

Appendix A

Guiding Schema for the Semi-Structured Interviews

The semi-structured interviews were conducted using the following guiding schema, organised into thematic areas. The prompts served as flexible guides to facilitate an in-depth exploration of participants' personal and professional experiences with Death Education (DE).

Professional Background

- Please state your name, age, profession, and current workplace.
- Do you consider yourself religious or spiritually oriented?
- How would you describe your personal relationship with death?

Area 1 – Personal Understanding of Death Education (DE)

- What does DE mean to you, personally?
- How did you first become interested in DE? What prompted you to engage in this field? Where did you first hear about it?
- What are the main goals you associate with DE?
- Who do you think DE should be addressed to?
- What are the primary methodologies you employ in DE interventions?

Area 2 – Conducted DE Interventions

- What types of DE interventions have you conducted? Could you briefly describe them?
- When were these interventions carried out (time period)?
- How long did they last (session frequency and duration)?
- Which age groups did you work with?
- What kinds of activities did the interventions include?

Area 3 – Perceived Usefulness of DE

- Why do you believe DE is important and useful?
- What motivations led you (or lead you) to implement DE interventions?
- What needs of children/adolescents do you think DE addresses?

Area 4 – Strengths of DE Interventions

- In your experience, what made the interventions you conducted effective?
- Were they effective? Why or why not?
- What made specific sessions meaningful (e.g., particular methods, techniques, dynamics)?

Area 5 – Weaknesses and Challenges

- According to your experience, what were the main difficulties or challenges during your interventions?

- Did you personally find conducting these interventions difficult?
- Did the children or adolescents show signs of difficulty? At which moments?
- What were the most critical aspects for them, in your view?

Area 6 – Perceptions of DE Among Adults

- How did teachers and parents respond to the proposal to conduct DE interventions?
- What, in your opinion, led teachers to accept and support the project?
- Did you notice any resistance among teachers? If yes, what kind, and why?
- What, in your opinion, led parents to allow their children to take part?
- Did you notice any resistance among parents? If yes, what kind, and why?

Area 7 – Future Perspectives on DE

- In your opinion, what could make DE interventions more effective?
- What are the essential elements for a successful DE project?
- Which strategies, activities, or techniques from your experience would you maintain in future interventions?
- Which aspects would you change or improve?
- Do you think there are cultural or institutional barriers in Italy that hinder the dissemination of DE?