

Youth Protection Roundtable



youth protection roundtable newsletter nr. 4

february 2008

Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft



news from the field

20.02.08 Online content providers sign up to code of conduct to protect children

18.02.08 Finnish civil rights organisation criticises inspection techniques

12.02.08 Playing to learn safety on the internet - Council of Europe launches game for children in thirteen languages

12.02.08 Mobile firms to block child porn

23.01.08 European Parliament adopted a resolution on the rights of the child

YPRT editorial

Dear Readers,

on the 12th of February a successful fifth Safer Internet Day took place under the patronage of Viviane Reding.

Many activities like the international school competition "Life is what YOU make of IT" organised by Insafe, the "Youth Forum" in Brussels hosted by the European Commission, the worldwide "Blogathon", the launch of the new klicksafe Safer Internet Spot "Wo lebst Du?" or workshops with pupils like "Respekt im Netz" carried out by SchuelerVZ.net, took place on the SID 2008.

Stakeholders in more than 40 countries worldwide demonstrated their dedication to a safe and secure use of the Internet.

The Youth Protection Roundtable published the complete results of their [European experts' survey on matters of safer Internet](#).

The results clearly show the need for permanent co-operation as the Safer Internet Day has generated. The YPRt therefore tends to provide a comprehensive platform for stakeholders from all areas engaged in matters of youth protection.

By January we enhanced our network and are pleased to announce the membership of the Safer Internet Institute from the Czech Republic and the University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Social Sciences from Slovenia.

Please read about further activities, news and events from the field of youth protection on the next pages.

Yours

Katharina Kunze, project manager

From virtual world to real life discussion



(c) by courtesy of SchuelerVZ.net - Workshop "Respekt im Netz"

YPRT report

Children and young people are eager to spend a lot of their time online, to meet their friends and to be able to communicate with everybody from everywhere. It is a common practice to watch videos on youtube.com or to upload pictures to illustrate one's profile by publishing much information on social community platforms.

Respectful behaviour on the Internet is indispensable. To discuss certain safety topics with young people, the German social community platform "SchuelerVZ.net", the German awareness node "klicksafe" and the information platform for children "Internauten" invited pupils to three workshops on the Safer Internet Day in Berlin. The young people contributed their ideas during the discussions within the workshops, how to inform and educate themselves for a deliberate online behaviour. Three main topics were: 'Your Traces on the Internet', 'Fair and respectful behaviour' and 'Safe online contact with unknown people'.

Children often forget or even do not know that the information, which is published online, can be accessed by millions of people, and their uploaded images or videos can be watched by everybody, who has access to their profile. During the first workshop, the young people discussed their online traces and the sensitivity of their private data. The second workshop dealt with fair and respectful online behaviour of children. Children and young people are often not aware that there are the same rules on the Internet as in real life. Nasty online behaviour can harm others in the same way as real behaviour can harm in real life.

Children must know that it is forbidden to insult or to stultify others and that good company with each other is a pre-condition for having fun while chatting. In the third workshop a fake identity was the subject of the discussions with the young people. Not everything is like it looks- it could happen that Paula, 12 years old, turns out to be Dieter, 35 years old. The children made suggestions how to behave when contacted by a stranger, for example, behave careful, not to consider the stranger a friend right away, or, if they feel uncomfortable, block the stranger or report the obtrusion to the moderator or administrator.

SchuelerVZ.net is committed to a code of conduct, which they provide for their users, to ensure a fair and kind online behaviour as well as to adjust the privacy settings. SchuelerVZ.net had to learn, that this code is not read by their users. Children obviously do not care about the code, they just do not want to read, and they rather want to access the community directly. Therefore the question during the workshops was how it can be ensured, that such a code will be read or at least the rules of the code will be understood and accepted. The children were asked to make suggestions, how to bring the rules to their minds. They were encouraged to record a short performance with their mobile phones comprising the content of the code, addressed to the target group of SchuelerVZ.net that means to their own peer group. The intention was to see whether any other channel might be of more use to transport the message of the code than a written version. The children reckoned as a good idea to highlight particular aspects of the rules by short video clips, but recognised that the complete code cannot be represented adequately in a short movie.

The results of the workshops showed that it is not only necessary but also essential to involve young people themselves in the development of a safer Internet environment. The initiation of the debate and the challenge to deal with online security issues can lead to more awareness and eventually to suitable and efficient guidelines for a safe use of the Internet by children and young people.

Therefore the Youth Protection Roundtable will set up a Young Roundtable and invite young people from different European countries to discuss safety issues and online behaviour within the next Roundtable Meeting in May this year. The results will be published on the website and in further issues of this newsletter.

research in the field

European experts' survey on matters of safer Internet

To identify the different viewpoints of technical experts and children's welfare specialists - pedagogues, scientists and practitioners - in European countries as regards youth protection on the Internet, an international survey was conducted between January and June 2007.

The purpose was to ask representatives from children's welfare organisations as well as from companies in the field of protective hardware and software how they judge the current situation of youth protection in their country.

Results of the SIP Benchmark Study 2007

Deloitte announced the results of a second European study on filtering solutions for illegal and possibly harmful online information aimed at children. Thirty of the most widespread filtering tools were tested by more than one hundred parents and teachers in ten European countries, and by Expert Testers. In addition to these "real life" testers, an Internet laboratory was set up to conduct thorough testing on 30 software packages under identical conditions. This benchmark analyses how effectively technical solutions protect children between 6 and 16 years old against harmful content on the Internet.

The results of the 2007 Benchmarking study have been compared with those of 2006 to reveal the evolution of these tools. 50% of the 23 filters, which have been tested in 2006 and 2007, have improved their filtering capabilities regarding non-sexual content. Eight of the vendors decreased in scoring than last year relative to sexual content, partly because the test cases now included 'user generated content', Web 2.0, which is more difficult to filter.

Seven vendors have resolved the security issues, SIP Benchmark recommended last year and three vendors improved their support of EU languages.

Germany: Five of six teenagers are active user of the Internet

The Internet is a permanent feature in the daily life of young people. Five of six teens (83%) go online every day or several times a week. The president of BITKOM, Prof. Dr. August-Wilhelm Scheer, announced "In matters of online issues, the young generation is leading." Clear is, that young girls use the web basically to communicate with friends and for assistance with school matters, while young boys use the Internet more often for entertainment, f.e. listen to music, watch videos or read news.

ChildWise Monitor Report 2007

The ChildWise Monitor report - the annual survey of children's media use, brand attitudes and purchasing habits - has been published each year since 1994. This Trend Report provides data about children between 5-16 years old, covering the issues: Internet access and usage, computers, games consoles; TV viewing, access to TV and channels, favourite TV programmes; magazines and reading, music and radio, mobile phones and pocket money and self purchase across key product fields.

events in the field

11.03.08 Safer Internet Information Day 2008

Jean Monnet Building, Rue Alcide de Gasperi, Kirchberg, L-2920 Luxembourg

12.03.08 Specifications and Guidelines for service providers on the provision of information services to young children

Brussels Royal Yacht Club, Brussels, Belgium

24.03.08 - 25.03.08 Egyptian E-Safety Conference

Cairo, Smart Village Conference Centre

17.04.08 - 18.04.08 2nd Media Congress 2008

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