

Fact Sheet

"Keeping Children Safe Online"

RESEARCH



SURVEY - KEY FINDINGS

This Fact Sheet aims at presenting the main findings and recommendations from both parts of this research; the quantitative one developed through a survey conducted with 900 Albanian children, interviewed during December 2013 - January 2014, aged 13-18 years old; and the qualitative one developed through a legal and policy review related to child online safety in Albania.

This research was initiated from World Vision Albania and Kosovo and Child Protection and Participation Learning Hub. The survey took place in Tirana, Korca, Shkodra, Vlora, Elbasan, and Peshkopi. 67% of these children live in rural area and 55% of them are girls.

- The top three devices utilized by Albanian children, ages 13-17, to consume media or play online are mobile phones (65%), PCs (59%) and laptops (43%).
- Contrary to other European countries, Albanian families prefer to keep computers in children's bedrooms. Data shows that 62% of children with access to the internet have a computer in their bedroom.
- When asked about their perceptions of online risks, Albanian children shared similar opinions with children of other European countries. The top perceived risks were content-related, followed by conduct-related and contact-related.
- Bullying, password thefts, and the unintentional viewing of pornographic materials when accessing the internet are serious issues which children face presently with 45% of responders pointing out that children have to cope with these matters every day.
- According to 44% of responders, children watch pornographic materials every day.
- 47% of the children interviewed admit that, within the last year, they have been contacted online by an unknown individual.
- 62% of the children interviewed confirmed having friends that visit pornographic sites.
- Out of the 47% of children that have been contacted online by an individual in the last year, 40% have been contacted by foreign nationals.
- Most of the unknown foreign citizens contacting Albanian children online are from the UK (33%), Italy (14%) and the US (8%).
- 68% of children from both rural and urban areas confirm the existence of locations, computers, or screens that display pornographic materials against their wishes.
- Most of the unintended pornographic material displayed takes place in internet centers (internet cafés).
- 32% of the children interviewed confirmed teachers to be the least likely person they would turn to for help if they were harmed online. This was followed by the police with 27% of children not considering them as an institution for assistance.



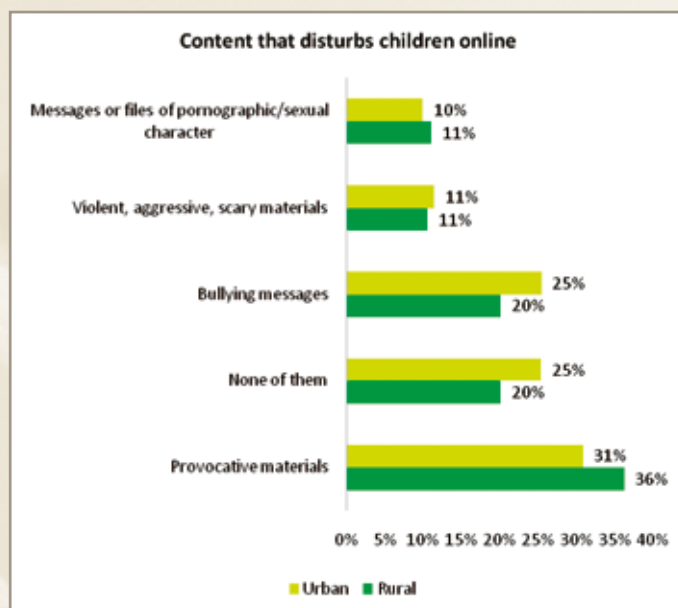
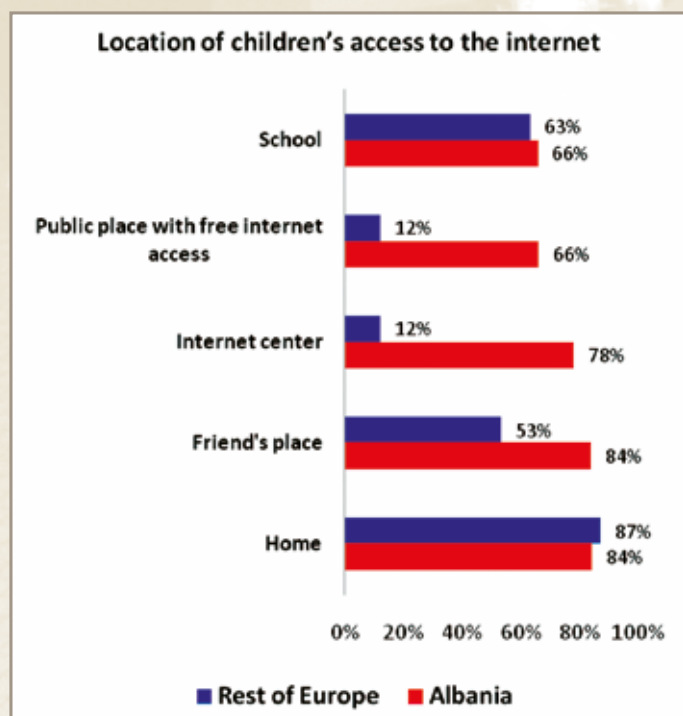
SURVEY - RECOMMENDATIONS

1 Education institutions, civic society organizations, and businesses should promote awareness raising and other safety practices for younger children as well as teenagers.

2 Legislation must guarantee that internet centers or internet cafes are equipped with a minor's only area that blocks visual access to adult content.

3 The government must trigger safer internet browsing for children by assigning each minor a unique username and password. These assigned login details would be obligatory for accessing the internet in public places. This method would restrict the access of minors to safe content only.

4 The government should set up a single agency in charge of collecting and managing reports of online abuse submitted by children. It should also be in charge of designing and pushing forward online safety strategies for children and supporting teenagers who face risks that worry them or struggle with.

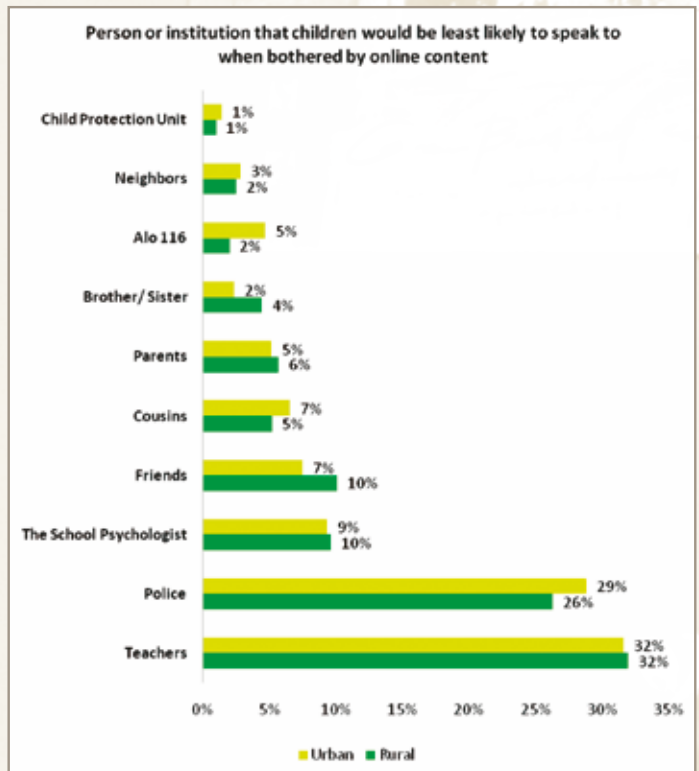
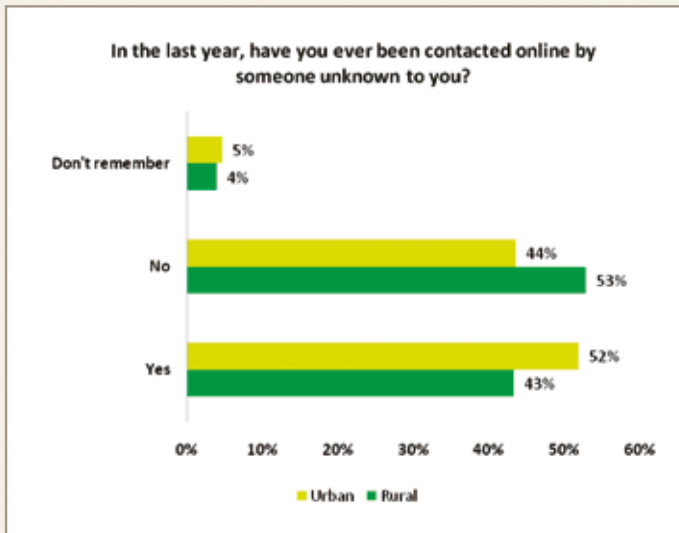


5 The government agency in charge should set up a reporting mechanism that is efficient, easy to access, and child friendly by means of an online platform, SMS, Whatsapp and Viber. In addition, the agency could develop peer mentoring schemes as a reporting/support mechanism.

6 In cooperation with private business such as ISPs, the government should trigger the creation and usage of a children security pack installed on home PCs/Laptops that is frequently updated with websites friendly to minors. Also new safety tools are needed for these new applications - i.e. mobiles, tablets etc.

7 Mobile operators should provide parents with the option of requesting restricted online access for their children that allows safe content only.





8 Parents should be advised to talk to their child about the internet or share an online activity with them.

9 In order to cope with the future challenges of children's online safety, special attention should be paid to the appropriate training and knowledge improvement of parents. Teachers also need to be trained and receive proper qualifications. Training should be extended to kindergarten levels too.

10 Curriculums in schools related to IT should be updated regularly and expanded to include internet safety.

11 Anti-bullying initiatives should accompany efforts to promote internet use.

12 The brand of internet safety in Albania needs to be reinvented in a way that is less bland and more attractive to children.

POLICY MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS

1 Government policies should also consider the interest of the minors; self awareness among minors should be encouraged.

2 Offering an interactive "hotlines" by the State Police (cyber crime unit) with respect to the reporting of abuse of minors online.

3 ISPs should be required by the law to install special devices which can indicate that transmitted content is illegal and harmful for minors in the network services they offer. There is available software in the market that can monitor the content using key words.

4 ISPs should be asked by the law to offer protective services (parental control tools, filters), either free or based on small fees.

5 Mobile companies should provide filters for minors ordering mobile phones and Internet service within.



LEGISLATION RECOMMENDATIONS

6 There are not many tools suitable for game consoles, tablets and mobile phones – the devices increasingly used by children to go online - and there are no solutions for users who access content on mobile phones or tablets using an application and not a browser.

7 School personnel which teaches IT should have proper qualification and be trained annually by MES. Training should be extended to kindergarten personnel as well about the risk of child pornography generally and Internet child pornography specifically.

8 The curriculum of schools in relation to IT should be updated regularly and expanded on the Internet child protection.

9 Awareness campaigns should not be only during the “Internet day” and on pilot schools but it should be organized in permanent and long-term programs.

10 Cyber crime units should include more IT expert and have their own IT forensic.

11 The General Prosecution should have a special section on cyber crime and prosecutors trained with issues of Internet child pornography.

12 Courts should have special judges dealing with cyber crime offences.

13 A memorandum of cooperation should be arranged among all law enforcement agencies.

14 Penal Code and Procedural Code should be improved to include “Internet child pornography” and other facilitating actions such as abiding, conspiracy etc.

15 The law should be improved to allow state police and other law enforcement agencies to ask for data from ISPs directly and not through EPCA.

16 Powers of EPCA should be extended to monitor and supervise Internet Coffees. An article in the contract between ISPs and Internet Coffees may be added to stipulate this power, when the later are not register within EPCA.

17 Powers of EPCA may include monitoring selling points of used computer whether they are certified from abroad they do not contain illegal content. In addition, custom should not allow used computers which do not bear a clearing certificate to be traded in Albania.

1 *Law no. 97/2013 “On Audiovisual Media in the Republic of Albania”* is suggested to be revised. In the definition of “harmful content “ it may include content promoted via or related to IT goods and services which may harm children.

2 *Law no. 10128, dated. 05/11/2009 “On Electronic Commerce”* needs to be revised and indicate what actions and policies should the Provider of the Information Society Services (PISS) take on Internet child protection.

3 *Law no. 9902, date 17.4.2008, “On the Protection of Consumers”*, amended with Law no.10444, date 14.2011 needs to be revised. Companies should be obliged to inform minors about the risk of their electronic products and services. It should contain an article on labelling the games according to the age. Specific articles should be added to offer protection for children using services on online games. *Law no. 10347, date 4.11.2010 “On the Protection of Children Rights”* is suggested to include r protection from the use of Internet and of its side effects for minors.

4 *Law no. 9918, date 19.05.2008 “On electronic communication in the Republic of Albania”* amended with *Law no.102/2012* should cover the issues of “illegal” and “harmful” content. And be more explicit about Internet child protection. The role of The Electronic and Postal Communication Authority (EPCA), should be proactive in supervising the ISPs service which may contain illegal content. More power should be given to EPCA to regulate and supervise Internet coffees and selling points of used computers. *Cyber crime legislation is suggested to be amended. It should have a definition on “Internet child pornography”*. The law should also consider as offences actions which facilitate Internet child pornography such as “knowing obtaining access”, “grooming”, “instigation”, “aiding”, “abetting” and “attempt” and “aggravating consequences” Cyber crime law should offer safeguards for someone who access the “illegal” and “harmful” content via internet for non-criminal purposes (i.e. scientific and academic).

5 Albanian cyber crime legislation should also include sexual harassment against minor through the use of Internet. The Penal Code of Procedures should be amended as the related articles on collection of evidences are vague.