



socrates

Supporting Opportunities for Children's
Rights and AcTive Engagement in Society



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Contents

The present document includes:

1. Key ethical issues that may arise
2. Reporting mechanisms
3. Legal and Regulatory compliance information

1.- KEY ETHICAL ISSUES

SOCRATES project is committed to the dignity and rights of all participants, especially children. Considering that there will be direct involvement of children 6 - 12 years old, including from vulnerable background, the project is prioritising the safeguarding, participation and inclusion of all of them.

Ethical risks that may arise regarding children's participation have been anticipated by the consortium and are being proactively addressed within the proposal. The partners will appoint a dedicated [Ethics Expert](#) who will monitor all activities involving children and ensure that their participation is and remains voluntary and age-appropriate. All partners directly engaging children in their activities will operate under Child Protection Policies that align with the Keeping Children Safe Standards.

SOCRATES considers gender equality and non-discrimination as central to the project and acknowledges that children have different experiences regarding to participation depending on their gender identity, cultural and racial background as well as socio-economic factors. For this reason, a [Gender Equality and Diversity Officer](#) will be appointed by the partnership to ensure the implementation of inclusive strategies. Additionally, KPIs have been set in a desegregated manner to facilitate and encourage the monitoring of the project's impact on girls and children with fewer opportunities as well as detect any inequalities in participation that necessitate corrective measures. All aforementioned commitments will also be showcased through inclusive language, adaptable materials and support mechanisms that make the SCM accessible to all children.

SOCRATES has integrated gender equality and non-discrimination considerations into its design, implementation and evaluation processes. The project does aim to reduce gender disparities as well as increase equality for children with fewer opportunities through:

- [KPIs for participation](#): Ensuring at 45% participation from girls and non-binary children and at least 20% representation of children from vulnerable backgrounds.
- [Accessibility and adaptability](#): Creating and providing materials adapted for children from vulnerable backgrounds.
- [Gender balanced facilitator trainings](#): At least 40% of the facilitators trained are female or non-binary to promote balanced role models.

Privacy and data protection are equally important for the partnership. The project will adhere strictly to the General Data Protection Regulation and a [Data Protection Officer](#) will ensure that all personal data, especially that collected from children, is processed lawfully, fairly, and transparently. All electronic data and databases, as email listing, lists of participant children, etc. will be anonymised where possible, securely stored, and only used for the purposes outlined and agreed upon through informed consent.





Special care will be taken to ensure that consent forms and information sheets are tailored to be understandable to both children and their guardians.

Data protection is crucial since SOCRATES will elaborate databases and project contain in which children and vulnerable children could be exposed, and done in an ethic manner.

Formats and channels	Specific use	KPI
Newsletters & press releases	Disseminate research findings, updates, and project progress to the target groups and relevant stakeholders	4 newsletters and 4 press releases
Social media (LinkedIn, X, Instagram)	Raise awareness, engage the general public, and provide regular project updates.	450 posts in total
Project Website	Serve as a central information hub for resources, updates, and dissemination materials.	1 project website

All partners that directly engage children in their activities will operate under Child Protection Policies that align with the Keeping Children Safe Standards. These are the most relevant activities to mention.

Red Deporte, engaged with children for the focus groups (T2.1) and the piloting (T3.2, T3.3 & T3.4).

Kinderburo, engaged with children for the focus groups (T2.1) and the piloting (T3.2, T3.3 & T3.4).

APG23, engaged with children for the focus groups (T2.1) and the piloting (T3.2, T3.3 & T3.4).

George Calinescu, engaged with children for focus groups (T2.1) and the piloting (T3.2, T3.3 & T3.4).

Sxoli Karavana, engaged with children for the focus groups (T2.1) and the piloting (T3.2, T3.3 & T3.4).

All these partners have their own Child Protection Policy.

Innohive, During the activities in which children are involved, will ensure that consent for both children and their guardians is informed, freely given and respected. The environments in which the children's participation will take place will be emotionally and physically safe as well as inclusive and respectful.

MEASURES TO MITIGATE ANY RISK CONCERNING ETHICAL ISSUES

Risk #	Description of risk	WP #	Proposed risk-mitigation measures
7	Legal or ethical issues related to data privacy or confidentiality. Likelihood: Low Impact: High	All	The partnership will have a dedicated Data Protection Officer (DPO) who ensures compliance with GDPR and EU ethics standards.





10	Challenges ensuring meaningful participation of vulnerable children due to accessibility barriers Likelihood: Medium Impact: High	WP2- WP3	The partners will ensure accessible venues, and adapt participation materials (easy-to-read, visual aids, etc.). Staff trained in inclusive methods will support vulnerable children during the focus groups and pilot sessions
11	Resistance from local authorities in integrating Socrates Compass Mechanism Likelihood: Medium Impact: High	WP3- WP4	The partners will establish early and continuous dialogue with local authorities. Letters of support have also been procured during the proposal development stage to clearly define roles and expectations.
12	Gender imbalance in project activities Likelihood: Low Impact: High	WP2- WP5	The partners will closely monitor gender balance during the project. Recruitment processes and communication materials will explicitly encourage participation of all genders, with measures taken to engage underrepresented groups.

Finally, the project aligns with [the foundational values of the European Union](#) as set in Article 2 of the Treaty on European Union and Article 21 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights. These include respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, and human rights, including the rights of minorities. The project not only complies with these values but actively promotes them by encouraging democratic engagement and civic education among children from diverse backgrounds.

Visibility of EU Funding

All communication and dissemination materials will promote the visibility of EU funding following the EACEA guidelines. This includes having the emblem and disclaimer in all materials, visibility and mention in all face to face and online events and a pinned post on social media highlighting the cofunding nature of the project.

2.- LEGAL AND REGULATORY COMPLIANCE INFORMATION

The cornerstone of data protection in the European Union is the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), in effect since May 2018. This framework unifies privacy laws across the bloc and grants citizens total control over their personal information.

SOCRATES project partners, when processing data of EU residents must adhere to these pillars:

- Lawfulness, fairness, and transparency: Processing must be legal and clear to the user.
- Purpose limitation: Data should only be collected for specified, legitimate purposes.





- Data minimization: Collect only the information strictly necessary.
- Accuracy: Keep data up to date and correct errors without delay.
- Storage limitation: Do not keep data longer than necessary.
- Integrity and confidentiality: Ensure security against unauthorized access or loss.
- Accountability: The organization must be able to demonstrate compliance to authorities.

Critical Compliance Requirements:

To ensure adherence, organizations typically follow the GDPR Compliance Checklist:

Legal Basis: Identifying one of the 6 legal grounds (such as explicit consent or legitimate interest) before processing.

Breach Notification: Reporting security failures to the supervisory authority within 72 hours. DPO (Data Protection Officer): Mandatory for public authorities or companies performing large-scale monitoring.

International Transfers: Data leaving the EU requires safeguards like Standard Contractual Clauses (SCCs) or adequacy decisions.

