

PRIPREMA

POZOR

SMART

## Children and Youth Protection Policy

### 1. Introduction and purpose of the Policy

The Association for Civil Society Development SMART (hereafter referred to as "SMART") recognizes and emphasizes the importance of safeguarding the well-being and rights of children and young people who may occasionally participate in its programmes, projects, or activities. The Child and Youth Protection Policy (hereafter referred to as "Policy") is designed to ensure the protection of children and young people (those under 18 years old) within the framework of programmes, projects, or activities organized and implemented by or on behalf of SMART. The Policy is based on and aligned with current legal regulations in the Republic of Croatia and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, with the main purpose of establishing the main principles and procedures for safeguarding the rights of children and young people, ensuring respect for their best interests, promoting their rights, ensuring their participation, and providing protective measures against all forms of abuse.

### 2. Guiding Principles

SMART will always strive to exclude children and young people from its programmes, projects, and activities. In the event that their involvement is necessary, SMART remains committed to ensuring their protection, both directly and indirectly. The following guiding principles underscore SMART's approach:

- **Adherence to Legal Framework:** SMART will strictly adhere to the Croatian and EU legal and institutional child protection framework.
- **Parental Consent and Presence:** Children and young people can participate in SMART programmes, projects, and activities only with informed consent from parents or legal guardians, who may be present during the activities or may be represented by an appointed adult person (such as a school teacher). The welfare of the children is paramount.
- **Protection from Harm:** Children and young people involved in SMART programmes, projects, and activities will be shielded from all forms of harm and abuse.
- **Rights and Expression:** Children and young people participating in SMART programmes, projects, and activities will enjoy the rights guaranteed by Croatian legislation, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, and EU policies. This includes the right to freely express themselves, abstain, or withdraw from programmes, projects, and activities without explanation.
- **Health and Welfare:** SMART prioritizes the health and well-being of children and young people in all programmes, projects, and activities involving them.

SMART

udruuga za  
razvoj civilnog  
društva

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0863881 2248

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HR24 2360 0001 1014 8508 7

- **Safeguarding Procedures:** SMART implements robust procedures to safeguard children and young people from abuse and harm.
- **Employee and Volunteer Education and Professional Development:** SMART continually educates its employees and volunteers about this Policy, along with relevant standards and practices for the protection of children and young people.
- **Prompt Response:** SMART will promptly address any allegations of misconduct in accordance with this Policy.

### 3. Measures to Protect Children and Youth during SMART Programmes, Projects and Activities

The following measures will be put in place to safeguard the rights of children and young people, act in accordance with their best interests, and ensure their full participation:

- Children and young people must never be left unattended during SMART programmes, projects, and activities.
- SMART employees and volunteers are prohibited from being alone with an individual child or young person. At all times, two SMART staff members must be present when dealing with a child or young person, even in situations requiring first aid or general distress.
- SMART employees and volunteers should only meet a child and young person inside the activity premises with another person present. In case it is not possible due to different circumstances, parents or legal guardians or appointed adult persons should be informed, and SMART should seek their approval. Whenever possible, such situations should be avoided.
- In cases where children or young people are involved in any SMART programme, project, or activity, complete details must be provided to parents or legal guardians, accompanied by their informed consent and continuous presence, or the presence of an appointed adult person.

### 4. Reporting Mechanism

Any individual can submit verbal or written complaints regarding SMART's involvement with children and young people. Complaints can be sent through the official organization email ([smart@smart.hr](mailto:smart@smart.hr)) or office telephone number (+385 51 332 750). The Head of Office at SMART is responsible for receiving and reviewing complaints, taking immediate and necessary actions in consultation with at least one Executive Director and at least one member from the Executive Team. This Policy underscores SMART's commitment to protecting children and young people while recognizing their rights, safety, and well-being as paramount concerns in all programmes, projects, and activities.

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## 5. Review and Implementation

The Policy will be reviewed annually to ensure its relevance, effectiveness, and compliance with legal regulations. Implementation of the Policy will be regularly monitored to ensure compliance and continuous improvement. Progress and performance will be regularly reviewed at SMART yearly meetings and evaluated by the Executive team responsible for programme, project, and activity planning and implementation.

## 6. Entry into force

This Policy will enter into force on January 1, 2024. From this date onwards, all employees and volunteers are expected to comply with the policy and its requirements.

Rijeka, 1st January 2024

ODOBRIO  
PEČATIRAO

**SMART**



Zvijezdana Schulz Vugrin

Executive Director

SMART

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