



## Data protection in the YOURGROWTH project

### Who are we and what do we investigate?

We are a group of researchers from Bielefeld University and the Schwäbisch Gmünd University of Education. Our team is headed by Prof. Dr. Arnold Lohaus (Bielefeld) and Prof. Dr. Heike Eschenbeck (Schwäbisch Gmünd). With your help we want to investigate how young refugees in Germany feel and how their mental health changes. We want to find out whether factors such as past experiences, support activities or the personality of the refugees influence how healthy or burdened they feel. We will ask you questions that you can answer in a questionnaire. The questions include how you feel or what burdens you. Your name does not appear in the questionnaire, so nobody knows which answers you have given.

Please note: The following explanations refer to the data protection relevant aspects for the survey of the parents (legal guardian). You will find explanations on relevant aspects of data protection of the survey for young people under **documents**. A version in a simpler language for children and adolescents can be found under **documents**.

### How does the survey work?

You will receive an envelope from your child (your ward) containing, among other things, a questionnaire and instructions on how to complete and send it. The questionnaire already contains a generated individual code that we can use to assign information that you and your child (your ward) provide at the following survey times. After answering the questions, you can send the questionnaire back to us free of charge as described in the instructions leaflet. The data will be transferred to a university computer as soon as possible. In the following, the data will only be checked and analyzed by project members. We will contact you for the following dates (after one year and after two years) and ask you to answer some of the questions again.

### What information do we need from you and what do we do with it?

Data that identifies you as a person, such as the name of your child (your ward) and contact data (hereafter: personal data), will only be used to contact you, will not be analyzed and will be stored inaccessible to third parties. This information is also necessary to delete all your data if you request. The code generated for your child (your ward) will never be made available to persons who are not involved in the project in connection with the personal data. We will not use your personal information for any other purpose and will delete it immediately upon completion of the study.

Based on the questions and our analyses we would like to learn from you how you deal with stress, how you behave in certain situations, and how you perceive yourself and other people. Some questions relate to your opinion on the situation of refugees in Germany. We will not



analyze your answers individually, but in connection with your other answers and the answers of other participants. Our aim is not to analyze you as a person but be able to make statements about the life situation of refugees in general.

Your answers will therefore be stored without reference to your name or other personal data and will only be analyzed together with those of other participants. Once the study has been finished, we would like to make this anonymous data available to other researchers for analyses.

### **How do we ensure that foreigners do not have access to your information?**

All personal data will only be kept for contact purposes until the end of the study, after which it will be destroyed. The answers you give to the questions for the study will be maintained and analyzed independently by project members only. Your individual code will be listed both in the data to be analyzed and in the personal data. This is necessary for our study so you can request the deletion of all your given answers and contact information by connecting them with your code. In order to keep your personal data secure, we use data trustees. These are persons who store your personal data under high security regulations and who are the only authorized to view the sensitive data. The data trustees will not analyze any data. In this way, we ensure that your answers are not associated with your personal data at any time. All members of the research project - as well as the data trustees - sign a declaration of confidentiality which obliges them not to disclose any information about you, your answers or the survey in general to third parties. Your answers will be stored on the computers of the university password protected, the personal data will be stored on paper in a locked cupboard. Once the study has been completed, we delete the personal data and the code so that even we no longer know which data belongs to which person. We make this completely anonymous data set available to other research teams who wish to carry out further analyses.

### **How can you control your data?**

Of course, we ask you to provide honest and clear information. If you still cannot or do not want to answer a question, you can leave it out and skip to the next question. You can contact us at any time and request the deletion of all your data by providing your name or code. In this case, please contact our data trustee directly (e-mail: [sabine.peglow@uni-bielefeld.de](mailto:sabine.peglow@uni-bielefeld.de), telephone: +49 521 106-6862). We will not contact you afterwards. Once the study is completed, we will delete your personal data and code, and make the anonymous record available to other research teams. Since not even we know at this point which information belongs to which person, we will not be able to remove your information from the data set from that point.



**You can contact us here:**

If you have any further questions about the project in general, the process, or data protection, please feel free to contact us:

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