



Safer Internet Day 2009



Throughout this Newsletter we will be highlighting the events that went on during the Safer Internet day 2009.

The main event in Cyprus to promote this day was organized by our Partner CYTA. CYTA organized a Conference with the theme 'Internet and Social Networking'. The purpose of this Conference was to inform the stakeholders that are involved in 'molding' the character of the youth as well as the society in general, in matters of Internet security and the correct use of the social networking sites in order to build a safer Internet environment for our society.



Speakers to this event were: Mr. Andros Kapardhs, Department of Law at the University of Cyprus. Mr. Efstratios Papanis, Professor at the University of Aegean. Mr. Yiannis Laouris, Head of the Cyberethics project and owner of the Cyprus Neuroscience and Technology Institute. Mr. Kostas Vaxevanhs, Reporter. Mr. Markos Nikolettis, Cyprus Police. Mr. Manos Sfakianakis, Cyber Crime Unit of the Greece Police. Mr. Alekos Alexandrou from CYTA.

The Conference was a great success with over 300 participants including public school students and teachers, were they raised their voices at the end of the sessions for the question and answer session.



Latest News

21/01/2009

CyBC2 radio station invited the Cyberethics Coordinator to speak about the launching of our Helpline on their English program

22/01/2009

CyberEthics Director Dr. Yiannis Laouris, was invited on CyBC morning show 710.

22/01/2009

Senior CyBC journalist Paris Potamitis has hosted Yiannis Laouris, the Director of CyberEthics, Alecos Alexandrou, Director of Cytanet and Dr. Papanis a well known academician from Greece, in a live Radio program.

03/02/2009

Sigma journalist, Mr. Demopoulos hosted in the morning live TV program Yiannis Laouris, Senior Scientist at the Cyprus Neuroscience & Technology Institute & Director of CyberEthics, Alecos Alexandrou, Director of Cytanet.

9/02/2009

The Highgate school dedicated special sessions on the SID 09 and its cause

9/02/2009

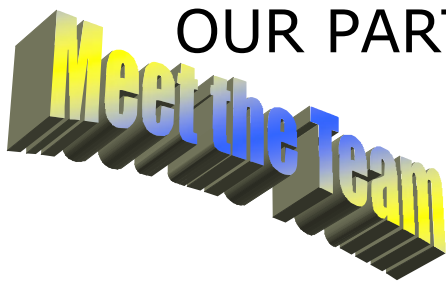
Mr. Alekos Alexandrou from CYTA, Dr. Yiannis Laouris Director of the Cyberethics project & Mr. Vaxavanis a journalist from Greece who made a research on the subject TV appearance CYBC "Apo Mera Se Mera" TV program

9/02/2009

Mr. Alekos Alexandrou from CYTA & Mr. Papanis an academic from Greece who made a research on the subject TV appearance Mega "Me mia matia" TV program

10/02/2009

The Cyberethics (CNTI) team and volunteers went to a main very busy street in Nicosia to promote the SID. We gave out leaflets and other promotional materials and also had the chance to talk to people in person and inform them of our cause.



OUR PARTNERS & Associated Partners

In this part of the issue we present two of our partners or associated partners.

The next issue will shift focus to another part of our team. Take a moment to familiarize yourself with our unique yet symbiotic missions. Our strength comes from our diversity and the rich history each of us bring to the collaboration.

FOCUS ON



World Vision is a Christian relief, development and advocacy organization dedicated to working with children, families and communities to overcome poverty and injustice. Inspired by Christian values, they are dedicated to working with the world's most vulnerable people. They serve all people regardless of religion, race, ethnicity or gender.

World Vision began the 21st century by strengthening its advocacy efforts, particularly on issues related to child survival and poverty alleviation. It became more active in working with governments, businesses and other organizations in addressing issues such as child labor, children in armed conflict and the sexual exploitation of women and children.

World Vision, together with microfinance subsidiary VisionFund International, has become a leading humanitarian organization. Some 40,000 staff members (including part time and temporary staff and employees of microfinance institutions) implement programs of community development, emergency relief and promotion of justice in nearly 100 countries.

For more information please visit: www.wvi.org

FOCUS ON



The Youth Board of Cyprus, which succeeded the Central Youth Agency, was established by virtue of Law 33(1)/94, unanimously enacted by the House of Representatives in April 1994. Its first Governing Board was appointed in June 1994.

The enactment of this Law was the result of the cooperation between the Government and the Political Youth Organizations of the country. The Governing Board consists of seven members: a representative from the youth organizations of each political party with a parliamentary team in the House of Representatives and three members who are appointed directly by the Council of Ministers.

The Minister of Justice and Public Order acts as the liaison between the Youth Board of Cyprus and the Council of Ministers. The Board's budget is covered by State subsidy.

Their vision is for the youth of Cyprus to live in a free, creative, socially fair country, where they should have upgraded social involvement, through the possibility of participation in the decision-making processes in regards to issues of their concern.

For more information please visit: www.youthboard.org.cy

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or call our Hotline

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CyberEthics News

Insafe Training Meeting

The Insafe Training meeting took place in the Centre of Riga city at Reval Hotel Rīdzene (Reimersa 1, LV-1050, Riga, Latvia) on the 25th to the 27th of February 2009.

The main topic of this meeting was the best and worst practices of SID 09 in all countries members to the Insafe Community.

Further training was made done with subjects like:

1. Corporate social responsibility – what it means for nodes; Input from half a dozen CSR managers to help nodes build contacts with industry and presentations from nodes that feel they have practice and ideas to share about achieving sponsorship. The aim is to examine in depth how we can better collaborate with industry through a deeper understanding of CSR policy.
2. Training the trainers. This strand aimed at showcasing best practice in training the trainers in the more formal setting of the classroom, in parent meetings and through peer interaction.
3. Training the trainer: most and least successful actions, lessons to learn
4. Helplines: the year ahead. Training on setting up and running Helplines.
5. New Insafe portal, Insafe Community



Setting up our Safer Internet Helpline

The Pancyprian Coordinating Committee for the Protection and Welfare of Children, in collaboration with the Cyprus Neuroscience & Technology Institute organized a **Helpline Training Conference** on Thursday and Friday 22nd and 23rd of January 2009, and on a **Press Conference** Saturday 24th that took place in Classic Hotel in Nicosia.

Experts representing Helplines from Cyprus and Europe as well as expert psychologists offered training on how to set-up Helplines and deal with Helpline calls regarding the use of new technologies, mainly the Internet, and their dangers.

Presenters to this Conference were representatives of the Cyprus Neuroscience & Technology Institute (Coordinator of the CyberEthics project in Cyprus), from the Pancyprian Coordinating Committee for the Protection and Welfare of Children, a representative from the Polish Helpline and from the Youth Board of Cyprus. The Conference was free and open to the public.

On the 24th of January there was be a **Press Conference** that announced the launching of the Cyprus Helpline which operated by the Pancyprian Coordinating Committee for the Protection and Welfare of Children and present pan-European findings regarding Safer Internet issues.



European News

Social Networking: Commission brokers agreement among major web companies

17 leading web firms have signed for the first time a European agreement to improve the safety of under 18s who use social networking sites. These include Arto, Bebo, Dailymotion, Facebook, Giovani.it, Google/YouTube, Hyves, Microsoft Europe, Myspace, Naszaklaza.pl, Netlog, One.lt, Skyrock, StudiVZ, Sulake/Habbo Hotel, Yahoo!Europe, and Zap.lu. Social networking sites are an emerging social and economic phenomenon, attracting 41.7 million regular users in Europe and changing the way we interact with each other on the Web. The use of social networks has grown over the past year by 35% in Europe and is expected to more than double to 107.4 million users by 2012. To make sure that social networks continue to grow, young users need to feel safe when expanding their networks or sharing any personal information. The agreement signed today in Luxembourg at the Safer Internet Day organized by the European Commission will empower teenagers to deal with potential risks they may face online, like cyberbullying or revealing personal information.

"The Commission applauds this first European agreement on Social Networking. It is an important step forward towards making our children's clicks on social networking sites safer in Europe," said Viviane Reding, EU Commissioner for Information Society and Media. "Social networking has enormous potential to flourish in Europe, to help boost our economy and make our society more interactive – as long as children and teenagers have the trust and the right tools to remain safe when making new 'friends' and sharing personal details online. I will closely monitor the implementation of today's agreement and the Commission will come back to this matter in a year's time."

Today, Europe's major social networking sites have come together for the first time at this year's Safer Internet Day to recognize their

European News

Safer Internet Day 2009: Commission starts campaign against cyber-bullying

More than half of Polish teenagers and 34% of Belgian and UK youngsters have been the target of cyberbullying – harassment over internet sites or mobile messages. That is why the European Commission launches at Safer Internet Day 2009, a campaign including a short video, empowering teenagers to keep control when online. Young people bullied online must be able to report such abuse quickly and easily at the click of a button. The pan-European campaign encompasses all EU Member States, Iceland and Norway. It is part of the Commission's Safer Internet programme ([IP/08/1899](#)), which, among other things, works with the social networking companies to fight cyberbullying.

What is cyberbullying?

Cyberbullying is repeated verbal or psychological harassment carried out by an individual or group against others. It can take many forms: mockery, insults, threats, rumors, gossip, "happy slapping", disagreeable comments or slander. Interactive online services (e-mail, chat rooms, instant messaging) and mobile phones have given bullies new opportunities and ways in which they can abuse their victims.

What makes cyberbullying different from "traditional" bullying?

As they grow up, young people interact and communicate with each other more and more when adults are not around. This is especially true when teenagers are online as they may use the latest websites or other ways of communicating which adults may not know about or where they are free from adult supervision. Cyberbullying also differs from face-to-face bullying as:

- Young people can hide behind the anonymity the internet provides.
- Messages posted on the internet can be seen by a very wide audience almost instantly – very different to writing nasty messages on the back of a school book.

responsibility and identify potential risks on their sites for under 18s. These include cyberbullying (harassing children on internet sites or via mobile messages), grooming (when an adult befriends a child with the intention of committing sexual abuse) and risky behavior like revealing personal information. They aim to limit these risks by:

- Providing an easy to use and accessible "report abuse" button, allowing users to report inappropriate contact from or conduct by another user with one click.
- Making sure that the full online profiles and contact lists of website users who are registered as under 18s are set to "private" by default. This will make it harder for people with bad intentions to get in touch with the young person.
- Ensuring that private profiles of users under the age of 18 are not searchable (on the websites or via search engines)
- Guaranteeing that privacy options are prominent and accessible at all times, so that users can easily work out if just their friends, or the entire world, can see what they post online.
- Preventing under-age users from using their services: if a social networking site targets teenagers over 13, it should be difficult for people below that age to register.

Social networking sites will inform the Commission about their individual safety policies and how they will put these principles in place **by April 2009**.

Background:

Today's agreement is the result of discussions in the Social Networking Task Force set up by the European Commission in April 2008. This group brought together social networking sites, NGOs and researchers, and is a good example of industry self-regulation, an approach favored by the Commission if effectively implemented.

Similar initiatives in this area include the Social Networking guidance from UK Home Office of April 2008, and separate agreements between Myspace, and Facebook with 49 State Attorneys General in the United States.

- Young people do not feel as responsible for their actions when they post messages online, as they would in real life. They are not afraid of being punished for their actions.
- Young people are often afraid or reluctant to report incidents, as they fear that adults will take away their mobile phone, computer and/or internet access.

How widespread is the problem?

Cyberbullying, usually carried out by peers, is one of the risks which young people are most likely to encounter online. Research reported in a [public consultation on online social networks](#), conducted in July 2008, shows that this new risk is a problem in most European countries:

- **34.3% of Belgian teenagers** have been bullied via internet or mobile phone, according to [research results](#).
- **52% of Polish Internet users** aged 12-17 have been exposed to abuse on the Web or via mobile phones. **47%** of the child respondents have been called crude names while 21% have been humiliated or mocked according to the Nobody's Children Foundation and Gemius Agency in Poland.
- In research conducted for the **UK** Department for Children, Schools and Families, **34% of 12-15 year olds** reported having been cyberbullied.
- In **Ireland**, a survey carried out by the National Centre for Technology in Education showed that threatening or aggressive text messages and posting photos or videos that were intended to embarrass teenagers among 14 to 18 years old are the most common form of cyberbullying.

How concerned are parents about cyberbullying?

According to the [2008 Eurobarometer survey](#), 54% of European parents are worried that their child could be bullied online ([IP/08/1899](#)).

More than 80% of parents in **France, Greece and Portugal** are concerned that their children could be bullied when they use the Internet or a mobile phone. Parents in **Denmark, Slovakia, Sweden and Finland** seem more confident about their children's safety as over 69% are not at all, or not very, worried about their children being cyberbullied by their peers (see annex). [Figures and graphics available in PDF and WORD PROCESSED]

Safer Internet Day has been organised every year since 2004 and includes events in more than 50 countries in Europe and worldwide.

Safer Internet Day 2007, on the initiative of Commissioner Reding, resulted in an agreement on safer mobile use by young teenagers signed by all major mobile operators ([IP/07/139](#)).

Read more at:

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/09/232&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>



How many people use social networking sites in Europe?

In the past year, the use of social networks has grown 35% in Europe. 56% of the European online population visited social networking sites last year and the number of regular users is forecast to rise from today's 41.7 million to 107.4 million in the next four years. In 2007 **9.6 million British** belonged to the country's social networking community, with **8.9 million** and **France** and **8.6 million in Germany**.

In Europe users spend 3 hours per month on average on social networking sites according to [comscore.com](#). The **UK** registered the highest usage in 2007 with an average of 5.8 user hours spent on such sites. This was a significantly heavier usage level than in **France**, which averaged 2 hours per month, or **Germany**, with 3.1 hours and **Spain** and **Italy** with 1.8 hours.

In parallel with well known companies based in the US like Facebook, Youtube and Myspace, European companies are doing very well in this sector. Finland-based Habbo Hotel claims 80 million registrations. Belgian-based Netlog has 17 million while the French based Skyrock 18 million, StudiVZ.de in Germany 14 million and Dailymotion 11 million. Other European sites include Hyves in the Netherlands, Arto.dk in Denmark, Nasza-klaza in Poland, One.it and Giovani.it in Italy, and Zap.lu in Luxembourg.

Are parents monitoring or restricting what their children do on social networking sites?

62.8% of European parents said that they would not allow their children to create a profile in an online community according to the [2008 Eurobarometer survey](#). Parents in **Spain, France, Ireland, Italy and Luxembourg** proved to be the strictest with more than 70% of parents forbidding their children from registering on social networking sites. 71% of **Latvian** parents were more relaxed and would allow their children to create online profiles, followed by 53.3% in **Estonia**, 51.3% in the **Czech Republic** and 50.2% of Swedish parents (see annex).

At least half of parents said they talk to their children about their online activities. They also take precautionary measures such as not allowing their children to disclose personal information (92%) or to talk to strangers (83%) online. -Read more at:

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=MEMO/09/58&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

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Our Partners.....



CYTA

Is a corporate body established in Cyprus by Law and is responsible for the provision, maintenance and development of telecommunications facilities, both local and overseas.



Ministry of Education and Culture – Cyprus Pedagogical Institute

A government organisation responsible for doing development trainings in all parts of the Educational system of Cyprus as well as to the general public.



The Olive Branch

A Turkish Cypriot organization who facilitates in the North of the island. This organisation is responsible for the promotional activities for the Safer Internet programme in North Cyprus.



Pancyprrian Coordinating Committee for the Protection & Welfare of Children

was formed in 1994 by the District Committees working on children's issues since 1979, with the aim to coordinate all district and national activities.



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[Work programme of a body which pursues an aim of general European interest in the field of active European citizenship](#)



[C.N.T.I., Cyprus](#)

Established in 1992 by a team of repatriated Cypriot scientists, the Cyprus Neuroscience & Technology Institute has a future-oriented ideology. It conducts projects in areas related to the human brain and learning, technology and social change, global society, conflict transformation and global peace.

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