



“Awareness raising on children’s
privacy protection”

INTERNET, PRIVACY AND
CHILDREN:
how to use it

Fare clic per modificare lo stile del
sottotitolo dello schema

CODACONS

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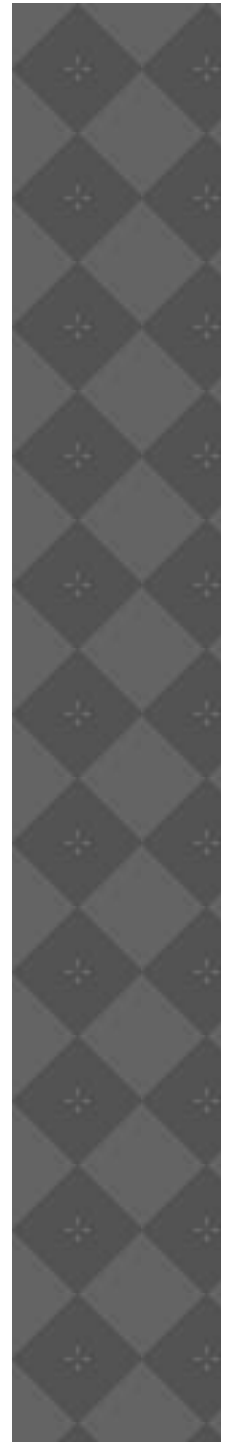
EU Kids Online II

A new project designed to examine children and parents' experiences and practices regarding *use, risk and safety online*.

Period: 2009 -2011

Activities: empirical research across EU Member States on national samples of children aged 9-16 and their parents.

Objective: to produce a rigorous, cross-nationally, comparative, quantitative, evidence-based study regarding internet use across Europe.



EU Kids Online II

Co-ordinated by: Prof. Sonia Livingstone and Dr Leslie Haddon of the *London School of Economics and Political Science*.

The project team includes: a *multinational management group*, an *international advisory panel* and *research teams* in 25 participating countries across Europe.

New report!

“Social networking, age and privacy
and press release”
(published on 18/4/11)

YOUNG CHILDREN HAVE PUBLIC PROFILES

EU Kids Online's survey of 25,000 young people across Europe shows that:

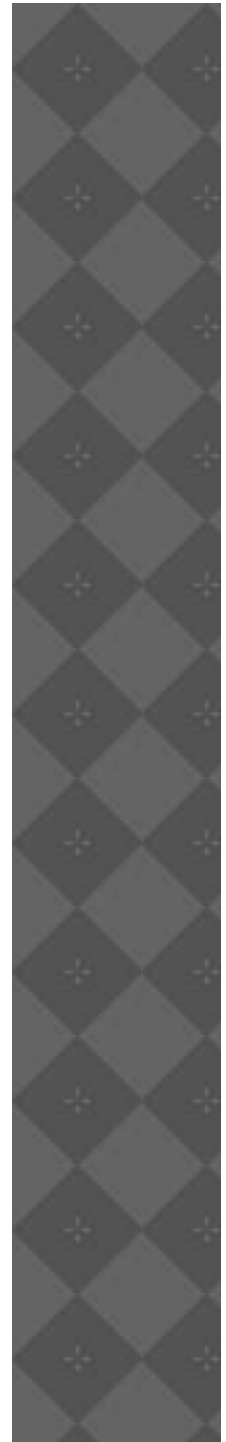
- age restrictions are only partially effective
- a growing number of children are taking risks online
-

1/4 of children on social networking sites have their **profile set to 'public'**.

1/5 of children whose profile is public **display their address and/or phone number**, twice as many as for those with private profiles.

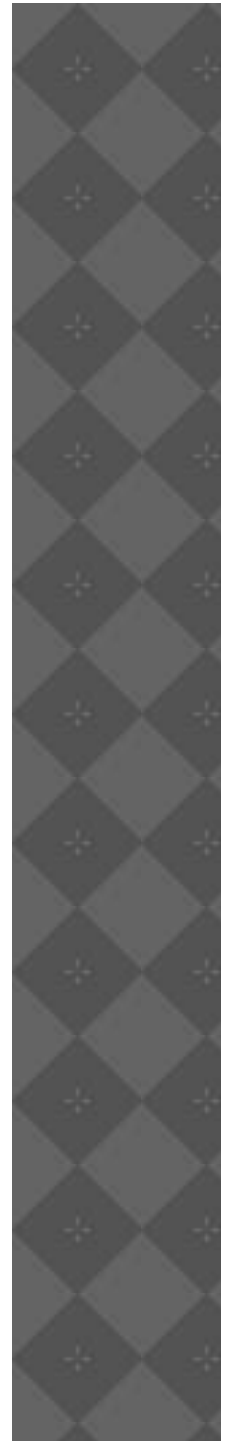
*“It seems clear that children are moving to **Facebook** - this is now the most popular site in 17 of the 25 countries we surveyed. Many providers try to restrict their users to 13-year-olds and above but we can see that this is not effective.”*

(Prof. Livingstone)



Especially *younger children are less likely to use privacy options and to understand the safety features* that are available.

Across the
25 European countries surveyed,
57 % of children (aged 9 to 16)
use Facebook
as their sole or main
social networking site.
This ranges from 98% in Cyprus,
to only 2% in Poland.



NEED FOR BETTER PROTECTIVE MEASURES

The findings raise the possibility that *removing age restrictions from social network sites might be the most effective way of improving online safety*

as the rules have the consequence of driving kids' social networking underground.

“Since children often lie about their age to join 'forbidden' sites it would be more practical to identify younger users and to target them with easy-to-use protective measures. However we accept that abolishing age limits could lead to a substantial rise in the numbers using the sites.”

(Elisabeth Staksrud, University of Oslo)

NEED FOR BETTER PROTECTIVE MEASURES

Among other findings, the survey shows that almost one in six 9-12 year-olds, and one in three 13-16s, has *100 or more online contacts*.

Around a quarter of SNS users *communicate online with people who have no connection to their offline lives*, including one fifth of 9-12 year olds across all SNS (and one quarter of younger Facebook users).

Banning baby-faces from social site Facebook

From: The Daily Telegraph, 21st March 21 2011

Despite efforts to enforce the strict
13 years or older age limit
some children still slip through the checks.

*"There are people who lie. There are people who are
under 13 [accessing Facebook].*

*Facebook removes 20,000 people a day, people who
are underage."*

(the networking site's chief privacy adviser Mozelle Thompson to
the Federal Parliament's cyber-safety committee)

While the social networking site had *mechanisms to detect liars*,

Mr Thompson said: "It's not perfect".

7 million Australians access Facebook every day, 9 million access it each week and nearly 11 million visit the site each month.

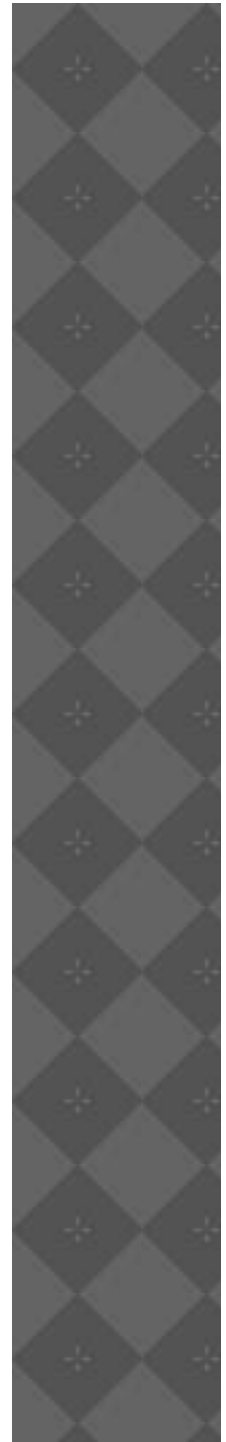
Labor MP Graham Perrett suggested that teenagers be forced to get *parental permission* before they joined Facebook.

Mr Thompson said Facebook would soon hire an Australian to *deal with "policy issues"*.

[...] Facebook has been under pressure to hire someone to deal with local complaints and issues.

“We know there are potential risks that young people face including *cyber-bullying, identity theft and privacy issues, illegal content and contact from online predators*”

(Dana Wortley, Chair of the cyber-safety committee)



'YOU CONTROL': THE SOFTWARE FOR MINORS' PROTECTION

A software able to *report by SMS or with an e-mail to parents* if their children are surfing on the web.

It allows parents to *monitor*, even from distance, *all content visited by children on web sites*.

Parents are able to check and know in real time, all the internet accesses carried out by their children from their own home computer.

<http://www.youcontrol.it/>

***Thank you for
your attention!***

