

CYBERBULLYING

Cyberbullying is a deliberate and repeated use of electronic means by children and adolescents to harass, threaten, humiliate, or the use of any other form of violence against another child or adolescent. Results from the survey indicate that:

- 28% of children have experienced cyberbullying during the 12 last months;
- 53 % of cyberbullying is carried out through the social networks;
- 34 % of children affected by cyberbullying have declared that they are highly worried;
- 25 % have not talked with anyone as regards the cyberbullying suffered on the Internet;
- 15 % have declared that they have exercised-cyberbullying against others, out of whom 18 % have carried this out every day or almost every day;
- 25 % of children have declared that they fight with their school friends because of what has happened earlier on the Internet or social networks.

TABLE I. THROUGH WHAT MEANS CHILDREN HAVE EXPERIENCED SOMETHING HARMFUL OR UNPLEASANT ON THE INTERNET?

	Frequency	Percentage
Through social networks	118	53.2
Through online messages	77	34.8
Chat – messenger	59	26.7
Through e-mail	35	15.8
On game webpages	19	8.6
Through the phone, with text or video	20	9.1
In another form	23	10.5
I don't know	32	14.5
	383	-

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Awareness of parents about the danger and safety of children on the Internet needs to be increased. This can be carried out by increasing the knowledge about types of risks their children might be exposed to while online.
- Teacher education and awareness as regards the safety on the Internet would result in the education of children about the safe use of the Internet in schools.
- Policy-makers should fund more research on Internet use, online safety and risks related to the Internet use.
- The Industry should support more the Internet safety programs and activities, and to protect children on the Internet, by providing filter, block, report options through the so-called "Parental Control" and "Technical Tools".
- Children and parents should be provided with more help as regards to the necessary knowledge for blocking the unwanted contents which appear incidentally, for example, photos, movies or videos with erotic content.
- Considering the high percentage (58 %) of meetings children have had with people known from the Internet, children should be informed about the possible danger from such meetings. In this regard, more responsibility should be taken by parents and teachers



Measuring Internet Use,
Risk, and Safety Among
Children

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OBJECTIVES

This leaflet presents the key findings and recommendations deriving from the research "Measuring Internet Use, Risk, and Safety among Children of 9-16 Years of age in Kosovo/ Promotion of Sound Surfing Methods in the Internet by Children". Through this research we have tried to learn about the online experiences of children in order to inform the wider Kosovar public opinion and policy-makers, so that they take the necessary measures to protect children from Internet risks. A total of 1,150 children of ages 9 to 16 took part in questionnaire from Prizren, Mitrovica, Prishtina, Peja, Ferizaj, Gjilan and Gjakova municipalities.

INTERNET USE BY CHILDREN

The data obtained by the survey indicate that children in Kosovo are very active Internet users.

- 93% of the children surveyed have declared that they are users of Internet, while 63 % of them use the Internet every day, or almost every day.
- The three main devices used by children to connect to the Internet are personal computers (PCs) (70 %), mobile phones (60 %), and laptops (50 %).

FIGURE 1. HOW OFTEN DO CHILDREN IN KOSOVO AND EUROPE USE THE INTERNET?

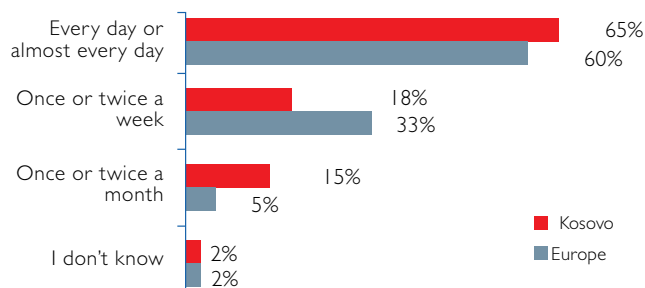
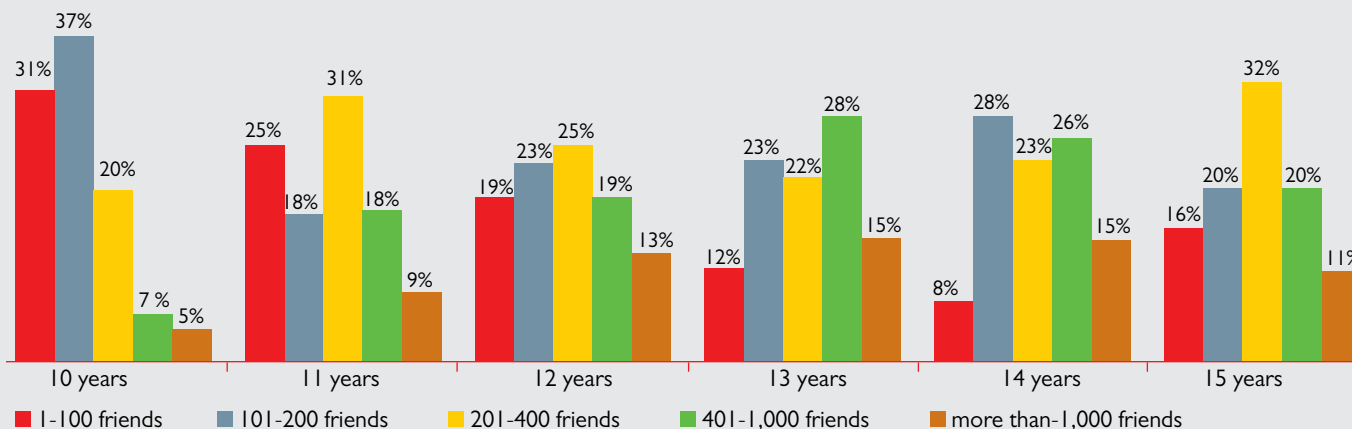


FIGURE 2. APPROXIMATELY, HOW MANY FRIENDS DO CHILDREN HAVE ON FACEBOOK OR TWITTER?



CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES ONLINE

Through our questionnaire we have tried to understand what do children mostly use the Internet for. This is done due to the fact that by monitoring what children do online, it enables parents and policy-makers to estimate the degree of risk when online.

- According to the respondents, among the most preferred activities on the Internet are: Facebook (74 %), listening to music (70 %), YouTube (58 %), online games (46 %), and Instagram (22 %);
- 84 % of children have their own active accounts on Facebook and Twitter; of whom 32 % have more than 400 friends;
- 92 % post photos in profile, 67 % post the name of school, whereas 33 % indicate their e-mail address.

RISKS ON THE INTERNET

There are many potential risks arising from the unsafe and excessive use of the Internet. The main risks arising from unsafe use of the Internet are the following: cyberbullying, misuse of personal data, contact with strangers, inadequate content (e.g. pornography, violence, etc.), long stay on the Internet and Internet addiction, viruses, spam, etc. Children have reported disturbing information about their online activities:

- 42 % of children have declared that they have seen pornographic content on the Internet and are disturbed by the images, whereas 61 % have declared that they have seen photos or videos with combative and aggressive content;
- 58 % of children have declared that they have contacted through the Internet with unknown persons, 69 % of whom have also personally met with unknown persons;
- Children have declared that during the last 12 months their computers have been attacked by a virus (55 %), their personal data have been misused by someone (15 %), their e-mails have been stolen (20 %), and they have felt threatened and in danger (12 %);
- Also, 52 % of children said that they are often bored, sad or tearful, while 40 % stated that they are afraid of many things and become easily frightened.

FIGURE 3. HOW WORRIED ARE CHILDREN ABOUT THEIR MEETINGS WITH STRANGERS WITH WHOM THEY MET FOR THE FIRST TIME ON THE INTERNET.

