Nature and scope of the problem of misuse of new technologies in the abuse and exploitation of children

**Thematic discussion on protecting children in a digital age: the misuse of technology in the abuse and exploitation of children**

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**Is cycling dangerous?**

USA: 4.4 million children (age 5-17) per year get injured during sport or leisure time activity; 10-40% in bicycle accident

Hungary: 2000-2500 children per year get injured or die in traffic accident; 16-20% in bicycle accident

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Number of children under 14</th>
<th>Seriously injured or died in traffic accident</th>
<th>Seriously injured or died in bicycle accident</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hungary 2004</td>
<td>1.606.000</td>
<td>2533 ~ 150/100.000</td>
<td>488 ~ 30/100.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Austria 2004</td>
<td>1.333.505</td>
<td>3872 ~ 300/100.000</td>
<td>833 ~ 60/100.000</td>
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</table>
1. Typology of risks and threats to children and the effects of new technologies in Europe (EU Kids Online, 2009)

   a./ rank ordering of risks

   fairly similar across countries

   - **giving out personal information**  
     (appr. half of online teenagers)  
   - **seeing pornography online**  
     (appr. 4 in 10 teenagers)  
   - **seeing violent or hateful contents**  
     (appr. 1/3 of teenagers)  
   - **being bullied or harassed**  
     (appr. 1 in 5 or 6 teenagers)  
   - **receiving unwanted sexual comments**  
     (1 in 10; 1 in 3 or 4; 1 in 2 teenagers)  
   - **meeting an online contact offline**  
     (1 in 11 – 9% - online teenagers)
1. Typology of risks and threats to children and the effects of new technologies in Europe (EU Kids Online, 2009)

b. / gender differences in risk

- **boys**
  - seek out pornographic or violent content more
  - are more likely to meet somebody offline
  - are more likely to give out personal information

- **girls**
  - are more upset by violent and pornographic content
  - are more likely to chat online with strangers
  - are more likely to receive unwanted sexual comments
  - are asked for personal information more often

- **both** appear at risk of online harassment and bullying
1. Typology of risks and threats to children and the effects of new technologies in Europe (EU Kids Online, 2009)

c./ SES differences in risk

Children from lower-class families are more exposed to risk

_Safety awareness programmes and media literacy interventions could usefully target less privileged families, schools and neighbourhoods._

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Pedophiles are more often searching for their victims in the Internet. According to Nobody’s Children Foundation’s research over 90% of Polish children use internet to become acquainted with others.

Make sure that your child using internet will not provide strangers with personal data and will not meet strangers outside the Internet.
2. Global trends and patterns in the misuse of new technologies in the abuse and exploitation of children, and how the reporting and analysis of such trends and patterns can be facilitated through improved data collection

- Data collection – *top down* versus *self-regulation*

- Latency, hotlines, INHOPE
3. The role of the private sector in new technologies and other relevant areas and how the private sector can help to address the problem of abuse and exploitation of children

Complex prevention

- awareness raising
- developing more effective filter softwares
  - filter software: advantages and disadvantages

private sector (business)  ISPs  schools
4. Awareness of danger and prevention tools of the adult society

Transition countries (joined EU after 2004) have a bigger proportion of parents who set no rules for their children for internet usage.

Proportion of parents who set NO RESTRICTIONS when their child uses the Internet, by country (Eurobarometer, 2008)

Typical parental patterns and strategies in Eastern Europe: time control and reactive measures (sanctioning)
5. An illustration - domestic characteristics of online child abuse

„Budapest Survey“  
(2009, Katalin Parti – György Virág)

**Data recording:** Nov-Dec, 2009

**Sample:** Budapest, 16 year-old pupils (9-10th grade),

**Stratification:** school type and grade

1161 reliable questionnaire

**Method:** Online questionnaire, Self-reporting
RESULTS
1. Kids search for sexual materials online and open them deliberately

What do you usually use Internet for? (%) (Budapest research, 2009)

1. I do not go online
2. Other
3. Visiting social networking sites
4. Visiting adult(sexual) sites
5. Chatting, Skyping with people I know from the Internet
6. Visiting sites for youth
7. Browsing without an aim
8. Searching for info for not school tasks
9. Trying to find friends on the Internet
10. E-mailing
11. Playing
12. Making homework
13. Chatting with people I know for a while
14. Downloading copyright material (music, films)

Percentage:
- I do not go online: 1%
- Other: 7.5%
- Visiting social networking sites: 12.6%
- Visiting adult(sexual) sites: 20.1%
- Chatting, Skyping with people I know from the Internet: 20.1%
- Visiting sites for youth: 29.5%
- Browsing without an aim: 36.4%
- Searching for info for not school tasks: 38.7%
- Trying to find friends on the Internet: 41.6%
- E-mailing: 43.1%
- Playing: 43.8%
- Making homework: 48.5%
- Chatting with people I know for a while: 69.2%
- Downloading copyright material (music, films): 70.2%
RESULTS
2. ...chatting, befriending strangers online

Making contacts on the Internet. "Did it ever happen to you on the Internet...?" (%)
(Budapest Survey, 2009)

- Non of them happened: 29.4%
- I gave my name and street address to a stranger: 6%
- A stranger initiated a sexual talk with me: 13.3%
- I gave my name and my school's name to a stranger: 14.9%
- I posted my picture to a person I met on the Internet: 30.6%
- I gave my name to a stranger I met online: 37.1%
- I was contacted by a stranger on the Internet: 65.2%
RESULTS
3. ...they record their sexual acts and forward the depictions to others

Did couples (dates) recorded their intimate acts? (%) (100% = those who have already had a partner) (Budapest research, 2009)

- no answer; 14%
- did not record their sexual activity; 74%
- recorded their sexual activity; 12%
- uploaded them to the Internet; 28.4%
- forwarded the pics to others; 23.5%
6. Demolishing the taboo

- Meeting strangers online does not have an abusive outcome for most of the times:
- „grooming“ (luring children online in order to sexually abuse them offline) is rare:
  - 1 in 12 children (8%) have met an online contact offline: the risk rarely has a harmful experience.
  - 1% of all children (or 1 in 7 of those who went to a meeting) have been bothered by such a meeting

**Budapest Survey** supported: offline personal relationships following the online contact making are a **decision of both partners**, and the partners are from the **same age-group**
Offline sexual abuse is very low proportion of the cases

- Budapest Survey:

  65% of the answerers were befriended by strangers on the internet

  34% of them met the stranger offline

  12% of them had sex with the stranger offline (100%=421 answerers), deliberately

  5.3% of them were sexually harassed offline (61 answerers) and

  1.6% answered that they were sexually abused (raped) offline (19 answerers)
Conclusion, or cycling versus surfing
Thanks for your attention

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