

YOUNG CYPRIOT INTERNET USERS: A QUANTITATIVE SURVEY IN THE CONTEXT OF EU KIDS ONLINE



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Elena Aristodemou



Cyprus Neuroscience &
Technology Institute

(Co-authors: Tatjana Taraszow & Yiannis Laouris)

EU KIDS ONLINE

- ▶ The EU Kids Online is a project funded by the EC Safer Internet plus Program
- ▶ The EU Kids Online project (2006-2009) examines research carried out in 21 member states of the European Union on how children and young people use the internet and new media.
- ▶ This three-year collaboration aims to identify comparable research findings across Europe to evaluate the social, cultural and regulatory influences affecting both risks and children's and parents' responses to them. It charts available data, indicates gaps and identifies factors that shape the research capability of European research institutions.
- ▶ Last it examines methodological issues that relate to cross-cultural analyses and the study of children's online experience in order to develop a best practice guide to research.




WHAT ARE THE KEY QUESTIONS ADDRESSED BY THE EU KIDS ONLINE PROJECT?

- What research exists, and what research is still needed?
- What risks exist, for which technologies, and in relation to which subpopulations?
- How do social, cultural and regulatory influences affect the incidence, the experience and the responses to different risks?
- In accounting for current and ongoing research and anticipating future research, what factors shape the research capability of European research institutions and networks?



OBJECTIVES

- To identify and assess the quality and comparability of data (recent or ongoing) across Europe regarding children's access to and use of the internet and new online technologies, noting gaps in the evidence base.
 - To understand the research itself in context, assessing the reasons why certain types of research are available (or not) in each nation, given different intellectual, social, institutional and funding systems. This understanding is vital for guiding the future research agenda.
 - To compare the available data across nations so as to identify the changing risks and safety concerns associated with new media, assessing their distribution, significance and consequences for diverse populations (age, gender, region, nation, etc).
 - To understand these risks in context. Several contexts are anticipated:
 - Use of new and old media in everyday life, including positive and negative media experiences
 - Different cultural contexts of childhood
 - Different policy/ regulatory contexts, particularly across nations.
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OBJECTIVES (CONTINUED)

- To enhance our understanding of methodological issues involved in studying children and the internet and in particular those relating to cross-cultural analysis, both for future research in this field and for European comparative studies more generally.
- To network researchers across different countries, disciplines and approaches building on continuities while acknowledging different starting points, so as to share existing knowledge, build capacity and work towards a consensual framework for future research.
- To develop evidence-based policy recommendations for raising awareness, media literacy and other practical actions to promote safer use of the internet and new online technologies, particularly but not only for children across Europe.



PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES

- Austria
- Belgium
- Bulgaria
- Cyprus
- Czech Republic
- Denmark
- Estonia
- France
- Germany
- Greece
- Iceland
- Ireland
- Italy
- Norway
- Poland
- Portugal
- Slovenia
- Spain
- Sweden
- The Netherlands
- The United Kingdom



CYPRUS PARTICIPATION IN THE EU KIDS ONLINE PROJECT

□ Cyprus had recently joined the EU Kids Online Project and as a part of it had prepared a National Report with a collection of research data available from the country as also a comparative analysis based on 3 hypothesis among all 21 participating countries.

□ Through this work, we have identified a gap in scientific research in Cyprus and in collaboration with the CyberEthics Safer Internet Awareness Node that our organization holds, we have decided to conduct a quantitative survey that will assess whether young people in Cyprus are aware of the potential Internet risks when using the Internet and whether they know how to compensate with those risks.



DEVELOPMENT OF QUESTIONNAIRES

◆ As a first step we have developed two questionnaires; one for children 6-11 years old and one for teenagers 12-17 years old.

◆ The questionnaires include questions that assess the knowledge of children & teenagers in using the Internet as also questions that assess children's & teenagers' knowledge of risks and how to deal with them.

◆ In the questionnaires we have included several demographic questions in order to assess factors such as age of first use, ownership of a computer, access to the Internet from home and the frequency and amount of time spent on the Internet.



ADMINISTERING THE QUESTIONNAIRES

During the next month, we will proceed with the administration of the questionnaires to different private and public schools.

The results will be collected and statistically analyzed in order to give us the status of young Cypriot Internet users and help us identify the areas where intervention is necessary.

A full report will be published at the end of the research both on our website www.cyberethics.info and on the EU Kids Online website www.eukidsonline.net that will be used as a guide for new action plans in the area of Safer Internet and as a guide for future research.



CONCLUDING NOTES AND REMARKS

It is necessary to note, that especially for younger children monitored access to the Internet is recommended so parents should also be aware of what their child is doing when using the Internet.

Teachers on the other hand need to have the knowledge for educating children how to use the Internet responsibly and safely.

For these reasons we have also developed questionnaires for parents and teachers in order to assess their status of knowledge and their degree of involvement in children's usage of the Internet. The questionnaires for parents and teachers will soon become available online on the CyberEthics website at: www.cyberethics.info



A WORD ABOUT US...

- ❖ The Cyprus Neuroscience & Technology Institute is a small research organization with about 20 associates
- ❖ Our focus is on socially responsible projects
- ❖ We operate the Safer Internet Awareness Node/Hotline
- ❖ We do research in learning
- ❖ We promote human rights



WE ARE AIMING TO IDENTIFY ALL AREAS REGARDING SAFER INTERNET USE THAT NEED TO BE DEALT WITH AND PREPARE ACTIONS PLANS FOR EDUCATING TEACHERS AND PARENTS AND FOR HELPING CHILDREN HAVE COLORFUL EXPERIENCES WHEN USING THE INTERNET AND NOT TRAUMATIC ONES.

THANK YOU!