

Executive Summary

This deliverable constitutes the Scent ethical issues clearance plan. The plan provides an overview of how ethical and legal issues will be dealt with in the project. The purpose of this document is thus to set out ethical guidelines and to ensure that relevant legal, ethical and security issues are considered. All partners are responsible for ensuring that research is conducted in compliance with these guidelines.

Legal and ethical standards and guidelines will be rigorously applied, irrespective of the country in which the research is carried out. Obtaining the required national authorisation and adherence will also be the responsibility of all the partners.

Scent will abide by the Horizon 2020 Rules for Participation and the ethical provisions laid down in the Scent Grant Agreement. The project will also comply with all applicable laws dealing with ethical and legal dimensions at EU level and at national level in the pilot countries, Romania and Greece. Individual partners belonging to professional bodies will also adhere to ethics rules and regulations of these.

Scent has established procedures for obtaining ethics approvals from relevant authorities, including competent institutional data protection officers and national data protection authorities. The project has also set out specific procedures for obtaining informed consent from human subjects and criteria for recruiting and screening human subjects. Procedures have moreover been defined for cases involving participants unable to give consent. The consortium has also appointed a Legal, Ethical and Security Issues Committee (LEIC). The Scent LEIC, composed of DDNI, Attica and CARR and led by the Legal, Ethical and Security Issues Manager, will make sure that ethical clearance issues are dealt with appropriately in the countries where human subjects will be involved in the research activities.

A set of fundamental principles has been established to ensure Good Scientific Practice (GSP), the integrity of research involving human participants, and general principles of data confidentiality and access. These principles, listed and described in this deliverable, discuss professional responsibility and standards of scientific, legal and ethical significance.

This deliverable will also cover legal and ethical aspects related to the early childhood education programmes to be implemented in the pilot countries. A general description of the scope and objectives of the early childhood education programmes will be provided. In addition, as small-scale pre-pilots are foreseen in other countries, namely in Ireland and the Netherlands, legal and ethical aspects applicable to these countries will be discussed as well.

Out of a total of 36 Scent deliverables, 15 deliverables may contain legal, ethical or security issues. These deliverables need to be reviewed by the LEIC before submission to the European Commission.

