

Youth Protection Roundtable



youth protection roundtable newsletter nr. 3

november 2007



news from the field

- 29.11.07 Germany: Chancellor launches 'Ein Netz für Kinder' on the Internet
- 13.11.07 Child Protection Organisations Call For Greater Dialogue With Freedom Of Expression Advocates At IGF To Establish Collaborative Action
- 12.11.07 Child Protection Organisations Welcome UN Secretary General's Statement of the UN's Commitment To Child Online Safety At IGF In Rio
- 23.10.07 Attorney General Cuomo and Facebook announce new model to protect children online

YPRT editorial

Dear Readers,

we are happy to deliver hereby the 3rd issue of our newsletter for your kind attention. In November the project has finished the first year of its duration with the 2nd roundtable meeting in Rome. To prepare the meeting, the results from the experts' survey have been analysed carefully, and as one outcome the focus of the project has been adjusted. It became clear that mere websites are no longer the most risky area of the Internet. With Web 2.0 and user generated content new threats arise which need special attention. To ensure that the voices of children and youths themselves are heard in the process of the development of adequate protective measures, the Youth Protection Roundtable will invite young people for the next roundtable meeting, which will take place in spring 2008. Within the last months the project has gained broader international attention for its work. On November 7, the YPRT activities were presented to the companies involved in the SIP Benchmark process. From November 11 – 15 the project sent a delegation on behalf of the European Commission to the [Internet Governance Forum in Rio](#), where child protection was put on the agenda for the first time.

Please give your attention to the news, events and reports from research in the field on the next pages.

Yours


Katharina Kunze, project manager



YPRT report

Web 2.0 – A risky adventure playground for youths?

On November 23rd the members of the Youth Protection Roundtable came together for their 2nd meeting in Rome. They warmly welcomed Annie Mullins from Vodafone who joined the group in the role of an observer and reporter from the viewpoint of the mobile industry.

As 126 experts from 26 European countries, which responded to the survey carried out by the Germany based Stiftung Digitale Chancen within the Youth Protection Roundtable, came to the conclusion that Web 2.0 provides a lot of risks and threats to young people, this topic was put on the agenda for the meeting. The purpose was to describe the requirements of technicians and pedagogues as regards youth protection and the development of a common view taking into account the needs of both groups. Furthermore, the involvement of young people in the project's work was discussed.

Camille de Stempel from AOL UK introduced to the question 'What does Web 2.0 mean for youth protection?' While in the year 1996 about 45 million users worldwide accessed the 250,000 websites of the Internet primarily to read information online, ten years later in 2006 more than 1 billion users took part in the 80 million read-and-write platforms of the web. Not only illegal content raises concerns about youth protection, but also questions of copyright and harmful but legal content as well as offensive user-generated content. Strong co-operation with all stakeholders, education initiatives and effective reporting mechanisms are considered as measures to deal with the threats.

In the following the requirements for the development of technical solutions with focus on the youth protection features of Windows Vista and Web 2.0 applications were described by Thomas Myrup Kristensen from Microsoft. The industry can provide technical measures like parental control appliances, web content filtering, time usage control etc. to create a safe family environment. To ensure effective use of the technical measures, consumer education is necessary as well. Kristensen therefore also emphasised the relevance of co-operation between the different stakeholders in the centre of all efforts for youth protection.

Riitta Kaupinnen from the Mannerheim League Finland provided insight in the work of a children's welfare organisation and explained the requirements of pedagogues for the task of youth protection with the focus on adequate use and appropriate configuration of security solutions and Web 2.0 appliances. She stressed that as social media cause new forms of online behaviour of young people, the measures now need to go beyond awareness raising and parental control. Youths in the era of Web 2.0 need a special kind of digital literacy and they need guidance from their 'virtual raisers' as well as from peers.

Veronica Samara, Extreme Media Solutions Greece, drew the attention of the YPRT members to the currently published [ENISA position paper](#).

Nowadays social community platforms can be sold for huge amounts of money. Users should know that their profiles are sold to advertisers as well as to other stakeholders with commercial interests, Samara stressed, and they should learn how to protect their privacy.

[Read more...](#)

Strong focus on child protection at the Internet Governance Forum 2007 in Rio

Representatives from a number of leading child protection organisations participating as members of the Youth Protection Roundtable welcomed the commitment expressed by the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon at the inaugural session of the second IGF for a strong focus on online child protection at the IGF. Literally he said:

"One particular area of hope, but also concern, is the relationship of children and young people with the Internet. The Internet has opened new doors to them, to knowledge and culture. Yet, it can also present a threat to their safety. The program of this year's meeting has a strong focus on the protection of children. And I hope that it will contribute to making them safer."

Members of child protection organisations working towards online child protection in many parts of the world are addressing the online safety issues for young people. Members contributed to a number of key sessions at the IGF, including themes as 'Measures to protect and fight child pornography on the Internet' and 'Protecting children from sexual exploitation through Information and Communications Technologies'.

John Carr, one of the members of the group representing children's charities in the UK and the Youth Protection Roundtable, said: *'As more and more children come online it is crucial that all sectors including Governments and Industry recognise their responsibility to protect children and ensure that the issue of child safety is addressed at the highest level.'* [Read more...](#)

research in the field

Security Issues and Recommendations for Online Social Networks

ENISA position papers represent expert opinion on topics ENISA considers to be important emerging risks. They are produced by a group selected for their expertise in the area. The content was collected via wiki, mailing list and telephone conferences and edited by ENISA.

This position paper aims to provide a useful introduction to security issues in the area of Social Networking, highlight the most important threats and make recommendations for action and best practices to reduce the security risks to users.

USA: Parent and Teen Internet Use

Parents are engaged with their children's media consumption, but have less positive views of the internet today than they did in 2004. A new data memo issued by the Pew Internet and American Life Project based on a telephone survey in October-November 2006 found that 59% of parents think the internet has been a good thing for their children, down from 67% in 2004. The majority of parents check up on their teens' internet use-65% say that they check to see what websites their teenagers visit. An even larger percentage of parents have rules about media consumption; 77% of parents have some sort of rule about what their regulated their teenage children's media use.

Comparing Children's Online Activities and Risks across Europe

In many countries, within and outside Europe, children and young people are gaining access to the Internet and online technologies at a rapid pace. As the study 'Eurobarometer' reveals, there are substantial differences across countries (ranging from less than a third of children in Greece and Bulgaria to over two thirds of those in Estonia and Denmark). Please click at the title to read more.

events in the field

04.12.07 Innovation Day - Living and Building Europe's Digital Future

Parc du Cinquantenaire, Brussels, Belgium

06.12.07 Rights and responsibility: Child Protection in a Web 2.0 World

USA: Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center Washington

28.01.08 Children & Young People Safe Online?

Ibis Earls Court, London

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