Child Safeguarding Policy

DEFINITIONS

- **Child:** For the purposes of this policy, a child is defined as any individual under the age of 18 years.
- **Research Company:** E-DATA including its employees, contractors, volunteers, visitors and stakeholders.
- **Violence:** This includes physical, sexual, psychological, and emotional abuse or neglect. Violence may also encompass witnessing domestic violence or being exposed to conflict situations.
- **Exploitation**: Exploitation refers to any form of economic, sexual, or other exploitation of a child, including child labor and commercial sexual exploitation.
- **Discrimination**: Discrimination based on gender, race, religion, nationality, disability, or any other characteristic is strictly prohibited.

PRINCIPLES

- **Child-Centered Approach:** The welfare and protection of children are our highest priorities. Our research activities prioritize the rights, safety, and well-being of children.
- **Non-Discrimination:** We do not discriminate against children based on any characteristic. All children are entitled to equal protection and opportunities.
- **Best Interests of the Child:** All decisions and actions are guided by the best interests of the child, taking into account their safety, rights, and needs.
- **Informed Consent:** Parents, caregivers, or legal representatives provide informed written consent for children's participation in research, while also considering the child's assent where applicable.
- **Confidentiality**: We protect the confidentiality of children and do not disclose their personal information or data without appropriate consent or legal requirements.

DATA COLLECTION PROCEDURES

Risk Assessment: Before conducting research involving children, we assess potential risks and take measures to mitigate them.

Informed Consent and Assent: Parents, caregivers, or legal representatives provide informed written consent for children's participation in research. Where appropriate, children are also informed and provide assent to their participation.

INTERVIEW AND INTERACTION GUIDELINES:

- All interactions with children are conducted in a respectful, age-appropriate, and non-coercive manner.
- No questions or activities should be invasive, harmful, or distressing to children.
- Research staff must be trained to recognize and report signs of abuse or distress.

DATA SECURITY AND PRIVACY:

- We ensure that all data collected from or about children are securely stored, encrypted, and accessible only to authorized personnel.
- Data are anonymized and de-identified whenever possible.

REPORTING AND RESPONSE:

- If there are concerns or suspicions of child abuse or harm during research activities, they are reported to the appropriate authorities and child protection agencies as required by law.
- We have mechanisms in place for reporting any breach of this policy and for addressing it promptly and appropriately.

RESPONSIBILITIES

- All employees, contractors, volunteers, and stakeholders involved in research activities with children must familiarize themselves with and adhere to this policy.
- E-DATA will appoint a Child Safeguarding focal point responsible for implementing, monitoring, and ensuring compliance with this policy.

TRAINING AND AWARENESS

- Training on child safeguarding and this policy will be provided to all relevant staff, contractors, and volunteers.
- All employees and stakeholders will receive periodic updates and reminders about this policy.

CONCLUSION

This Child Safeguarding Policy reflects our commitment to ensuring the safety and well-being of children involved in our research activities. It is the responsibility of every member of E-DATA to adhere to this policy and uphold the principles and procedures outlined herein.

Layal Kouzi	**Joseph Haddad**
Researcher and Co-Founder	**Researcher and Co-Founder**
E-DATA sarl	E-DATA sarl
September 1, 2023	September 1, 2023