EU Kids Online

Enhancing Knowledge Regarding European Children's
Use, Risk and Safety Online
www.eukidsonline.net

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EU Kids Online is a thematic network coordinated by Professor Sonia Livingstone and Dr Leslie Haddon at the Department of Media and Communications, London School of Economics and Political Science. It is funded by the EC Safer Internet Programme in order to coordinate and stimulate investigation into the way children use new media, with a particular focus on evidence regarding the conditions that shape online risk and safety; see www.eukidsonline.net.

In its ***first phase*** (2006-9) as a thematic network of 21 countries[1], *EU Kids Online* identified and critically evaluated the findings of nearly 400 research studies, drawing substantive, methodological and policy-relevant conclusions.

The network's first step was to search for relevant research and create a publicly accessible database of evidence on children's use of the internet in Europe. This was first used to identify gaps in the research (Staksrud et al, 2009) and, second, to compare findings across countries so as to draw conclusions regarding internet risks and safety, assessing the studies' significance and consequences for diverse populations (age, gender, region, nation, etc) (Hasebrink et al 2009). To build capacity in this field of study, the network critically examined the methodological issues involved in studying children and the internet, especially those relating to cross-cultural analysis. The result was both a report (Lobe et al, 2007) and a Best Practice Guide using the online format of Frequently Asked Questions (Lobe et al, 2008). To set this field of study in context, the network sought to understand the reasons why certain types of research are available (or not) in each nation, given different intellectual, social, institutional and funding regimes (Stald and Haddon, 2008). Last but not least, the network developed evidence-based policy recommendations for raising awareness, media literacy and other practical actions to promote

safer use of the internet for children (de Haan and Livingstone, 2009). Together, these reports were summarised in the network's final report, while being developed across numerous national and international stakeholder meetings, presentations, publications and media coverage (Livingstone and Haddon, 2009a). All of this work was brought together in a book publication (Livingstone and Haddon, 2009b).

- Staksrud, E., Livingstone, S., Haddon, L., and Ólafsson, K. (2009) *What do we know about children's use of online technologies? A report on data availability and research gaps in Europe [2nd edition].* http://eprints.lse.ac.uk/24367/

- Hasebrink, U., Livingstone, S., Haddon, L., and Ólafsson, K. (2009) *Comparing children's online opportunities and risks across Europe: cross-national comparisons for EU Kids Online [2nd edition].* http://eprints.lse.ac.uk/24368/

- Lobe, B., Livingstone, S., and Haddon, L. (2007) *Researching children's experiences online across countries: issues and problems in methodology.* http://eprints.lse.ac.uk/2856/

- Lobe, B., Livingstone, S., Olafsson, K., and Alberto Simões, J. (2008) *Best practice research guide: how to research children and online technologies in comparative perspective.* http://eprints.lse.ac.uk/21658/

- Stald, G. and Haddon, L. (2008) *Cross-cultural contexts of research: factors influencing the study of children and the internet in Europe.* http://eprints.lse.ac.uk/24380/

- de Haan, J., and Livingstone, S. (2009) Policy and research recommendations. Deliverable D5 for the EC Safer Internet plus programme. http://eprints.lse.ac.uk/24387/

- Livingstone, S., and Haddon, L. (2009) EU Kids Online: Final Report. Deliverable D6.5 for the EC Safer Internet plus programme. http://eprints.lse.ac.uk/24372/

- Livingstone, S., and Haddon, L. (eds) (2009) *Kids Online. Opportunities and Risks for Children*, Bristol: Policy Press.

In its **second phase** (2009-11) as a knowledge enhancement project across 25 countries[2], the network surveyed children and parents to produce original, rigorous data on their internet use, risk experiences and safety mediation.

A random stratified sample of 25,142 children aged 9-16 who use the internet, plus one of their parents, was interviewed during Spring/Summer 2010 in 25 European countries. The survey investigated key online risks: pornography, bullying, receiving sexual messages, contact with people not known face-to-face, offline meetings with online contacts, potentially harmful user-generated content and personal data misuse. In addition to a report of the full findings (Livingstone et al, 2011a), and a series of national reports and findings (see national pages at www.eukidsonline.net), the network produced a variety of short reports following up different aspects in more detail (e.g. Livingstone and Ólafsson, 2011; Görzig, 2011; Hasebrink et al, 2011; Sonck, et al, 2001; Livingstone et al, 2011b, Livingstone et al, 2011c). In addition, teams from Australia and Russia implemented the survey in their respective counties, enabling further comparative analysis (forthcoming). As in EU Kids Online I, network members contributed to policy discussions and produced recommendations (e.g. O'Neill et al, 2011). All the findings, analysis and recommendations were brought together in the project's final report (Livingstone et al, 2011d). Full survey methodology is reported in Livingstone, et al (2011e). A second book, this time reporting analyses of the survey findings, was published (Livingstone, Haddon, and Görzig, 2012).

- Dürager, A. & Livingstone, S. (2012) *How can parents support children's internet safety?* http://eprints.lse.ac.uk/id/eprint/42872

- Görzig, A. (2011) *Who bullies and who is bullied online? A study of 9-16 year old internet users in 25 European countries*. http://eprints.lse.ac.uk/39601/

- Hasebrink, U., Görzig, A., Haddon, L., Kalmus, V., and Livingstone, S. (2011) *Patterns of risk and safety online*. http://eprints.lse.ac.uk/39356/

- Livingstone, S., Haddon, L., Görzig, A., and Ólafsson, K. (2011a) *Risks and safety on the internet: The perspective of European children: Full findings*. http://eprints.lse.ac.uk/33731/

- Livingstone, S., Haddon, L., Görzig, A., and Ólafsson, K. (2011b) *Disadvantaged children and online risk*. http://eprints.lse.ac.uk/39385/

- Livingstone, S., Haddon, L., Görzig, A. and Ólafsson, K. (2011c) *Risks and safety on the internet: The perspective of European children*. http://eprints.lse.ac.uk/33731/

- Livingstone, S., Haddon, L., Görzig, A., and Ólafsson (2011d) *EU Kids Online Final Report*. http://eprints.lse.ac.uk/39351/

- Livingstone, S., Haddon, L., Görzig, A., and Ólafsson (2011e) *Technical report and user guide: the 2010 EU Kids Online Survey*. LSE, London: EU Kids Online. http://eprints.lse.ac.uk/45270/

- Livingstone, S. and Ólafsson, K. (2011) *Risky communication online*. http://eprints.lse.ac.uk/33732/

- Livingstone, S., Ólafsson, K., and Staksrud, E. (2011) *Social networking, age and privacy*. http://eprints.lse.ac.uk/35849/

- Livingstone, S., Haddon, L. and Görzig, A. (eds) (2012) *Children, risk and safety online: Research and policy challenges in comparative perspective*, Bristol: Policy Press.

- Lobe, B., Livingstone, S., Ólafsson, K., and Vodeb, H. (2011) *Cross-national comparison of risks and safety on the internet*. http://eprints.lse.ac.uk/39608/

- O'Neill, B., Livingstone, S. and McLaughlin, S. (2011). *Final recommendations for policy, methodology and research*. http://eprints.lse.ac.uk/39410/

- Sonck, N., Livingstone, S., Kuiper, E. and de Haan, J. (2011) *Digital literacy and safety skills*. http://eprints.lse.ac.uk/33733/

In its present and **third phase** (2011-14) the *EU Kids Online* network provides a focal point for timely findings and critical analyses of new media uses and associated risks among children across Europe, drawing on these to sustain an active dialogue with stakeholders about priority areas of concern for child online safety. The network now includes 33 countries in all,[3] as well as affiliates in Australia and Brazil.

The project has three main tasks. The first is to update the database first established in EU Kids Online, where new entries to the database now include a summary in English of key findings from the research, and chart how any research patterns and gaps have changed (Ólafsson et al, 2013a). The Frequently Asked Questions were also updated (Ólafsson et al, 2013b). The second strand of the project has continued to produce short reports on different topics from then EU kids Online survey data (e.g. Dürager and Livingstone,2012; Smahel,et al, 2012; Haddon et al, 2012; D'Haenens et al, 213; Livingstone et al, 2013;. Helsper et al, 2013) as well as reviewing other studies (Holloway et al, 2013), and comparing the EU Kids Online survey results to other studies to produce cross-regional and longitudinal analyses (forthcoming). The final part of the

project has two strands. The first has evaluated innovative qualitative research (Barbovschi, 2013). The second involves conducting qualitative research with children using a combination of in-depth interviews and group interviews in 10 countries (forthcoming), As before, the network members contributed to policy discussions (e.g. Livingstone et al, 2012). Switzerland and Brazil have also conducted surveys using the EU Kids Online questionnaire during the course of this project.

- Barbovschi, M., Green, L. & Vandoninck, S. (2013) *Innovative approaches for investigating how young children understand risk in new media: Dealing with methodological and ethical challenges,* http://www.lse.ac.uk/media@lse/research/EUKidsOnline/EU%20Kids%20III/ Reports/InnovativeMethods.pdf

- D'Haenens, L, Vandonink, S. and Donoso, V. (2013) *How to cope and build resilience.* http:// eprints.lse.ac.uk/48115/

- Haddon, L., Livingstone, S. and the EU Kids Online network (2012) *EU Kids Online: National perspectives.* http://eprints.lse.ac.uk/46878/

- Helsper, E.J., Kalmus, V., Hasebrink, U., Sagvari, B. and De Haan, J. (2013). *Country classification: Opportunities, risks, harm and parental mediation.* http://eprints.lse.ac.uk/52023/

- Holloway, D., Green, L., and Livingstone, S. (2013). *Zero to eight. Young children and their internet use.* http://eprints.lse.ac.uk/52630/

- Livingstone, S., Ólafsson, K., O'Neill, B and Donoso, V. (2012) *Towards a better internet for children: findings and recommendations from EU Kids Online to inform the CEO coalition.* http://eprints.lse.ac.uk/44213/

- Livingstone, S., Kirwil, L, Ponte, C. and Staksrud, E., with the EU Kids Online Network (2013) *In their own words: What bothers children online?* http://eprints.lse.ac.uk/48357/

- Ólafsson, K., Livingstone, S. & Haddon, L. (2013a) *Children's use of online technologies in Europe: A review of the European evidence database.* http://eprints.lse.ac.uk/50228/

- Ólafsson,K., Livingstone,S. & Haddon, L. (2013b) *How to research children and online technologies. Frequently asked questions and best practice.* http://eprints.lse.ac.uk/50437/

- Smahel, D., Helsper, E., Green, L., Kalmus, V., Blinka, L. and Ólafsson, K. (2012) *Excessive internet use among European children.* http://eprints.lse.ac.uk/47344/

Notes

1. Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom.
2. Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Turkey and the UK.
3. The 25 countries from phase 2 were joined by Croatia, Latvia, Luxembourg, Malta, Russia, Slovakia and Switzerland.

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