

APSD – Agenda 21

- internal policy and rules for the activities with children -

"Assistance and Programs for Sustainable Development – Agenda 21" is a Romanian non-governmental association of national interest, not-for-profit and unaffiliated politically or religiously.

The fundamental goal of APSD – Agenda 21 is to support Romanian policies and efforts to promote and implement in Romania the objectives of Sustainable Development.

In order to fulfil this aim the organization assumed the mission to:

- Develop partnerships with local authorities in order to value local initiatives and to increase efficiency of local governance;
- Promote education activities in the Human Rights Field, with emphasis on civic education and democratic citizenship.
- To strengthen the role of social actors with high potential in enforcement of sustainable development: children and young people, local communities, private sector and business community, scientific community, media;
- To provide assistance and support for marginalized groups or groups at risk of social exclusion.

The key-concept of APSD – Agenda 21 is **Sustainable Development**. A safe and prosperous future cannot be thought outside the concept of sustainable development.

Privileged target-groups are **children and young people**. Opportunities for education and development that are offered to children and young people are the guaranty of a healthy society.

As an organization that promotes the respect for human rights and human dignity, APSD – Agenda 21 strongly believes that each child, participant in its programs, is entitled to safety and protection, avoiding/flagging any behavior that can do harm to children physically or emotionally.

APSD – Agenda 21's projects take into consideration the best interests of the child, the respect of his/her rights, wishes and feelings, as well as child protection from any abuse (physical, mental, emotional, sexual)

For the purpose of the present document, the following terms are defined as follows:

child – any person under 18 years old.

staff - any person that has responsibilities in the implementation of a program/activity of the organization; if children are involved in such posture, they are the object of this policy too, but, at the same time, they are responsible as well for its implementation.

child protection – any activity aiming to prevent or stop a behavior considered to be dangerous for the mental and physical integrity of the child.

child abuse – any treatment that may affect the child physically, emotionally and sexually; it is also considered abuse the neglect of the child's physical and psycho-emotional needs.

APSD – Agenda 21's policy

The attention that APSD – Agenda 21 pays to the programs devoted to children, being aware of the essential role of education that promotes human rights and freedom of expression, led to the necessity to elaborate internal procedures that regulate the activity with children.

The activity of APSD – Agenda 21 is based on the principles on the International Convention for Children Rights and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Principles

The activity of APSD – Agenda 21 is based on the fundamental principle of the best interest of the child. The planning of the activities has at its core the interest and welfare of child the way they are mentioned in the Convention for Children Rights.

APSD-Agenda 21's activities respect the interests, wishes and feelings of the participants.

APSD – Agenda 21 takes all the measures for the safety of children, ensuring that its programs nor those that implement them represent any threat to the children's integrity.

The activities for children are opened to everybody, no matter of ethnicity, social statute, religion or gender, respecting and promoting the principles of equality and social inclusion.

Rules

Activities

- *Events* (training courses, trips, round tables) organized within the programs respect the legislation in force and do not put in danger the physical and mental integrity of children from the content and implement methods point of view.

- *The staff*, volunteers and all those who interact with children during the activities of APSD – Agenda 21 are prepared for such activities and informed about the rules of children safety and the legislation in force and they present the moral guarantee of working with this category. APSD – Agenda 21 staff has didactical experience acquired through academic background as well as practical activity.

If APSD – Agenda 21 works in partnership with other actors, it makes sure that the partners a well meet the necessary requirements in order to work with children.

- *The food* offered to children within the activities of APSD-Agenda 21 respects the legislation in force;

- *The access* to medical service is available during the events; the potential health issues of children as they are indicated by parents or legal guardians are taken into consideration;

- To the extent to which is possible it is ensured solving issues of people with disabilities.

Activities inside or outside the schools/summer schools

- these activities are organized respecting the rules in force, with the approval of schools, with the approval of parents or legal guardians. APSD – Agenda 21 works along with the education institutions – within formal and informal partnerships – in order to reach its goals.

Transport

- the transport of children to and from the places of activities will be realized respecting the legislation in force;
- the students will be accompanied by teachers/parents or staff members.
- in exceptional situations, students will travel unaccompanied by public transport, outside of the residential locality, with the written approval of parents.

Communication

Communication with education institutions/teachers – APSD – Agenda 21 communicates with schools/inspectors in order to ensure the efficiency of its actions and their complementarity with the school curriculum.

Communication with parents/legal guardians – APSD – Agenda 21 communicates directly with them in order to ensure that they are aware of the attendance of the children in the programs of the organization, aiming to receive the written parental approval whenever needed.

The private communication with children/using social media – respects the general policy of the organization, having at its core the best interests of children, raising their awareness towards the respect for the rules of decent and responsible communication. In order to communicate within the activities, APSD – Agenda 21 will use closed groups where only participant children have access. The communication within the virtual space, the responsibility of children as promoters of online content represents a constant of the programs of APSD-Agenda 21 designed for this category.

The press releases/the pictures with children respect the provisions of the legislation in force as follows:

- the regulation of the National Audiovisual Council

The law 504/11th of July 2002 and Decision 220/24th of February 2011 regarding the Regulation code of audiovisual content (Title II)

The pictures realized during the activities will not present children in improper postures that might create problems for the public image of children.

For photographing children and using the images within the promotion activities of the projects the express agreement of children / their parents / their legal guardians will be solicited.