

INDIVIDUAL INTERVIEW TOPIC GUIDE

Research goals of the focus groups and the interviews:

- What do children perceive as being potentially negative or problematic when using the internet?
- What do children perceive as positive and beneficial when using the internet?
- What impacts and consequences can online negative experiences have?
- How do they evaluate things that adults consider potentially problematic?
- What do children do to avoid these problematic experiences?
- What can children do after having such negative experiences?
- What coping strategies work best from children's perspectives?

(a) Introduction, overview of online activities - the first 10 min. (approximately):

- Welcome, introduction of researcher and the EU Kids Online project
- Instructions regarding the interview: **We are interested in what children/young people do on the internet, what they enjoy and do not enjoy, we are also interested in anything unpleasant connected with the internet. You can also tell us what you enjoy the most on the internet.**
- **Researcher will ask for details of relevant activities: You have mentioned i.e. downloading videos...**
 - ... what exactly do you do there?
... what games do you play? What are they about?
... what do you like about it?
Has anything interesting happened to you there recently?
 - *At this point the child may mention some „risks“ spontaneously -> researchers will discuss the risk in details*

(b) Discussion of risks - the following 30 min. (approximately):

- *We inquire about the risks directly. First, in relation to activities which were discussed before.*
 - **Have you experienced anything on the internet (on Facebook, while playing a game, ...) that was not very pleasant?
Are you careful about anything (on the internet, while playing, ...)?**
 - *We can ask about the risks we are interested in in more detail.
E. g. typically in games, or on Facebook, children meet strangers from the internet:
And on Facebook, do you have people you don't know personally in your list of "friends"?
Has anyone you don't know written to you?
Have you met anybody on the internet that you did not know personally before?
Did you meet in person anyone you first met through the internet?*

- *If the risks described through activities are exhausted, we inquire about other possible risks in general:*
 - **There are other things on the internet which are not alright.**
What other things are you careful about?
What other things that are not very pleasant can happen to you on the internet?
 - **Can you think of anything else?**
Try to think of as many things as possible.
 - *If the interviewee mentions the risk, researcher will directly discuss several aspects of the risk:*
 - **You mentioned that you experienced things which are not OK on the internet.**
 - *Coping, reaction to the incident:*
 - **What did you do about it?**
 - **(Have you learned anything from the experience? How would you react if something similar happened again?)**
 - *Importance of the risk, degree of the risk, risk versus harm:*
 - **(How did you feel at that time?/ What did it feel like to you?)**
 - **You said it was not a problem for you. What could have been different that might have made it unpleasant or problematic?**
or
Can you try to think when (*such a situation*) is fine and when not?
When is it /does it start to be a problem?
 - *Prevention – coping prior to the risk:*
 - **Can anything be done to prevent this from happening in future?**
 - **Can you do anything to avoid such an experience?**
- a) *Conclusion – about 5 minutes:*
- *Sum up what has been discussed, mention the positive aspects, compliment and thank the child.*
 - **How did you like talking about the internet with me?**
 - **Is there anything important to you we haven't mentioned?**
 - **If you want to follow any issues you have talked about, you can contact us (*we will be at school on that day, or we can give them contacts*) or ... (*contact person at school – educational consultant, school psychologist, help lines – will be developed in any country*).**
 - The participant will be told that if he or she wants to withdraw from the study, their data will not be used.

Notes:

- *In the interview the research will focus more on the direct experience of the interviewee, going deeper than you can go in the focus group.*
- *The main difference between the focus group and the interview is that in the focus group researchers will first create a list of risks, but in the interview the researcher will discuss the risk immediately as they are mentioned by the child.*