



Based on the Article 36 of the Statute of the Institute of Ethnology and Folklore Research, Scientific Council of the Institute of Ethnology and Folklore Research, at the meeting held on 14 July 2023, adopted

**Institute of Ethnology and Folklore Research's
Ethical Guidelines for Research Involving Children**

FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES

The Ethical Guidelines for Research Involving Children (hereinafter referred to as the Ethical Guidelines) provide basic guidelines and standards for research and other professional work done by the employees of the Institute of Ethnology and Folklore Research and its external collaborators. As a public institution with the fundamental task of conducting scientific research in the field of humanities, including ethnology, anthropology, philology and art sciences, based on ethnological, cultural anthropological, folkloristic, ethnotheatrical, ethnomusicological, ethnochoreological and interdisciplinary theories and methods, the Institute engages in critical research of culture that can also involve children.

Accordingly, the scientific research and professional activities of the Institute are based on accepting and promoting the idea of research that is in line with the requirement to listen to the voice of children and empower them, taking into account the well-being of each individual child participating in the research, as well as childhood as a historically variable but enduring concept. In its work, the Institute insists on a perspective that seeks to reconcile existing ethical standards in the protection of children in research with the articulated necessity of critically questioning and problematizing the research reflections and their social and cultural consequences for research participants.

Furthermore, it is essential to emphasize (self)criticism and reflexivity in ethical planning and argumentation of research contact with children, with the highest level of responsibility towards child participants, childhood as a historically variable but enduring concept, scientific research goals and contributions, as well as "hearability" of children's voices and their (re)presentation beyond the narrow academic circle. The research involving children conducted at the Institute is based on good faith and Enlightenment ideas of solidarity, rationality, freedom and trust, with the Ethical Guidelines supporting researchers' insistence on a dynamic relationship among the participants of the research process, which includes active and constant reflexivity and the use of all institutional, disciplinary, theoretical, epistemological and researcher's resources (intellectual, emotional, political and intuitive).

LEGAL FRAMEWORK

In research involving children, it is essential to adhere to protocol guidelines outlined in the Code of Ethics of the Institute of Ethnology and Folklore Research and the Code of Ethics of the Croatian Ethnological Society, which are based on international and national positive regulations and legal acts.

When planning research involving children, it is necessary to carry on a critical dialogue with ethical norms that sometimes incorporate harmful perceptions about children, their competencies and needs, and about childhood.

Employees and external collaborators of the Institute are directed to pay special attention in their research and other professional work with children to four fundamental principles implemented in the Council of Europe's Strategy for the Rights of the Child.

1. Right to life, survival and development

Children have a natural right to life and survival which must not be jeopardized by research. The right to development pertains to the child's physical, mental, spiritual, moral, psychological and social development,



which is promoted in research by utilizing not only the researched but also the research capacity of the child, respecting and encouraging the child's developmental competencies.

2. Non-discrimination

Rights of the child apply to all children without exception. The principle ensures all rights without any discrimination against the child, their parents or legal guardians based on race, skin colour, health difficulties, disabilities, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, family background, language, religion, political or other beliefs, national, ethnic or social origin and status.

3. Best interests of the child

In all activities concerning children, the best interest of the child is a primary consideration, while critically and reflectively approaching the concept of the "best interest of the child" in dialogue with the child.

4. Right to have views given due weight

In research involving children, it is essential to respect the child's undeniable right to express their own opinions, views, intentions, desires, inclinations, choices, preferences etc. regarding matters concerning them, and ensure their adequate scientific research (re)presentation.

PROTOCOL

1. In research involving children, we approach children participants with respect, protecting their integrity and dignity and avoiding the use of positions of power.

2. For research involving children, employees and external collaborators of the Institute must obtain approval from the Institute's Ethics Committee.

3. Participation in research is voluntary and based on informed consent of the child and their parents or guardians, as well as institutional support and consent if the research is conducted within institutions working with children. Participants have the right to withdraw from the research at any stage, and researchers are obligated to halt the research if they assess it to be in the child's best interest, even if not explicitly requested.

4. Participants in the research need to be informed in advance about the topic, objectives, methods, purpose and funding of the research, as well as the expected use of research results.

5. Depending on the specifics of the discipline, a child's consent to participate in research can be given in writing, orally or through other community-acceptable means. Children participants in the research are protected by anonymity.

6. Confidentiality of overall data must be ensured in the research, and participants should be promptly informed in case of changed circumstances (which compromise the confidentiality of personal data of research participants).

7. Participants in the research need to be informed about the implications of the research, especially those carrying potential risks for the child, family or researched community.

8. In case of knowledge about a child's endangerment, the researcher must act in accordance with applicable regulations.

9. The researcher is obliged to store and ensure adequate preservation of materials resulting from research and other activities involving children. The public use of materials is defined by individual institutional and archival regulations regarding the protection of materials and the privacy of participants in research. The researcher is responsible for preventing potential misuse of materials.



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FINAL PROVISIONS

After the research proposals involving children have been submitted, the Institute's Ethics Committee evaluates their compliance with the Institute's Code of Ethics and Ethical Guidelines, as well as applicable international and national ethical standards.

In case of violation of the Ethical Guidelines, proceedings are conducted before the Ethics Committee in accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the Ethics Committee, which, upon completion of the procedure, issues an opinion.

The opinion of the Ethics Committee is not an administrative act and is not an alternative to civil, criminal, administrative or disciplinary proceedings regulated by laws. Further proceedings are the responsibility of the Scientific Council and the Institute's director.

The Ethical Guidelines are published on the official website of the Institute in Croatian and English languages. The Croatian version is the original and is considered the authentic version.

In Zagreb, 14 July 2023

Ref. no.:

Scientific Council Director

Ivana Katarinčić, PhD