

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.



Stiftung Digitale Chancen (project coordinator)
Germany



Nobody's Children Foundation
Poland



RIAP Association
Lithuania



Fundación Esplai
Spain



Narodni centrum bezpecnejsiho internetu
Czech Republic

news in the field

[German KJM rates a further concept for age verification positively](#)

[Internet needs contemporary youth protection](#)

[Launch of Better Internet for Kids website](#)

[Think before you post](#)

editorial

Dear Readers,

the training phase of the project *SocialWeb - SocialWork* was successfully completed in all five partner countries at the end of summer 2013. Over 500 professionals working with children and youths at risk took part in the one-day training sessions. They deepened their knowledge and satisfied their curiosity on the topic of online safety for their young clients by use of the [online learning units](#) provided on the projects website. Please enjoy reading [the detailed report on the diversity of our online offer and successful cooperation with the University of Applied Sciences Nordhausen, Germany](#).

To sustain the projects objectives - that are multiplying the lessons learned and raising the awareness of colleagues for the issue of Internet safety - some of the social workers will in addition be enabled to act as trainers themselves. For that purpose two more face-to-face sessions in every partner country will be carried out in late autumn this year. Interested social workers will learn how to prepare a training, which methods to apply, how to choose the right content and where to find appropriate materials. They will also reflect their own learning process concerning Internet safety for children and youths at risk and apply their findings within small practical exercises in the group. We are looking forward to their feedback and will report in detail in our next newsletter issue to come out in January 2014.

And finally, we would like to highlight an important upcoming event: [the 2013 edition of the Safer Internet Forum](#) will take place on 17-18th of October in Brussels. Here, we are happy to announce that our project was invited to run a session on Oct. 17th (16.15-17.45 o'clock) called "A better Internet: the role of intermediaries in managing risks for vulnerable users". If your time and your commitments allow, we would be delighted to welcome you at our session.

Yours
Carolin Brett,
project manager

content

news in the field	1
editorial	1
report	2
research in the field	3
events in the field	3

report

Online Learning for Social Youth Workers

The training curriculum and the corresponding tools are the core of the project *Social Web - Social Work*. The success of the project depends on both the quality and the appropriateness of the training content and methods to the trainees needs. In consideration of the working situation of social workers - most of their daily working time they are not sitting in front of a computer screen but dealing directly with the target group of disadvantaged children and youths at risk - it was necessary to build the training approach on face-to-face courses. Training based mainly or even only on online learning and corresponding tools must fail to address the heterogeneous target group of social workers in the different partner countries.

Nonetheless complementary online learning is essential to motivate the social workers to include Internet usage in their daily work routines with vulnerable children and youths and deepen their freshly acquired knowledge from the face-to-face training through follow-up learning. Generally, the online learning units in *Social Web - Social Work* are based on the same curriculum as the training courses, but they pick up special pieces of content to improve, complement or repeat what has been learned during the one-day training session. Due to the flexible learning environment, social workers can learn whenever and wherever they want and find spare time. The only requirement for participation is a computer with Internet access.

For the development of the online learning units, the project consortium was delighted to establish a cooperation with the University of applied sciences Nordhausen, Germany. Under the supervision of the project coordinator, a seminar group of students in the Social Management Faculty created appropriate online learning units for the project together with their lecturer Anja Bachmann in the summer term 2013. The aim of the seminar was to develop online learning units and make them easy to use for social workers by including new media according to the needs of the target group and in line with actual practice. The students chose from different topics ranging from the understanding the online fascination of children and youths and the awareness raising for risks and threats on the Internet to the opportunities for prevention from potentially harmful contacts and risky online behaviour.

In advance, the students completed the same training like the social workers to become familiar with the basic content and emphasis of the project *Social Web - Social Work*.

After an introduction in the theoretical background for the conception of online learning units, the practical and creative part of the implementation started. The students worked in small groups using social web tools including comics, narrating and recording texts, developing knowledge tests and created learning units with the focus of designing the topics appealing and informative. For the conceptional phase of the seminar as well as for the technical implementation, the students were supported by the expertise of the university's e-team.

The feedback of the students reveals that it was a wonderful opportunity for them to deal with the topic of new media within their study programme in the framework of an interdisciplinary project like *Social Web - Social Work*. Here are some of their statements:

- "It is nice to develop something in the seminar which can be used afterwards and supports social workers in their work. At the same time, we got an insight into the opportunities of the "Social Web" while creating the online learning units - and learned necessary tools to develop and apply them independently in our professional life, e.g. educational films."
- "The cooperation with the project *Social Web - Social Work* was a huge challenge for us. The nicer is the sense of achievement at the end to have created something of my own and be able to show it."
- "Let's be honest. A large part of the study consists in understanding course content and reproducing it in a written examination. The project *Social Web - Social Work* has enabled us students to take a look at the practice of project management and to work interdisciplinary."



The online learning units for the trainees will be provided in English and the national languages of the partner countries and are publicly available on the [projects website](#). Just as the training curriculum and the accompanying materials and tools, the online learning units will be continuously adjusted and updated when necessary.

We are looking forward to see you online - risk a glance and try out some of the units to check your knowledge!

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

Safer Internet Forum 2013 - Better Internet with You(th)

17.10.13 - 18.10.13, Brüssel

Social Education / Learning Theory and Practice: Tendencies, Challenges and Opportunities

14.11.13 - 15.11.13, Vilnius

networked. public. active. - 9th Interdisciplinary Conference on Media Mobility as a Condition for the Socialisation of Young People

29.11.13, München

Media and Learning 2013

12.12.13 - 13.12.13, Brüssel

research in the field

Zero to eight: Young children and their internet use

by Holloway, D., Green, L. and Livingstone, S., *EU Kids Online*

There have been noticeable increases in the internet participation rate of children and young people in all EU countries. However, very young children (0-8) are showing particularly increased patterns of internet use. Tweens' (9-12 year olds) usage patterns now resemble those of teenagers five to six years ago, and younger school-aged children's usage is increasing to the equivalent of tweens' previous use. Pre-schoolers are going online too, and most babies under the age of two in developed countries have an online presence (or digital footprint). This report aims to identify recent relevant evidence regarding young children of eight years and under and their increasing engagement with the internet. It evaluates the quality of this evidence, the research gaps and the implications for policy.

Despite very young children being established as active internet users, policy resources are typically directed to older children with most concern focused on teenagers. Consequently, little thought has been given to the protection of very young children online, along with minimal attention paid to the opportunities and benefits offered to young children through their internet engagement. EU Kids Online has spent seven years considering children's engagement with the internet, within the 9-16 age range.

Given the dramatic increase in internet uptake by both young schoolchildren and preschool children, parents and policy-makers have been left without clear direction regarding the benefits and risks involved — and about how best to support children's engagement with the internet in safe and beneficial ways. It is to be hoped that the evidence base will grow so as to inform the development of relevant policy, support safety education, build public awareness and assist parents in the effective mediation of their young children's internet use.

Please see the complete study and its findings [here](#).

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