#DSM

Digital Single Market

SAFER INTERNET FOR THE EU

GROWING UP IN THE DIGITAL SOCIETY

1 out of 3 internet users worldwide is a child. (1)

Around half of all 11 to 16 year-olds in the EU had encountered one or more of ten frequent internet risks. (2)

20.4 billion connected things would be in use worldwide by 2020, compared to 8.4 billion at the end of 2017.

Yet 51% of European citizens feel not at all or not well informed about cyber threats. (3)

86% of Europeans believe that the risk of becoming a victim of cybercrime is increasing. (3)

THE MOST FREQUENT AND EMERGING INTERNET RISKS

Fake News  
Cyberbullying  
Privacy concern in connected toys  
Sexting  
Exposure to harmful or disturbing content  
Grooming

WHAT DOES THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION DO TO PROMOTE A SAFER INTERNET?

The European Strategy for ‘Better Internet for Kids’ sets out a series of actions for online safety:

1. Coordination at EU level of the Insafe-INHOPE Networks who:

Organise in February each year the Safer Internet Day to raise awareness of child online safety across the world.

Coordinate Safer Internet Centres in 27 Member States plus Norway and Iceland. Their main task is to raise awareness and foster digital literacy among minors, parents and teachers, regarding risks minors may encounter online and ways to protect them. Safer Internet Centres also offer helpline counselling for minors and hotlines to report illegal content.

Provide the platform www.betterinternetforkids.eu as a single entry point to online tools and services for EU citizens and the Safer Internet community.

Financial support to the pan-European network of Safer Internet Centres: around €11 million per year.
In 2016 the global INHOPE network received more than 9.3 million reports of which over 200,000 contained child sexual abuse material. Thanks to the hotlines, 75% of the reports in Europe were removed in less than three working days.

In 2016, Insafe Safer Internet Centres created approximately 2,500 new resources covering a range of eSafety topics such as cyberbullying and media literacy.

In 2016, Insafe Safer Internet Centres reached approximately 27 million people through awareness-raising resources, events, schools visits and trainings.

In 2016, Insafe Safer Internet Centres reported that more than 5,000 young people directly participated in activities, with many more reached indirectly through online actions and campaigns.

Legislation: Several legal measures cover the protection of minors online, such as the eCommerce Directive, the General Data Protection Regulation, the Directive on combating the sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children and child pornography and the Audiovisual Media Services Directive (AVMSD) currently under revision.

Self-regulation through the Alliance to better protect minors online, a multi-stakeholder initiative gathering over 40 leading ICT and media companies, NGOs, UNICEF... It aims to improve the online environment for children and young people and to address emerging risks that minors face online, such as harmful content and behaviour.

The launch of the #SaferInternet4EU campaign took place on Safer Internet Day, 6th February 2018 by Commissioner Mariya Gabriel. The campaign will run throughout 2018 covering a wide range of topics, including:

- critical thinking, media literacy and digital skills necessary to identify and combat fake news and seek trusted sources of information;
- cyber hygiene;
- the risks brought by emerging online technologies (virtual/augmented reality) and connected devices such as smart toys.

1. The European contest #SaferInternet4EU Competition will be open on 1st March 2018, to reward high quality resources and inspiring initiatives on safer and better internet from professionals, teachers and young people. Participants can register on betterinternetforkids.eu. The award ceremony will take place at the Safer Internet Forum 2018 in autumn.

2. A Project Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) to equip European teachers with resources and activities to support teaching on online safety and cyber-hygiene. Topics include fake news, cyberbullying and radicalisation.

3. #SaferInternet4EU Ambassadors: Interested to contribute? Become an ambassador and speak about the campaign. EU citizens, including youth, parents, teachers, policymakers at EU and national level can become one.