



European Campus – APS

Child Protection Policy

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Introduction

The European Campus - APS, (EC), is a third-sector organization, born in 2011, based in San Severo, Italy. The main fields of work of the EC are non-formal education, youth, human rights, intercultural dialogue, gender-related issues, economics, and art, and pursues purposes of social solidarity.

Among our missions, we promote cultural initiatives, we promote creativity as an instrument of knowledge, we defend culture, we promote integration among different cultures, promote cultural exchange, promote education among people, become a point of reference for our territory, promote orientation among young people to avoid early school leaving.

In our territory we provide learning and orientation activities for youngsters to counter early school leaving; we provide free-time activities for children (6 – 14 y/o) to promote integration and general welfare; we also are managing body of a community library in our territory.

Given that our primary focus involves working with children, the implementation of a robust Child Protection Policy is paramount for the success and safety of our activities. Establishing and adhering to these policies ensures a secure environment, fostering the well-being and protection of the children we engage with.

Everyone who participates in activities held by European Campus - APS is entitled to do so in an enjoyable and safe environment. The European Campus - APS has a moral and legal obligation to ensure that, when given responsibility for young people, teachers, educators, and volunteers provide them with the highest possible standard of care.

The aim of the policy is to promote good practice, providing children and young people with appropriate safety/protection while in the care of European Campus – APS and to allow staff and volunteers to make informed and confident responses to specific child protection issues.

Background and Definitions

Child abuse is an alarming global issue that transcends borders and social structures, affecting children and adolescents across all nations and societies. This distressing phenomenon encompasses physical, sexual, and emotional abuse, as well as neglect. Remarkably, most of these instances are preventable, highlighting the urgency for comprehensive and proactive measures.

Children and adolescents face the potential risk of exploitation, abuse, violence, and neglect in a myriad of settings, including families, communities, institutions, organizations, private and public spaces. Recognizing the imperative to safeguard children and adolescents from potential harm and exploitation is crucial for European Campus – APS.

- **Child:** A child is defined as anyone under the age of 18, in line with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989).
- **Child Protection:** Child protection encompasses a comprehensive framework of philosophies, standards, guidelines, and procedures designed to safeguard children from both intentional and unintentional harm. In the present context, this commitment is integral to the European Campus – APS's obligation to ensure that its staff, operations, and programs actively prevent harm to children. This entails the organization's responsibility to avoid exposing children to any risks of harm or abuse and to promptly report any concerns regarding children's safety within the activities and programs they are involved into the relevant authorities. This proactive approach reflects the organization's dedication to prioritizing the well-being and security of children under its care.
- **Violence against Children:** Violence against children refers to any act that inflicts physical, emotional, or psychological harm on a child. This can manifest in various forms, including physical abuse, verbal abuse, bullying, or any behavior that jeopardizes a child's well-being and safety. Violence denies children their basic rights to protection, dignity, and a nurturing environment, hindering their holistic development.
- **Child Abuse:** Child abuse encompasses intentional actions or negligence that cause harm or pose a threat to the well-being of a child. It can manifest in different forms, such as physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, or neglect. Child abuse is a grave violation of a child's rights, trust, and safety, leaving lasting impacts on their physical, emotional, and psychological health.
- **Child Exploitation:** Child exploitation involves the unjust or improper use of a child for someone else's advantage, often to the detriment of the child's well-being. This can include but is not limited to child labor, human trafficking, forced recruitment into armed conflicts, or any form of economic or sexual exploitation. Child exploitation is a violation of the child's rights, dignity, and fundamental freedoms, requiring comprehensive measures for prevention and protection.

Policy

European Campus - APS is fully committed to safeguarding the welfare of all children in its care. It recognizes the responsibility to promote safe practice and to protect children from harm, abuse, and exploitation. Staff and volunteers will work together to embrace difference and respect the rights of children and young people.

These guidelines are based on the following principles:

- The welfare of children is the primary concern.
- All children, whatever their age, culture, disability, gender, identity have the right to protection from all forms of harm and abuse.
- Child protection is everyone's responsibility.
- Children have the right to express views on all matters which affect them, should they wish to do so.
- Organizations shall work in partnership together with children and parents/carers to promote the welfare, health, and development of children.

European Campus - APS will:

- **Ensure Child Safety and Well-being:** European Campus - APS is steadfast in its commitment to ensuring the safety and well-being of all children involved in its programs and activities. We recognize the paramount importance of creating a secure environment that fosters the holistic development of every child.
- **Implement Child Protection Measures:** To uphold this commitment, European Campus - APS integrates robust child protection measures into its operational framework. This involves active engagement with staff to ensure awareness and adherence to child protection policies and guidelines. The organization is dedicated to fostering an environment where every staff member actively contributes to the well-being of children under our care.
- **Integrate with Existing Procedures:** European Campus - APS is committed to seamlessly integrating the Child Protection Policy into existing procedures and practices. By aligning child protection efforts with our ongoing operations, we aim to create a cohesive and comprehensive approach that safeguards children from harm and ensures a nurturing environment for their growth and development. This integration is crucial to embedding a

culture of child protection within the fabric of our organization, reflecting our unwavering dedication to the safety and welfare of every child associated with European Campus - APS.

People

Because of this reason European Campus – APS is committed to:

- Ensuring the safety and well-being of every child participating in extracurricular activities.
- Accompanying children throughout the duration of our activities, guaranteeing continuous and appropriate supervision.
- All staff and volunteers associated with European Campus undergo screening processes, background checks and training, to ensure their suitability and commitment to child protection.
- Training for staff, volunteers, and stakeholders to enhance their understanding of child protection issues and reinforce the importance of maintaining a safe and supportive environment for children.

Procedures

To ensure the implementation and the compliance with the current Child Protection Policy, European Campus – APS Implements the following procedures:

- All employees, or volunteers, in European Campus – APS by signing their work commitment will commit themselves to apply and respect the current CPP.
- Respond to any allegations of misconduct or abuse of children in line with this Policy and these procedures as well as implementing, where appropriate, the relevant disciplinary and appeals procedures.
- Observe guidelines issued by local Child Protection Committees for the protection of children.
- Regularly monitor and evaluate the implementation of this Policy and these procedures.

Accountability

Everyone in European Campus – APS is responsible to implement and apply the current CPP. The implementation of the current CPP will be constantly monitored. Any violation of the policy will be immediately reported to the legal representative, or the supervisors.

The Legal Representative, Ms. Marilu' Calabrese

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