

"Gender-based violence and safety in new media"

Staying Safe Online Research Results in the Czech Republic, Poland and Cyprus

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Research Project

Staying Safe online: gender and safety on the Internet

3 countries

8 months

young people 14–29 years old

gender-based violence in cyberspace

Methodology

combine research practice:

- *background research*
- **quantitative research** – *survey*
- **qualitative research** – *focus groups, individual semi-structured interviews*
- **social media research**

Data collection

survey – questionnaire

app 450 respondents (50 % w/m)
age 14–26

qualitative research

around 7 individual semi-structured interviews
2 focus groups

social media research

30 Facebook profiles – (50 % w/m)
age 14–20

Terminology

gender – refers to women and men and the power relations among them

gender-based violence – violence that targets individuals/groups on the basis of their gender

cyber crime, cyber violence – umbrella term for different kinds of violence related to use of ICT and internet as a tool of the crime

social media – social interaction among people in which they create, share or exchange information in virtual communities and networks – Facebook

The Research objectives

- **collect data** about experience of gender-based violence
- **gain knowledge** of the relationship between ICT and gender
- **explore the experience** of young people in managing danger and/or violence in cyberspace

Areas of focus

- 1/ time spent on the Internet
- 2/ activities on the Internet
- 3/ perception of online safety – attitudes to cyber violence
- 4/ what is cyber violence
- 5/ experience with cyber violence
- 6/ experience as a victim – reactions
- 7/ typical aggressor?

Usage of the Internet

approximately 4–6 hrs/day

women – searching for information, social media, chatting, communication, shopping

men – searching for information, downloading music, videos, playing games (and work)

connection

home, public place, school

laptops, cell phones, home computers, shared computers

Perception of online safety

majority of respondents **feel safe** online

men feel more confident and comfortable and protected online,

women admit there are some limits in their behaviour

almost $\frac{1}{3}$ of respondents admit they have **shared** some kind of information (photographs) they afterwards regretted

almost every second person has the **experience with violence** on the Internet

Behaviour on the Internet

more than 50% of respondents like **meeting new people** online

behaviour does not differ from the real life behaviour in most cases

only a very few people use **fake identity** – avatars or different personas

$\frac{3}{4}$ of respondents like to **search the information about others** they do not know personally

some admit they have met somebody from online world in person (women are more cautious)

Cyber violence

the vast majority of respondents know the term from the media, school, friends

mostly associated with **cyber bullying** or bullying through technologies

app ¼ admit their own experience as a victim

app 20% know someone who experienced violence online

⅓ **know the aggressor**

protection – block a person, inform somebody else, change the password or e-mail account – women combination of tools, men like to deal with the aggressor personally

forms of cyber violence – sharing personal information without permission (photographs, videos), using fake identity (e.g. stealing a friend's identity), cyber grooming – stealing identity, stalking

Anonymity

reason of cyber violence

seen as negative – as a tool for bullies

prevent people from protection, complicate investigation of a crime and make the situation harder for victims

provide comfort for instance for shy people, people with disabilities

Victims and Aggressors

victim can be any one without gender differences
some say it is a women in most cases

aggressor is 50w:50m
some associate aggressors more with men
men also see themselves as aggressors

women=victim / men=aggressor

without any gender differences respondents think that
men can protect themselves better than women, so as
men think of themselves

Victims – experience

breaking into email or social media accounts – sending spam or bullying others
spreading gossip and rumor, blackmailing
sending and receiving unwanted messages or phone calls
porn revenge – sharing information about ex-partners in order to humiliate them
stalking

men – **humour**, bullying as a joke

women – gossip and exclusion of others from the peer groups

The Research Results: Social Media

CR (30 profiles , PL 32 profiles)

Social media – Facebook

14–20 years old

content analysis – text, pictures, language

Results – content

personal information – address, age, tel number vs. hobbies, friends, school, lists of interest

private settings – insufficient in most cases

girls share erotic photos or photos with sexy poses, romantic pictures and celebrities, videos with animals

boys post photos of muscular bodies or heroes, athletes and jokes

selfies as a test of popularity look is extremely

Results – vocabulary

boys

homophobic vocabulary towards other boys

humor presented in different forms – objectification of women, racist comments
drugs and alcohol jokes

girls

emotional statements (feeling in love, me and my lover), rude comments, vulgar vocabulary (bitch)
very active in communication, emoticons

Thank you.

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