

## 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 past experiences, support activities or the personality of the refugees have an influence on how healthy or burdened they feel. We ask you questions that you can answer on a tablet. The questions include, among other things, how you feel or what burdens you. Your name does not appear in the questionnaire, so nobody knows what answers you have given.

Please note: The following sections contain privacy information in simple language and are intended for children and adolescents participating in the study. Detailed information on privacy for the parent (legal guardian) survey can be found under **documents**.

### How does the survey work?

We first ask you for some personal information, such as your name and address. We then create a code, a combination of numbers and letters. With this code we can assign your answers to the answers that you and your parents (or legal guardian) will make in one or two years. Once the code has been created, you can answer the questions on your own using a tablet. The data will be stored securely. We will also give you an envelope with questionnaires for your parents (your legal guardian), who can send them back to us by post free of charge. The answers you gave us via tablet are stored on a university computer. The data will then only be evaluated by project members. In the future (after one year and after two years) we will contact you and ask you to answer some of the questions again.

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

Your personal information, such as name and address, will only be used to contact you. We will not give this information to anyone else who is not part of the project. We need your name to be able to delete all your data if you want us to. People who evaluate your answers will not know your name. Conversely, people who know your name to contact you will never evaluate your answers. We will delete your personal data as soon as the study is completed.

Based on the questions and our analyses we would like to learn from you how you deal with stress, how you feel, how you behave in certain situations, how your parents or legal guardians behave, and how you perceive yourself and other people. Some questions relate to your refugee background, whether you have been or are being treated badly, for example, or how you have settled in Germany. Some of the questions can be unpleasant for you, e.g. whether you have made negative experiences, or questions about religion and morals. We will not evaluate your questions individually, but together with your other answers and the answers of other children.

Our aim is not to find out something about you as a person, but to be able to make statements about the lives of refugee children and adolescents in general. Your answers will therefore be stored without your name or other personal data and will only be analyzed together with those of other children. After completion of the study, we would like to pass on some of the data (without your name or other personal data) to other scientists who would also like to evaluate something.

### **How do we ensure that no one else has access to your information?**

All personal data will only be kept for the purpose of contacting you for further questions. At the end of the study, we will delete this information. The answers you give to the questions for the study will only be maintained and evaluated by some people in the project. We also need the generated code so that you can request the deletion of all your data if you wish, by providing your name or code. In order to keep your personal data safe, we use so-called data trustees. These are people who keep your personal data secure. They alone are allowed to view your personal data. The data trustees will not evaluate any data. This ensures that your answers will never be associated with your personal data. All members of the research project sign a so-called declaration of confidentiality. This means that we are not allowed to talk to others about you, your answers, or the survey in general. Your answers will be stored on the university's computers in a password-protected manner. The personal data is stored on paper in a locked cupboard. After completion of the study, we delete the personal data and the code so that even we no longer know which data belongs to which person.

### **How can you decide about your data?**

Of course, we ask you to answer the questions honestly. If you have problems with a question, you can ask our team members. If you still can't or don't want to answer a question, you can skip it and go to the next question. You can always contact us 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: 0521 106-6862). We will not contact you afterwards. As soon as the study is completed, we will delete your personal data and your code. Some of the data will then be made available to other research teams. Since even we do not know at this point which information belongs to which person, we will no longer be able to remove your information from the data set.

**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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| <p>Prof. Dr. Heike Eschenbeck<br/>         University of Education Schwäbisch Gmünd<br/>         Department of Educational Psychology and Health Psychology<br/>         Phone: +49 7171 983 – 408<br/> <a href="mailto:Heike.eschenbeck@ph-gmuend.de">Heike.eschenbeck@ph-gmuend.de</a></p> | (Project leader in Schwäbisch Gmünd)                 |