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THE LONDON SCHOOL  
OF ECONOMICS AND  
POLITICAL SCIENCE



# Online risk, harm and vulnerability : Where's the harm?

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**@Livingstone\_S**

*The Association for Child and Adolescent Mental Health  
Annual Conference, London, March 2014*

# Changing lives



**93% have internet at home**    **35% own 5+ media devices**  
**40% have a smartphone**      **Users online 13.4 hrs/week**

# Public and policy anxieties



## Beaten up by Facebook bully

Boy, 14, sent attack video in hospital

by NICOLE LE MARIE

A TEENAGER beaten up by a bully outside his school gates was sent video of the attack as he lay in hospital.

Akil Johnson-Richards was filmed being punched and kicked on the ground as a crowd shouted 'kill him' after he was confronted while leaving Nottingham Emmanuel School.

The 14-year-old - who had been bullied on Facebook - was sent the chilling clip while in hospital having X-rays for suspected broken ribs and treatment for a chipped tooth.

Akil's mother, Natasha, 40, said: 'He came home after the attack covered in blood and his uniform was torn.'

'It looked like he'd been in a car crash. He just said he'd been attacked outside



Chilling email: Footage shows Akil Johnson-Richards (right) wrestled to the ground and beaten outside Nottingham Emmanuel School. PHOTOS: WIREIMAGE.COM

video of the attack emailed to him. I was sickened. It was a horrific attack outside the school gates just a few feet from parents.

Ms Johnson-Richards has removed her son from the 900-pupil school where she claims he has been shot with a plastic pellet gun in the past.

Akil added: 'I was walking to the bus stop when some people crowded around me. One started pushing me, then he started hitting me.'

Emmanuel School headteacher Carol Ferris said it was not aware of any previous issues between the two pupils and

THE INDEPENDENT  
FRIDAY 13 OCTOBER 2011

**Cyber-bullying now just a part of life, believe most children**

DEL MAD-MORGAN

ing sites are not above the law and has transpires that

BE CAREFUL

Generation Xbox

**Health** Half of Britain's seven-year-olds do not do enough exercise, according to new research. The study, by University College London, of 6,500 primary pupils found the number playing sport has dropped to its lowest level for five years despite last year's Olympic Games.

Just 51% of young children achieve the recommended hour of physical activity a day. Girls tend to be far less active than boys, with just 38% doing that amount.

Carol Dezateaux, a senior author of the study, said there was a "yawning gap" between boys and girls. "We need to really think about how we are reaching out to girls. The school playground is an important starting point."

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GREECE: THE FIGHT AGAINST FASCISM  
world, pages 3-10

THE McPOISON PAPERS  
Confessions of a rogue spin doctor  
News, pages 26-29

Thousands of British children caught in web of online blackmail

Overseas paedophiles target UK teenagers in fast-growing trend combining extortion, cyber bullying and sex abuse

Hague and Cable 'misted' public over arms trade

By CAROL MILDRED  
Chief Reporter

Snake oil salesmen have been accused of making "intentionally misleading" claims about Britain's nuclear export industry by stating there is no evidence that Britain's nuclear industry can supply "interest repression".

It has been demanded to explain why export licences were granted earlier this year to a group headed from major allies to CE, gas co-operation to be set in concrete with questionable human rights records, such as Saudi Arabia and Libya.

The Commission's deal is with arms export has found 48 nations subjected to embargo.

Fears for children's safety on Facebook

Social network giant opens profiles to strangers

Murad Ahmed Technology Reporter

Children's groups and internet safety experts have sounded on Facebook after the social network company announced plans which will allow millions of teenage users to open up their profiles to strangers.

A change in the company's rules means that children aged from 13 to 17 will be able to post online status updates, pictures and videos that can be seen by anyone. Until now they have only been visible to a limited group of "friends", or "friends of friends".

Facebook, which has more than 30 million users in Britain, said that it

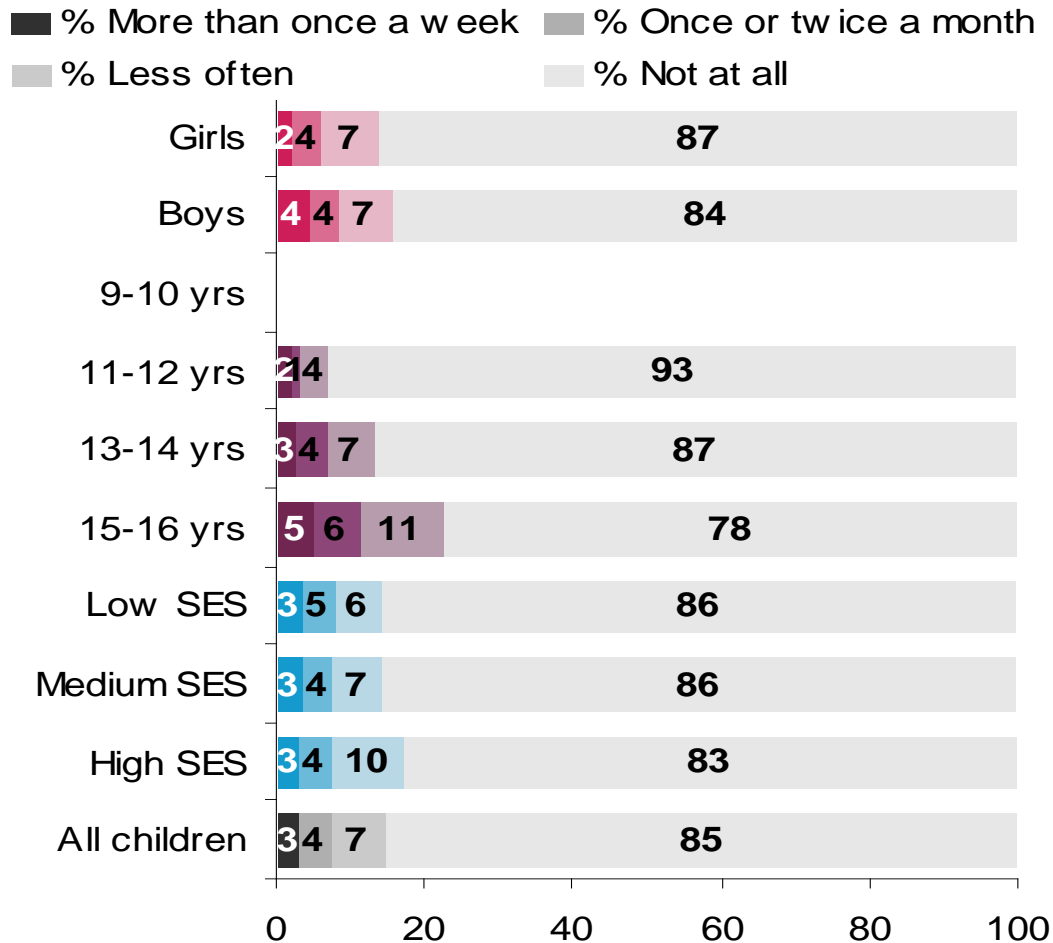
be harmful now may come back to haunt them later. This is a move in the wrong direction.

There were warnings this week that the rise of Facebook has made it easier for paedophiles to target children. On Tuesday, Peter Davies, chief executive of the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre, said that half of all internet grooming took place on established social networks.

He asked that the internet had industrialised the behaviours that led to exploitation.

Jim Gamble, the centre's former head, said that Facebook had done much to clean itself up and had hired hundreds of staff to deal with reports of

# What can surveys tell us?



**Child has seen or received sexual messages online in past 12 months (age 11+)**

# Risk and 'the risk society'



# Risks in childhood



# What's harmful?



# Evidence of harm




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 **LSE** THE LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND POLITICAL SCIENCE

## Risks and safety on the internet

The perspective of European children  
Full findings and policy implications from the  
*EU Kids Online* survey of 9-16 year olds and  
their parents in 25 countries


January 2011



Sonia Livingstone, Leslie Haddon, Anke Görzig  
and Kjartan Ólafsson, with members of the EU  
Kids Online network


[www.eukidsonline.net](http://www.eukidsonline.net)

ISSN 2045-256X

 **CEOP**


### Threat Assessment of Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse

June 2010




Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP)

## HOW SAFE ARE OUR CHILDREN?



Authors: Lisa Hanker, George Jolls, Tom Murphy, Holly Berryling, Pam Miller, Kala Pilon.  
April 2013

 **NSPCC**  
Crusade to children's most dangerous enemy



# Challenges of method



160. How upset did you feel about what happened (if at all)?

PLEASE TICK ONE BOX ONLY

- |   |                  |                          |
|---|------------------|--------------------------|
| A | Very upset       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| B | Fairly upset     | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| C | A bit upset      | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| D | Not at all upset | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| E | Don't know       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
- 

161. How long did you feel like that for?

PLEASE TICK ONE BOX ONLY

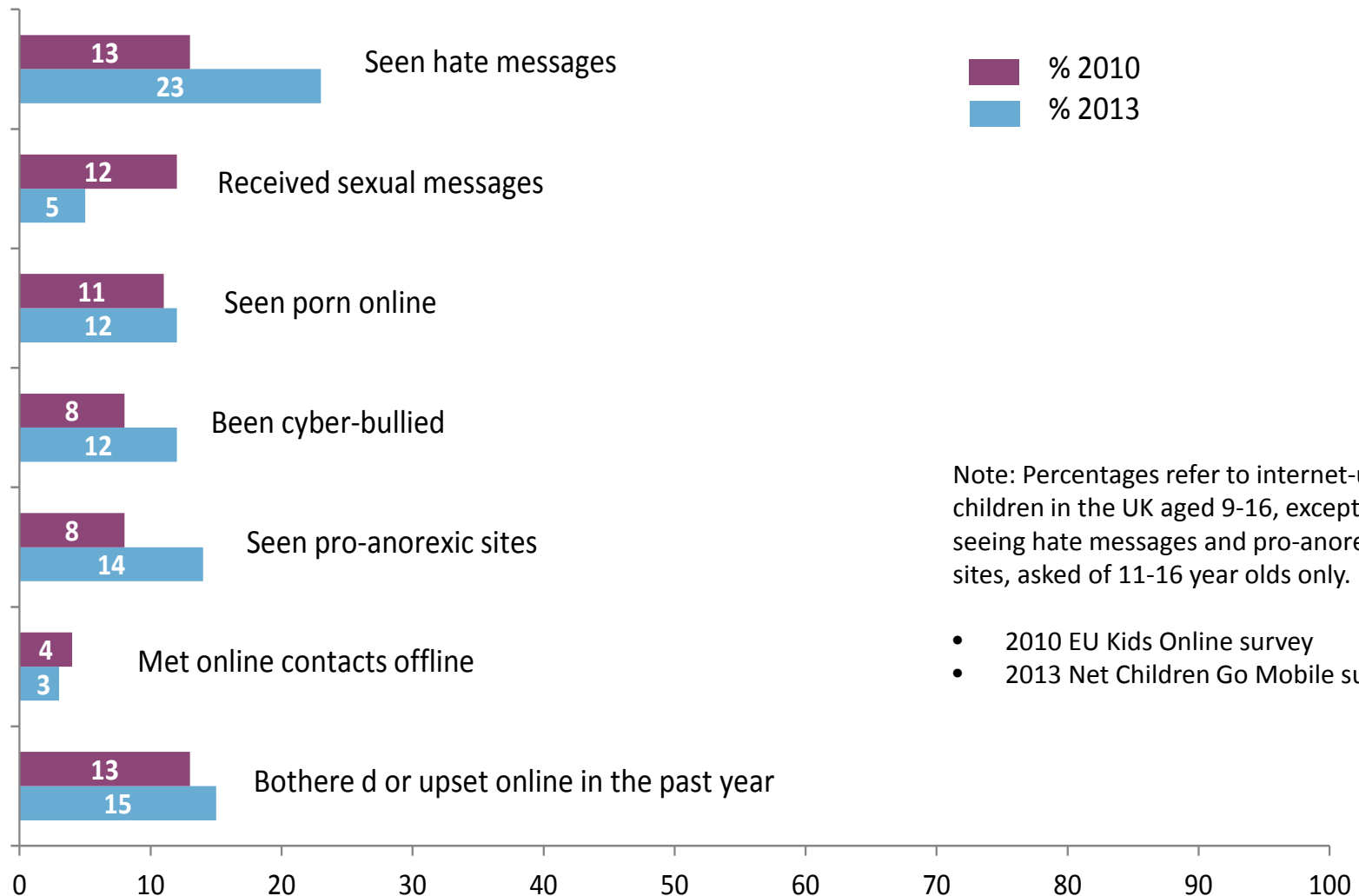
- |   |                                  |                          |
|---|----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| A | I got over it straight away      | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| B | I felt like that for a few days  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| C | I felt like that for a few weeks | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| D | Don't know                       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
-

# Classifying online risks



	<b>Content</b> Child as receiver (of mass productions)	<b>Contact</b> Child as participant (adult-initiated activity)	<b>Conduct</b> Child as actor (victim / perpetrator)
<b>Aggressive</b>	Violent / gory content	Harassment, stalking	<b>Bullying</b>
<b>Sexual</b>	<b>Pornographic content</b>	<b>Meeting 'strangers'</b>	<b>'Sexting'</b>
<b>Values</b>	<b>Racist / hateful content</b>	Ideological persuasion	<b>Potentially harmful user-generated content</b>
<b>Commercial</b>	Embedded marketing	<b>Personal data misuse</b>	Gambling, copyright infringement

# Online risk and harm findings



Note: Percentages refer to internet-using children in the UK aged 9-16, except for seeing hate messages and pro-anorexic sites, asked of 11-16 year olds only.

- 2010 EU Kids Online survey
- 2013 Net Children Go Mobile survey

# What bothers kids your age?



Fighting. People being cruel to animals and hitting them. (Girl, 11)

Horrid games. Killing each other. Batting games. Zombie. (Boy, 10)

Dead bodies, blood, sexual images/videos. Dying people. (Girl, 13)

Porn. Websites showing people doing suicide. (Boy, 12)

Porn websites. Information on how to be anorexic, kill yourself, get drugs. (Girl, 15)

Hate groups on Facebook being created about them. (Boy, 12)

Death by beating. Inappropriate images, sexual images. (Girl, 15)

Graphic images like gore or pornography. (Boy, 14)

Winding people up. Cyber bullying. Threatening. (Boy, 13)

Bullying, racism, fighting, weird voice clips, too many webcam requests!! (Girl, 14)

Freddie Kruger. Scary films. Facebook. YouTube. (Girl, 9)

YouTube. Terrible videos. Terrible images. (Boy, 13)

# Vulnerability and resilience



These are discussed in detail in our edited book, drawing out the range of factors that influence risk and harm:

- Demographic factors
- Social psychological factors
- Contextual and familial factors
- Interface and design factors



## <children, risk and safety on the internet>

Research and policy challenges in comparative perspective

Edited by Sonia Livingstone, Leslie Haddon and Anke Görzig

# 'Sexting' – risk versus harm



**Risk**  
of seeing or receiving  
sexual messages online

Age

older

Gender

boys

Psychological difficulties

higher

Sensation seeking

higher

Risky online and offline  
behaviour

higher

# 'Sexting' – risk versus harm



## Risk

of seeing or receiving sexual messages online

## Harm

resulting from seeing or receiving such messages

Age

older

younger

Gender

boys

girls

Psychological difficulties

higher

higher

Sensation seeking

higher

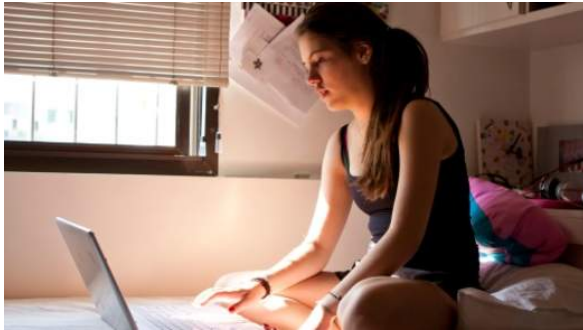
lower

Risky online and offline behaviour

higher

no effect

# More questions than answers






# Online benefits?




## BEST CONTENT FOR KIDS EUROPEAN AWARD

*Be creative, think positive...*




- Welcome
- The competition
- Get involved
- Criteria for judges
- Gallery
- Winners
- News
- FAQ
- Partners




### European Award for Best Content for Kids


... encourages you, children and adults, to create child-friendly, quality online content.



#### Competition



#### Get involved



#### Gallery


### Info box

The public voting has been launched! See the "Winners" section of this page!

### The European Award for Best Content for Kids has launched

**The European Award for best content for kids has launched**

This exciting award aims at encouraging children and adults to create new and highlight already existing child-friendly, quality online content. Keep visiting the website for the



### Follow us

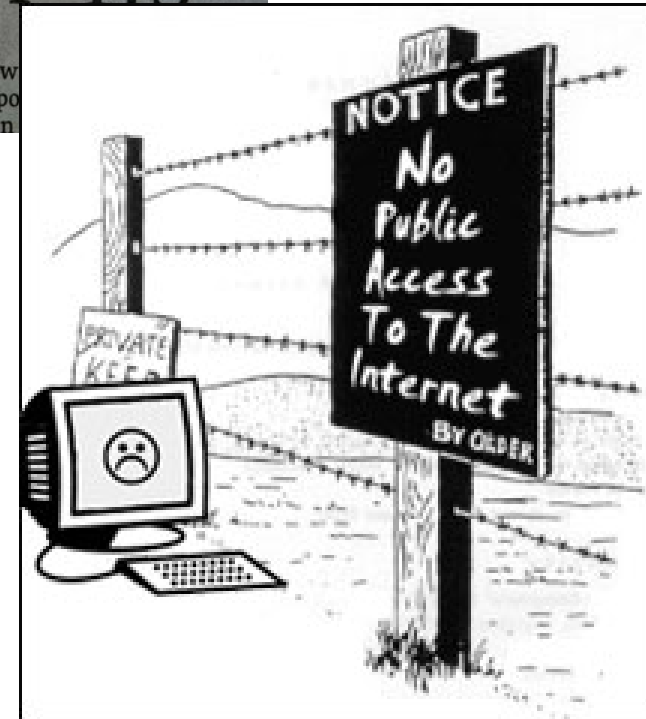
# How much adult supervision?



Schools chief  
urges iBan for  
the under-11s

Sian Griffiths  
Education Editor

allow  
be po  
been



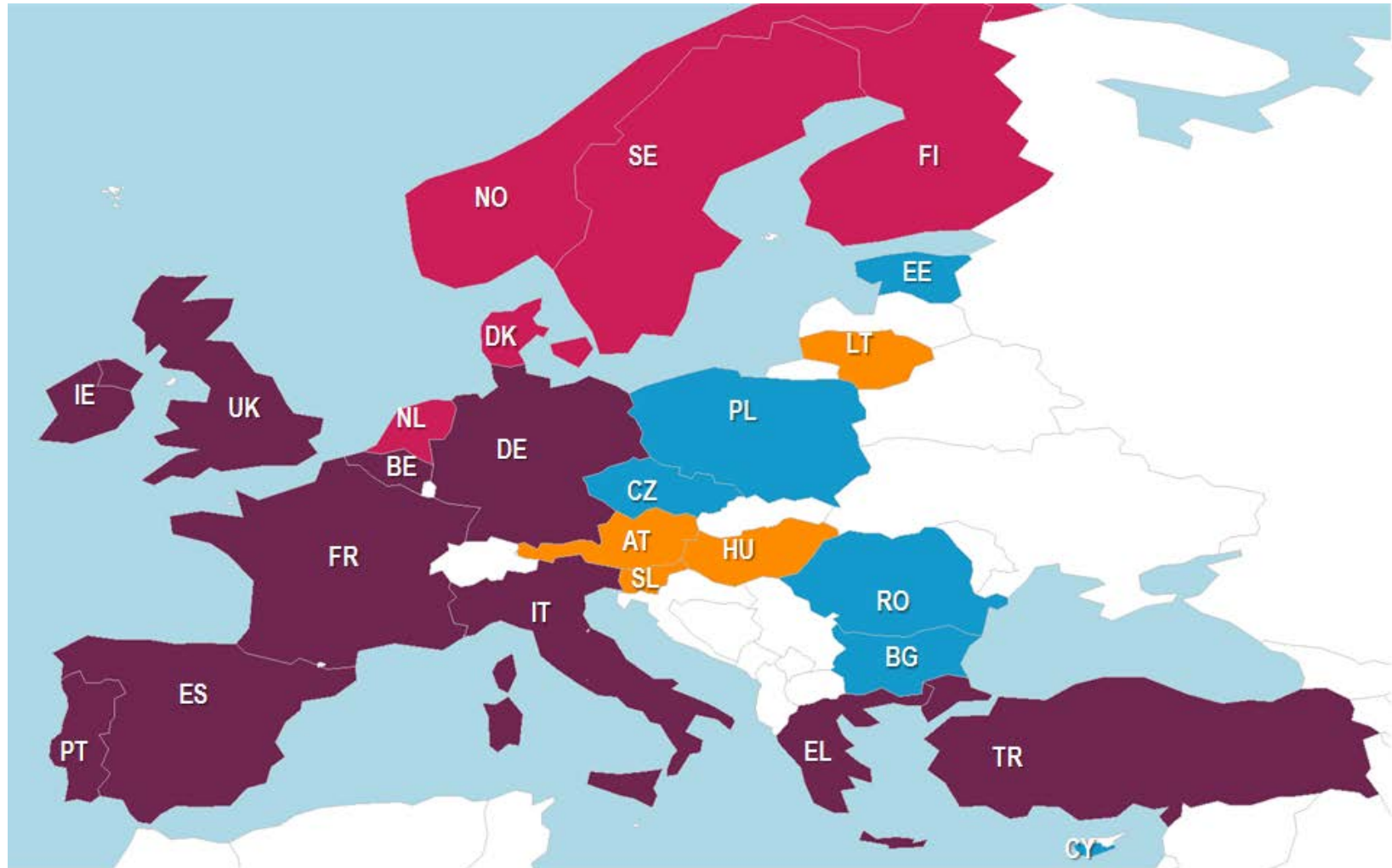
# Managing risk offline



# Conclusions



# Cultural variations



# For more about our work



## EU Kids Online



Enhancing Knowledge Regarding European Children's Use, Risk and Safety Online

**This multi-national thematic network** aims to stimulate and coordinate investigation into children's online uses, activities, risks and safety. It employs multiple methods to map European children's and parents' changing experience of the internet. It also sustains an active dialogue with national and European policy stakeholders.

**New report: Preventive measures - how youngsters avoid online risks** (see [press release](#))

**New Book! Towards a better internet for children?**

**Recent reports**

**Zero to eight: Young children and their internet use**  
Innovative approaches to investigating how children understand risk. See also: [FAQs on research methods](#).

**Country classification. Opportunities, risks, harm and parental mediation**

**European evidence database** contains 1200 recent studies on children's internet use. See also [report on available research](#).

[Newsletter](#) -o- [Infographic](#) -o- [Interview](#) -o- [Overview](#) -o- [Book](#)

**33 countries** participate in the EU Kids Online network

België, България, Кипрос, Česká republika, Danmark, Deutschland, Eesti, Ελλάδα, España, France, Hrvatska, Ireland, Island, Italia, Latvija, Lëtzebuerg, Lietuva, Magyarorszag, Malta, Nederland, Norge, Österreich, Polska, Portugal, România, Россия, Schweiz, Slovenija, Slovensko, Suomi, Sverige, Türkiye, UK. Also [Australia](#) and [Brazil](#) (affiliated)



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■ Livingstone, S., Kirwil, L., Ponte, C., and Staksrud, E. (2014) In their own words: what bothers children online? *European Journal of Communication*. doi: 10.1177/0267323114521045