

The Internet became the core of social life with social media. We trust in the positive energy and influence of social work to guide children and young people at risk safely through the challenges and support them to benefit from the great advantages of social media.



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Fundación Esplai
Spain



Narodni centrum bezpecnejsiho internetu
Czech Republic

news in the field

Internet and computer games are indispensable for young people

Mobile connections - adolescents and their smartphones

Let the Children Take Command, and the Parents Have Control?

Empowering children on-line: big challenges ahead of parents and software producers

New guidelines for positive online content for children

editorial

Dear Readers,

one of the tasks of knowledge enhancement projects such as *SocialWeb - SocialWork* is to measure the effectiveness of a certain approach - evaluation plays therefore a main role in the project and constitutes the preceding and following steps to the development of the training curriculum and the implementation of the training campaign. Currently, *SocialWeb - SocialWork* is in the middle of its evaluation to measure the training effects on the daily activities and routines of professionals working with children and youths at risk and to assess the role they can play in improving online safety of their young clientele. Please enjoy reading [the detailed report on the project's evaluation steps and its findings](#).

Taking a look back on last fall, we would like to highlight our successful session "A better Internet: the role of intermediaries in managing risks for vulnerable users" at the 2013 edition of the Safer Internet Forum. In the format of an Appreciative Inquiry Session (AIS), this workshop strived to identify the strengths, the potential, the positive energy and the influence of social work on children's and youths' Internet safety. You are invited to read [the short report](#) on our session.

Finally, we would like to announce the final conference of *SocialWeb - SocialWork* on the 8th April 2014 and invite you to come to Berlin for this event of networking across Europe. High-level experts, stakeholders and professionals working in the field of children and youths at risk on European and international level will exchange experiences and discuss how to strengthen the efforts to keep the target group of vulnerable children and youths safe online. We would be delighted to welcome you in Berlin - please register [here](#) free of charge.

Yours
Carolin Brett,
project manager

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report

How to measure the training effects on social work

The project *Social Web - Social Work* assumes that social work can significantly contribute to Internet safety for young people and that training of professionals working with children and youths at risk is a necessary and effective step towards this goal. As a knowledge enhancement project it is essential to carve out as well the long-term transferability of the project's approach and outcomes and therefore the scalability of the training course to further groups of professionals in the countries involved as well as to professionals in other European countries.

Basing on the fact that social workers are familiar with the living circumstances and problems as well as the risky behaviour of their young clientele but are not necessarily aware how this has changed by their Internet usage and which new risks have emerged in addition, the training campaign aims at

- awareness raising of new challenges in the social youth work with regard to the online behaviour of vulnerable children and youths and
- the provision of knowledge which is appropriate und helpful in the day to day work of the trainees.

To evaluate its success and to gain knowledge on effective awareness raising methods for children's and youths' online safety, the project developed a concept for the evaluation of the project's strategy. The evaluation started with the aim to better understand the working circumstances and particular needs of social workers.

Here, a preparatory survey among professionals working with children and youths at risk in the participating partner countries identified interesting and supporting information for the development of the training curriculum. The results provide a good basis to ensure that the training materials (offline and online) do not miss the mark. In total, 189 people working in the field of social youth work have taken part in the preparatory survey. A summary of the results of the ex-ante survey can be found [here](#).

Against this background, the following questions were developed for the evaluation activities after the implementation of the training campaign:

- Which role do social youth workers play so far in online protection of vulnerable children and youths and in awareness raising for Internet safety?
- As how useful is the training perceived by the social youth workers?
- Which perception of online behaviour of vulnerable children and youths do the trained professionals have?
- Does the training increase the professionals' awareness for online risks and threats?
- Do the trained social workers adapt their educational approaches and activities according to their potentially changed risk perception?

The evaluation activities comprise both quantitative and qualitative instruments. At least three waves of standardised questionnaires for the trainees are implemented at determined intervals - directly after the training and then after three, six and twelve months. Trainer feedback will serve as an additional instrument to collect information regarding the further development of the training curriculum and material. Currently, the first and second evaluation wave is finished, the third evaluation wave is completed to 87% and the fourth evaluation wave is in preparation and will start on the 27th of February 2014.

Because standardised written questionnaires do not allow for interaction between the interrogator and the respondent they usually bear the risk that relevant aspects are not covered or not dealt with appropriately. Therefore the quantitative survey waves will be accompanied by qualitative group discussions with focus groups of trainees and managerial staff of social work institutions. These guideline based group interviews allow to review the results of the quantitative surveys and to gain a more comprehensive and deeper perspective on the circumstances of social youth work and the dealing of social workers with Internet safety of their young target group.

The guideline for the group interviews will comprise those topics that are better to address in personal talk than by standardised questions and will cover additional aspects to be discussed in the group where an interpersonal exchange can lead to fruitful response. The interviews will also give the respondents space to express themselves freely and to bring in own issues in the discussion. Therefore two group discussions shall be realised in each participating country in early springtime 2014, when the second and the third survey wave have been concluded.

On 8th of April 2014 the project's final conference will take place in Berlin. There the evaluation results as well as first conclusions on the transferability of the project's approach and the scalability of the training campaign will be presented to the public. We are looking forward to welcome you for this marvellous springtime event in Berlin - please register [here](#).

contact information

Please contact us via phone or email. We are looking forward to your comments and questions.

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events in the field

Final Conference of the European Project "Digital Literacy 2.0"

22.01.14, Berlin

Pairings 2.0: Youth protection, media education and ethics in the period of sexualised media

31.01.14, München

Safer Internet Day 2014

11.02.14

Final Conference SocialWeb-SocialWork

08.04.14, Berlin

Save the date - FOSI 2014 European Forum: Creating a better internet

22.05.14

research in the field

"Net Children Go Mobile" - initial findings

by *Giovanna Mascheroni, Kjartan Ólafsson*

This report contains the first results of the quantitative part of the research, focusing in particular on mobile internet use and access by children in the four European countries (Denmark, Italy, Romania, United Kingdom) involved in this research.

Amongst the main results of the survey:

- The average age of first internet use is still dropping, being now 8 years old in the four countries. However, the age at which children start using the internet varies consistently by country, age group and, to a lesser extent, by gender.
- European kids are increasingly mobile, and increasingly social: 53% of children aged 9 to 16 own a smartphone, and 48% use it to access the internet.
- Increasingly privatised access: 26% of children use the smartphones in mobility, but more and more children tend to use it in their own bedrooms (39%)
- Social networking tops the list of activities done on a daily basis (58% of the interviewees visit their profile on a social network site several times a day or at least once a day). Other popular online activities among children and teenagers include: listening to music, watching video clips and using instant messaging such as Skype or WhatsApp.

The full report can be found here:

www.netchildrengomobile.eu.

[Please click here for more recent research in the field](#)