



CHILD AND YOUNGSTER PROTECTION POLICY OF THE KOSOVAR CENTRE FOR SECURITY STUDIES (KCSS)

1. PURPOSE OF THE POLICY

The Kosovar Centre for Security Studies (KCSS) recognizes the importance of safeguarding the well-being and rights of children and youngsters who may occasionally be part of its projects or activities. This policy is designed to ensure the protection of children and youngsters within the framework of KCSS activities. Aligned with the legal and policy framework of child protection in the Republic of Kosovo, specifically Law No. 06/L-084 on Child Protection, KCSS is committed to preventing physical and mental violence, abuse, exploitation, neglect, and any form of harm that jeopardizes their safety, health, education, and overall development. This policy outlines responsibilities and guidelines for KCSS personnel working with children, aiming to ensure their protection and welfare.

2. GUIDING PRINCIPLES

As a fundamental principle, the Kosovar Centre for Security Studies (KCSS) will always strive to exclude children and youngsters from its activities. In the event that their involvement is necessary, KCSS remains committed to ensuring their protection, both directly and indirectly. The following guiding principles underscore KCSS's approach:

- **ADHERENCE TO LEGAL FRAMEWORK:** *KCSS will strictly adhere to the legal and institutional child protection framework in Kosovo.*
- **PARENTAL CONSENT AND PRESENCE:** *Children and youngsters can participate in KCSS activities only with informed consent from parents or legal guardians, who must be present during the activities. The welfare of the children is paramount.*
- **PROTECTION FROM HARM:** *Children involved in KCSS activities will be shielded from all forms of harm and abuse.*



RIGHTS AND EXPRESSION: Children and youngsters participating in KCSS activities will enjoy the rights guaranteed by Kosovo 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 activities without explanation.

HEALTH AND WELFARE: KCSS prioritizes the health and well-being of children in all activities involving them.

SAFEGUARDING PROCEDURES: KCSS implements robust procedures to safeguard children from abuse and harm.

PERSONNEL EDUCATION: KCSS continually educates its personnel about this policy, along with relevant standards and practices for child protection.

PROMPT RESPONSE: KCSS will promptly address any allegations of misconduct in accordance with this policy.

3. MEASURES TO PROTECT CHILDREN AND YOUNGSTERS DURING KCSS ACTIVITIES

Children and youngsters must never be left unattended during KCSS activities.

KCSS personnel are prohibited from being alone with an individual child or youngster. At all times, two KCSS staff members must be present when dealing with a child or youngster, even in situations requiring first aid or general distress.

KCSS personnel are strictly forbidden from meeting a young person outside the activity premises without another person present.

In cases where children or youngsters are involved in any KCSS activity, complete details must be provided to parents or legal guardians, accompanied by their informed consent and continuous presence



- For KCSS research projects involving children or youngsters, the research ethics committee must review and approve special protection measures to ensure their well-being.

4. REPORTING MECHANISM

Any individual can submit verbal or written complaints regarding KCSS's involvement with children or youngsters. Complaints can be sent through the official organization email (report@qkss.org) or office telephone number (+383 38 221 420). The Head of Operations at KCSS is responsible for receiving and reviewing complaints, taking immediate and necessary actions in consultation with the Executive Director.

This policy underscores KCSS's commitment to protecting children and youngsters while recognizing their rights, safety, and well-being as paramount concerns in all activities.

5. ENTRY INTO FORCE

This policy will enter into force on August 1, 2023. From this date onwards, all employees are expected to comply with the policy and its requirements.

Entry into force of the Policy: 01/08/2023

Mentor Vrajolli,


Executive Director