



CHILDREN AND THE INTERNET: PROTECTION AND PARTICIPATION

Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (2007)

Signatory States

Germany, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Croatia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Greece, Ireland, Iceland, Italy, "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia", Lithuania, Moldova, Monaco, Norway, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, United Kingdom, San Marino, Serbia, Slovenia, Sweden, Turkey, Ukraine.

- The Convention represents major progress towards preventing sexual offences against children, prosecuting the perpetrators and protecting their child victims.
- It is the only international treaty to make sexual abuse a criminal offence, with criminal penalties for:
 - those who recruit children into prostitution and those who have recourse to them;
 - the production, supply, distribution and possession of child pornography and on-line access to it;
 - soliciting children on chatrooms or on-line games sites for sexual purposes – so-called grooming.
- As a preventive measure, the Convention recommends that primary and secondary school children be informed of the risks of Internet use.
- It is open to non-Council of Europe member states.



www.coe.int/childprotection

Transversal programme “Building a Europe for and with Children”

Objectives

- building children’s rights into all Council of Europe policies;
- eliminating all forms of violence against children.

Achievements

- Declaration of the Committee of Ministers on protecting the dignity, security and privacy of children on the Internet (February 2008).
- “Through the Wild Web Woods” game, to teach children aged seven to ten how to browse the Web in safety; by November 2008, available in 20 languages (Albanian, Bulgarian, Dutch, English, Finnish, French, German, Greek, Hungarian, Italian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Maltese, Polish, Portuguese, Romani, Romanian, Russian, Spanish and Turkish). The game also promotes key values that guide the work of the Council of Europe, including democracy, respect for others and children’s rights. The game is accompanied by an online teaching pack proposing ways for teachers to discover Internet safety together with their pupils. Since its launch in late 2007 more than two million visits have been recorded worldwide.



- Guidelines for Internet service providers and the designers and publishers of on-line games to help and encourage these two groups to respect users’ privacy, safety and freedom of expression (October 2008).

Next step

- A new pilot project will allow the setting up of a European network on e-participation for children. The possibility for children to influence Council of Europe deliberations is also on the agenda.