



EU Children's Participation Platform

Code of Behaviour

Working Safely with Children

February 2025

Introduction

The welfare and safety of children is paramount to the EU Children's Participation Platform (hereafter, the Platform) and is central to the planning and delivery of all activities involving children. All adults engaging with the Platform have a responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. This responsibility extends to a duty of care for staff, contractors, consultants, and representatives of member organisations who work directly or indirectly with children.

This Code of Behaviour outlines the standards of conduct expected from all individuals working with or representing the Platform in any activity involving children. Regardless of role, all adults act in a position of trust and have an opportunity to positively influence and inspire children. Adults must be aware of the imbalance of power between them and the children they work with and must refrain from any form of misconduct or inappropriate behaviour.

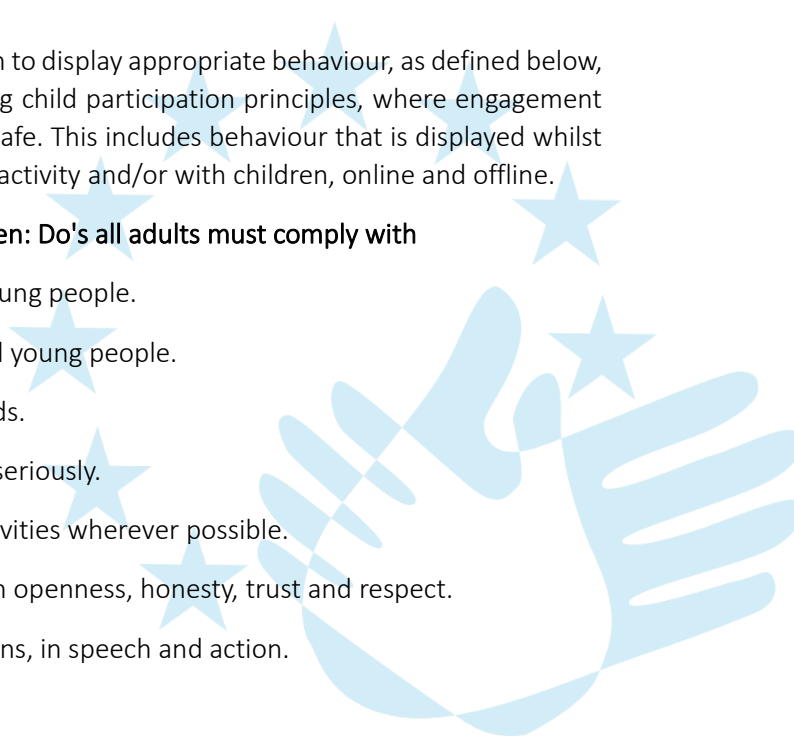
The Code of Behaviour serves as a practical guide to safe, respectful, and appropriate interactions with children. It complements the [Code of Conduct](#), which defines the general ethical and professional standards for all individuals engaging with the Platform.

In addition to this Code of Behaviour, all individuals are expected to comply with the Platform's [Safeguarding Framework](#) and relevant national child protection laws. Additional activity-specific guidelines may apply in certain cases.

Do's

We expect all adults working on or with the Platform to display appropriate behaviour, as defined below, and always incorporate the Platform's underpinning child participation principles, where engagement with children should be meaningful, inclusive and safe. This includes behaviour that is displayed whilst working on or participating in any Platform related activity and/or with children, online and offline.

A Code of Behaviour for Working Safely with Children: Do's all adults must comply with

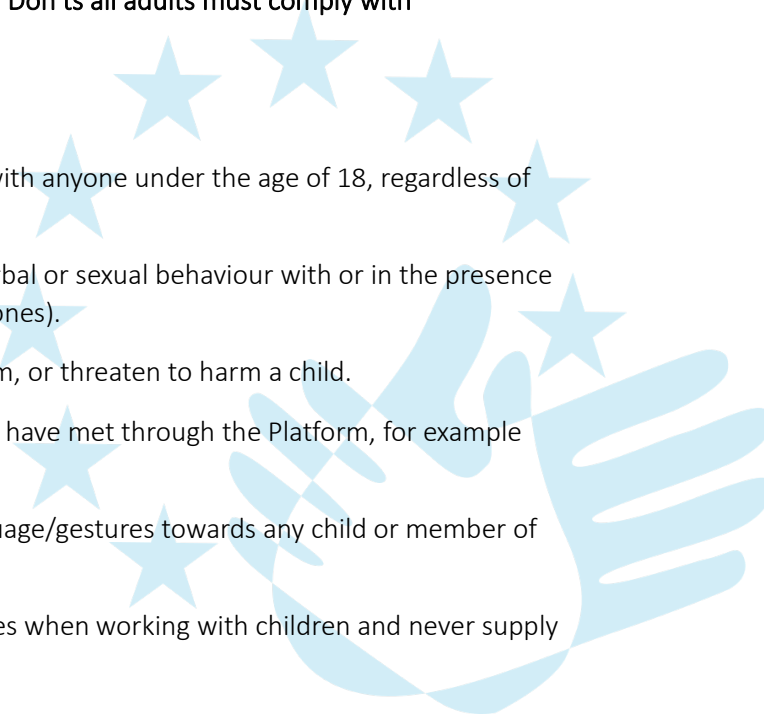
- Do prioritise the welfare of children and young people.
 - Do model good behaviours for children and young people.
 - Do treat all children according to their needs.
 - Do value and take children's contributions seriously.
 - Do actively involve children in planning activities wherever possible.
 - Do promote relationships that are based on openness, honesty, trust and respect.
 - Do make sure you are clear in your intentions, in speech and action.
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- Do ensure your contact with children and young people is appropriate and relevant to the nature of the activity you are involved in.
 - Do allow children to talk about their concerns.
 - Do raise awareness with other adults working on the Platform about this Code of Behaviour.
 - Do take all information regarding allegations, concerns and suspicions of abuse seriously and report them.
 - Do ensure that whenever possible, there is more than one adult present during activities with children and young people.
 - Do challenge all inappropriate behaviour and report any breaches of the behaviour code.
 - Do encourage children and adults to speak out about attitudes or behaviours that makes them uncomfortable.
 - Do exercise caution when you are discussing sensitive issues with children.
 - Do encourage children's participation whilst being aware of their unique needs and ability.
 - Do make sure that everyone around you – including staff, Platform members, children – feels safe, respected, and valued at all times.
 - Do show proper caution about recording any sensitive information about children, including photos and statements of children.
 - Do respect and promote EU Values such as respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, and the rule of law when working with children, and actively instil these values in the children you work with.

Dont's

The following actions, behaviours and attitudes must be avoided by any staff member, Platform member or adult working with children.

A Code of Behaviour for Working Safely with Children: Don'ts all adults must comply with

- Do not show favouritism.
 - Do not trivialise child abuse.
 - Do not engage in any form of sexual activity with anyone under the age of 18, regardless of the age of consent or custom locally.
 - Do not take part in inappropriate physical, verbal or sexual behaviour with or in the presence of children (including online or via mobile phones).
 - Do not physically, sexually or emotionally harm, or threaten to harm a child.
 - Do not send private messages to children you have met through the Platform, for example private messaging on social media.
 - Do not use foul language or provocative language/gestures towards any child or member of staff.
 - Do not drink alcohol or use harmful substances when working with children and never supply alcohol or harmful substances to a child.
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- Do not engage in the use of physical interventions as a form of response to misbehaviour, unless it is necessary by way of restraint.
 - Do not do things of a personal nature for a child that they can do for themselves.
 - Do not place children in unsafe situations.
 - Do not engage in relationships which could be an abuse of trust, for example a sexual relationship with a beneficiary family member.
 - Do not rely upon your good reputation to protect you from any complaints or allegations.
 - Do not allow concerns, allegations or suspicions of abuse to go unreported.
 - Do not distribute photos of children taken from events on your social media channels or for other purposes of communication.
 - Do not distribute any information about children involved with people who are not authorised to receive this info.
 - Do not store photos of children from the events or activities on your personal devices.

The below section outlines a few scenarios and behaviours that should follow, should the following situations occur.

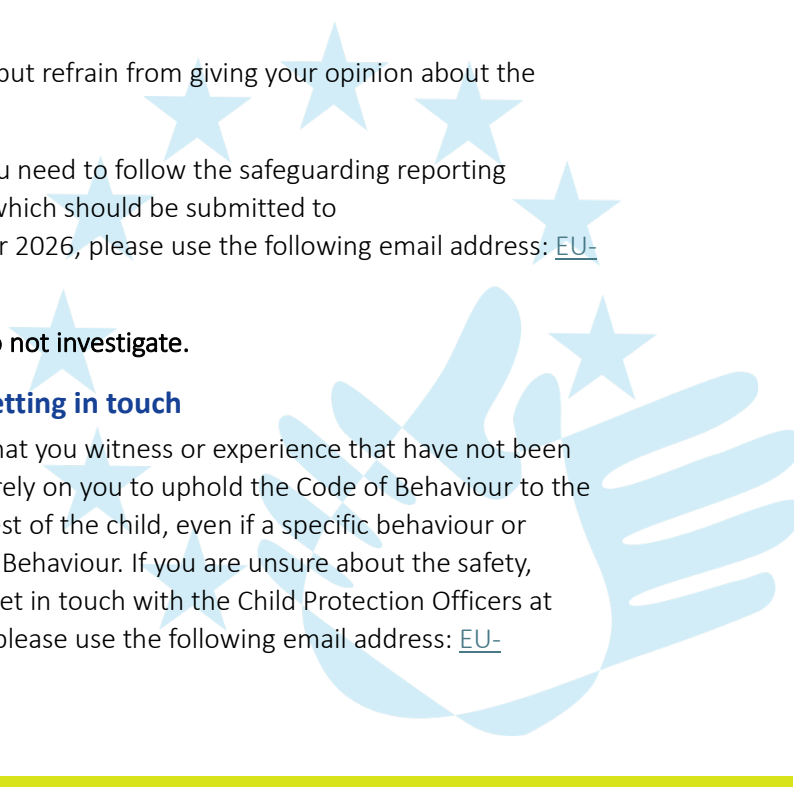
If a child tells you that they are being harmed, abused or exploited or you have a safeguarding concern about a child:

- Do ensure there is no immediate danger to the child.
- Do allow the child to speak freely, without interruption. Do not question, interrogate, or ask any leading questions.
- Do inform the child that for their own safety and to ensure the situation/concern is dealt with correctly, you will have to disclose the conversation to appropriate figures and that should not be seen as a breach of trust but as a measure to ensure we can provide the best possible support.
- Do show understanding and be reassuring but refrain from giving your opinion about the situation.
- Following the conversation with the child, you need to follow the safeguarding reporting protocol and fill out a Safeguarding Form, which should be submitted to cppsafeguarding@icf.com (after 31 October 2026, please use the following email address: EU-CHILDPARTICIPATION@ec.europa.eu).

Please remember that it is your duty to REPORT. Do not investigate.

Acting in the best interests of the child and getting in touch

There might be behaviours, attitudes and actions that you witness or experience that have not been covered in this document. For these instances, we rely on you to uphold the Code of Behaviour to the best of your ability and always act in the best interest of the child, even if a specific behaviour or activity is not specifically referenced in the Code of Behaviour. If you are unsure about the safety, ethics, or appropriateness of your action, you can get in touch with the Child Protection Officers at cppsafeguarding@icf.com (after 31 October 2026, please use the following email address: EU-CHILDPARTICIPATION@ec.europa.eu).





I have carefully read and understood the EU Children's Participation Platform Code of Behaviour. I am aware that the Platform expects me to always uphold the behaviours and attitudes described in this Code of Behaviour. By signing this Code of Behaviour, I commit to continuously maintaining the required conduct as a precondition of my involvement in the Platform. I am aware that the list of expected behaviours and attitudes listed in this Code is not exhaustive. I will use my best judgement and apply the overarching purpose of the Code in situations which may not be directly described here.

First Name

Last Name

Organisation

Signature

Date

Location

