

EASHW TIPS – RESEARCH WITH MINORS

For research with minors (younger than 18 years), there is a significant difference between anonymous and non-anonymous research.

If you have any doubts about the anonymity of your study be sure to check the information about anonymity and pseudonymity on our website.

NEW – CERTIFICATE OF GOOD CONDUCT IN STUDIES WITH MINORS

For every study with minors, a Certificate of Good Conduct is now required for:

- Anyone who comes into contact with underage participants, AND
- Anyone who comes into contact with data in which minors are recognizable.

How to request a Certificate of Good Conduct - Tips:

- You request this from the police or the municipality in which you are domiciled.
- This can (usually) be done online and only takes a few minutes before you obtain this proof.
- See also <https://www.liveinbelgium.be/certificate-good-conduct-no-criminal-record/>

INFORMED CONSENT OF EACH PARTICIPANT, ALSO THE (VERY) YOUNG ONES

For any study, including studies with minors, informed consent of the participant must be obtained if possible. **We ask you to make maximum efforts to give (very) young participants the opportunity to give informed consent.**

- Make sure that the information and consent is in a **language that the participants understand**.
 - Create separate forms and adjust the language.
 - For very young children, images can also be used. For inspiration, see: <https://childethics.com/>
 - Please note that you cover all required aspects of content (see the Informed Consent templates on our website).
- Please note: if the informed consent of the minor AND a parent/guardian is required then:
 - Participation is **only possible if all parties involved agree** (participant AND any parent/guardian),
 - Children cannot participate if they wish to do so, but a parent/guardian does not grant permission, and
 - Children cannot be forced to participate if they do not want to do so themselves, but a parent/guardian would like them to participate in the study.
- Consider the implications:
 - Suppose you carry out a study in the classroom, what about children who do not want / are not allowed to participate: how do you ensure that they do not feel targeted/ excluded?
- Finally: If you notice that a child indicates during the study participation that (s)he does not want to participate: stop the participation immediately without any adverse consequences.

7. NON-ANONYMOUS X -18: ARE PARTICIPANTS RECOGNIZABLE IN THE COLLECTION AND/OR PROCESSING OF DATA AND ARE PARTICIPANTS YOUNGER THAN 18?

For **non-anonymous research**, the EASHW guidelines & the GDPR legislation apply. (for more information see the info on Ethical and Legal Consent on our website). This implies that:

- **Active and written consent of each participant AND a parent/guardian is required** (GDPR)
- The correct informed consent forms (for ethical & legal consent) must be used. Be sure to check the information about obtaining ethical and legal permission on the EASHW website.
- You can contact the colleagues of the Privacy Commission privacy@uantwerpen.be if you have any further questions or doubts.
- EXCEPTIONS are possible if the research is placed under "Public Interest" as a legal basis. This requires consultation and permission from the Privacy Commission. In that case, you will inform us of this in the EASHW application.

8. ANONYMOUS X -13: DO YOU RECRUIT PARTICIPANTS UNDER THE AGE OF 13 IN COMPLETELY ANONYMOUS RESEARCH?

For **anonymous research**, only the EASHW guidelines **apply**, and the advice is:

- **Obtain permission from a parent/guardian for all participants up to the age of 12.**
- We here follow the guidelines of the Children's Rights Commission and the Knowledge Centre for Children's Rights. From the age of 13, they consider young people to be able to decide independently whether or not to participate in a study.
- You can opt to still inform the parents of 13-17 year olds, but even informing the parents is not required for anonymous research. Nor is informing the parents always desirable.
- EXCEPTIONS are possible in consultation with the EASHW Committee.

SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN, TEENAGERS AND (YOUNG) ADULTS

Sometimes it is useful to cooperate with or refer to organizations that can assist children, teenagers and (young) adults if necessary. We list a few organizations here, but you mainly rely on your expertise as a researcher to select the most appropriate organizations for collaboration/referral.

- CLB Chat: for kids and parents <https://www.clbchat.be/>
- Awel (listening ear for children and young people) <https://www.awel.be/>
- JAC (listening ear for young people from the CAW): <https://www.caw.be/jac/>
- Warm William (listening ear for 0-24 year olds) <https://www.warmewilliam.be/>
- Nupraatikerover.be is a chat box for minors who have questions about or are victims of abuse, neglect or sexual violence.
- TEJO offers free therapeutic counselling for children/young people between 10-20 <https://tejo.be/>
- tZitemzo provides information and advice on children's rights in general and on Belgian juvenile law in particular to children, young people and adults <https://tzitemzo.be/>
- ClickSafe Chat: Child Focus prevention portal for safe use of the internet - <https://childfocus.be/nl-be/Online-veiligheid/Preventieportaal-online-veiligheid>
- The Flemish Government gives an overview of various aid agencies such as TeleOnthaal or the Suicide Line, see overview: <https://www.zorgenvoormorgen.be/hulplijnen>
- The Onlinehulp-Apps website screens interesting apps that can be used for well-being and mental health: <https://www.onlinehulp-apps.be/>

VISUAL – INFORMED CONSENT IN MINOR

**PARTICIPANTS -18
(UP TO 17 YEARS)**

ANONYMOUS STUDY

NON-ANONYMOUS STUDY

Participants 13+

Participants -13

Informed consent from a parent/guardian required



You always ask for informed consent from the participant, unless this is not possible (requires a motivation in your EASHW application)

