/>

Rēzeknes valsts poļu ģimnāzija - <http://www.rezpvsk.lv/>

Vilniaus Sv Jono Pauliaus II Gimnazija in Vilnius - <https://www.jp2.lt/aktualnosc>

The report on the application of the safety policy towards children under the project „The past builds the future – Neighbours of equal rights” has been published on the websites of schools and on the website of the City of Częstochowa – Project’s Coordinator:

<https://www.czestochowa.pl/projekt-przeszlosc-buduje-przyszlosc-sasiedzi-rownych-praw>.



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SUMMARY

According to the Education Act of the Republic of Lithuania: Education protects and creates the identity of the nation, transmits values that give meaning to human life, social life - based on social harmony and solidarity, state life - based on social progress and security. To sum up: all child safety standards are created on the basis of basic principles: all children have equal rights to protection from harm, everyone has a duty to support the protection of children, and all activities related to child protection must be carried out in the best interests of the child.