



# Safer Internet Programme

## Empowering and Protecting Children Online

*Most European children are online starting with the age of 6. Almost all teenagers have a mobile phone. The Safer Internet Programme aims at empowering and protecting them online by supporting awareness raising initiatives and by fighting illegal and harmful online content and conduct.*

The Safer Internet Programme was set up in 1999 and has evolved over the years, taking into account the latest technological developments and their impact on young people's lives.

To empower and protect children online, the Safer Internet Programme:

- finances a great variety of projects, all aimed at creating a safer online environment for young people;
- supports Safer Internet Day;
- organizes the Safer Internet Forum;
- promotes and supports industry self-regulation;
- co-operates at international level with other relevant organizations

The 2009-2013 Safer Internet Programme, which has a budget of €55 million, is addressing new challenges:

- the raise of web 2.0 and its fast take-up by young people;
- mobile technologies;
- harmful conduct like grooming or cyber-bullying;
- the need for a knowledge base, with children's Internet use and risks they may face online

### **A. Running projects funded by the Safer Internet Programme**

The Safer Internet Programme is mainly implemented through projects funded at national or pan-European level, all aiming at creating a safer online environment for children and young people. The Safer Internet Programme has funded a large number of projects over the years, aimed at raising awareness, fighting illegal content, filtering and content labelling, involving the civil society in child online safety issues, creating a solid database of information related to the use of new technologies by young people. Below you will find more information about the running projects funded by the Safer Internet Programme.

#### **1. Safer Internet Centres**

Safer Internet Centres are responsible for promoting safe and responsible use of the Internet and mobile devices by young people. Safer Internet Centres are now present in 27 European countries all with an awareness centre, and most including a helpline and a hotline (see map).



The **awareness centres'** main aim is to develop awareness raising material, organize campaigns and information sessions for young people, parents, carers and teachers in order to make them more aware of the potential risks young people may encounter online and to empower them to stay safe online.



**Helplines** offer personalized advice to young people, parents and teachers about how to stay safe online.

The awareness centres and helplines belong to the **INSAFE** network [www.saferinternet.org](http://www.saferinternet.org) coordinated by the European Schoolnet.



**Hotlines** are places where the public can report illegal content they encounter online, and in particular child sexual abuse material. The hotline will investigate these reports to determine if they are illegal and if so, trace the origin of the content. If the content is illegal, the hotline

will refer this onto law enforcement agencies in the country and also the Internet Service Provider for removal. If the content is hosted in another country, it will be passed on to the hotline in that country.

**INHOPE** [www.inhope.org](http://www.inhope.org) coordinates the network of hotlines.

## 2. Fighting online child sexual abuse material

Alongside INHOPE, the Safer Internet Programme co-funds a number of other initiatives, aimed at supporting law enforcement bodies in their fight against child sexual abuse material:

### a. CIRCAMP (COSPOL Internet Related Child Abusive Material Project)

Running: 01/11/2008 to 31/10/2010  
Safer Internet Programme funding: 540.000 €

This thematic network coordinates European Law Enforcement communities in order to facilitate the exchange of information and best practice between countries in Europe, and thereby increase the effectiveness of international police cooperation. 14 partners from 13 different countries, as well as Interpol and Europol, take part in the network.

### b. i-Dash (The Investigator's Dashboard)

Running: 01/07/2008 to 30/06/2010  
Safer Internet Programme funding: 800.000 €

The objective of i-Dash is to develop an operational system capable of handling thousands of hours of videos potentially containing child sexual abuse images. Furthermore, it aims to establish a model allowing for multi-national exchange of information on known child sexual abuse videos. 5 partners from 3 different European countries are cooperating in this project.

### c. FIVES (Forensic Image and Video Examination Support)

Running: 01/02/2009 to 31/01/2011  
Safer Internet Programme funding: 550.000 €

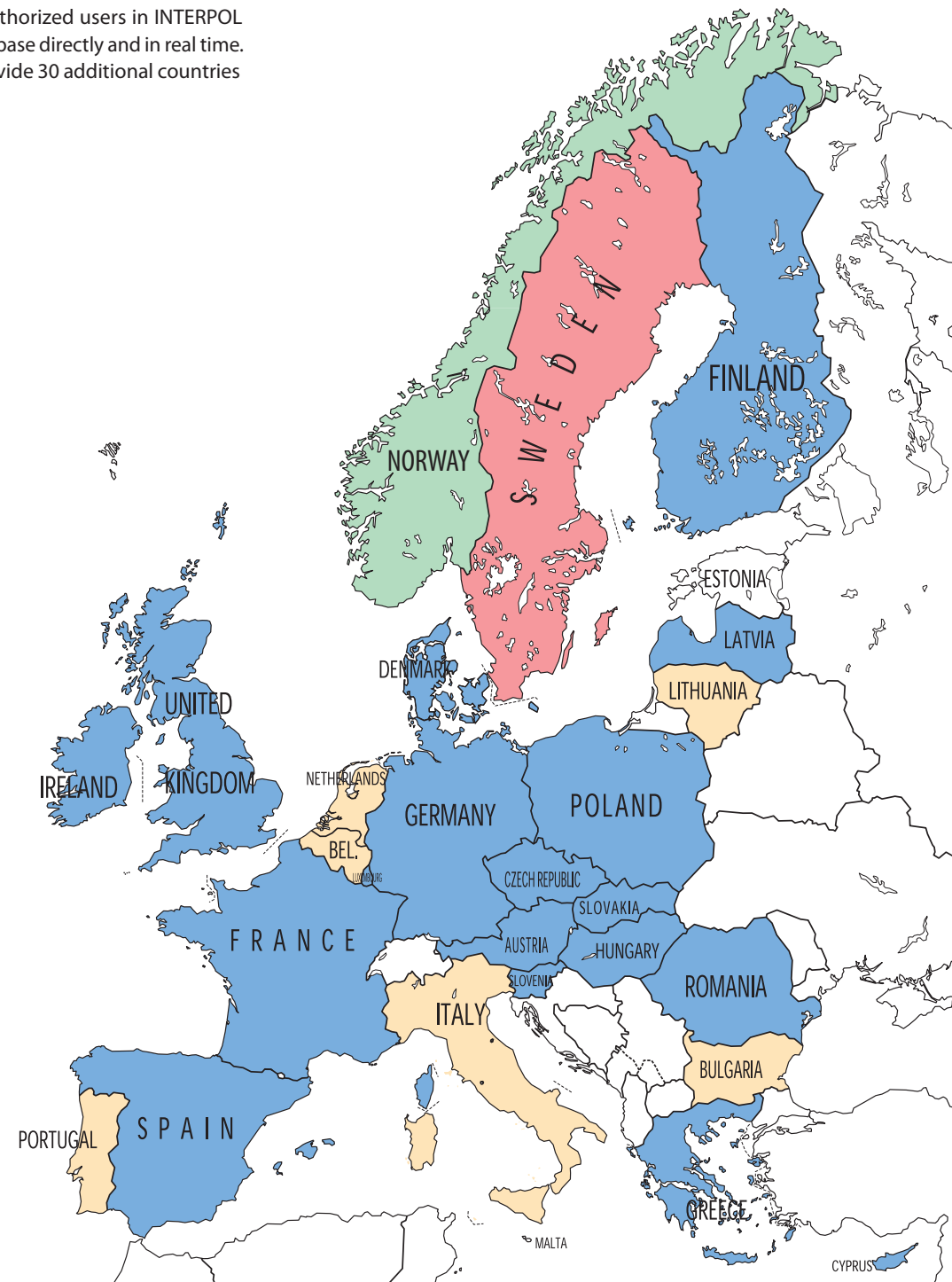
Police investigations of child sexual abuse cases often face the problem of handling large amounts of seized equipment. The

objective of the FIVES project is to develop novel investigative tools specifically tailored for investigations involving images and videos of child sexual abuse. 6 partners from 5 different European countries cooperate in this project.

### d. INTERPOL

Running: 01/09/2009 to 31/08/2012  
Safer Internet Programme funding: €500.000

The main objective of the International Child Sexual Exploitation Image Database (ICSEDB) is to increase the number of victims identified and rescued from abuse. To this end, it uses sophisticated image comparison software to make connections between victims and places. It also allows authorized users in INTERPOL member countries to access the database directly and in real time. The objective of the project is to provide 30 additional countries with access to the system.



## 3. Setting up a knowledge base on young people's use of new technologies

### a. EU KIDS Online II (Enhancing knowledge regarding European children's use, risk and safety online)

Running 01/07/2009 to 30/06/2011  
Safer Internet Project funding: 2.5 million €

EU KIDS Online II is the first study across most of the EU Member States which is conducted on both parents and children in order to investigate their attitudes and actions towards online safety.

25 European countries will work together on this project, coordinated by a management group from 5 countries. The project builds on the work of EU Kids Online I, which compared available research across 21 European countries.

### b. POG (Understanding the process of online grooming: the behaviors of men who target young people online)

Running 01/06/2009 to 30/11/2011  
Safer Internet Project funding: 420.000 €

POG is the first European research project that will study the characteristics and behaviour of sexual offenders who have used the internet to groom young people. Researchers will conduct a scoping study that will review online groomers' case files, provide a report of the research and policy literature from each partner country, and interview strategic stakeholders concerned with the management and prevention of online grooming. The main phase of the research will involve in-depth interviews with online groomers in the UK, Italy, Belgium and Norway. 6 partners from 4 different European countries are cooperating on this project.

## 4. Involving civil society

### a. The European NGO Alliance for Child Safety Online (ENACSO)

Running: 01/09/2008 to 31/08/2010  
Safer Internet Programme funding: 300.000 €

The European NGO Alliance for Child Safety Online (eNACSO) consists of European children's rights organisations engaged in child online safety. The network will forge joint strategies for change, and promote its recommendations to national, European and international decision-makers and other relevant stakeholders, including in relation to the way the governance of the internet develops into the future. 18 partners from different countries cooperate in this network.

## 5. Filtering and content labeling

### a. SIP-Bench study

A benchmarking study of filtering software and services is running in the period 2010-2012. Every 6 months a ranking list will be produced to help European parents to choose the parental control tool that best fits their needs. First results will be available in October 2010.

The current study builds upon the results of the first SIP-Bench study (2006-2008), which carried out an annual benchmarking exercise of approximately 30 parental control products or services. Its results showed that, overall, tools improved over this three year period and that they have become easier to install.

## B. International co-operation

### 1 INHOPE's international membership

In addition to its European members, INHOPE, the network of hotlines, also includes members from Australia, Canada, Taiwan, Japan, Russia, South Africa, South Korea and the US. They all contribute to fighting against illegal content on a global scale.

### 2 Russia

On 12-13 November 2009, a conference on Safer Internet for Children took place in Moscow. It represented a milestone in EU-Russia co-operation in the field of child safety online, and was attended by 180 participants from all over the EU and Russia, gathering stakeholders from government, industry, child protection experts, researchers and child welfare workers. The conference was also attended by high representatives from the Russian Duma.

Co-operation with Russian stakeholders will continue with the establishment of a Russian Safer Internet Centre.

## C. Events

### Safer Internet Forum

The Safer Internet Forum has been organized by the Safer Internet Programme as an annual conference on online safety issues since 2004. It brings together representatives of industry, researchers, law enforcement authorities, child welfare organizations and policy makers from Europe and beyond.

Each year, the Safer Internet Forum has a different main topic. Over the years, the topics have ranged from child safety and mobile phones, to fighting against illegal content and conduct, awareness-raising mechanisms, age verification and social networking, children and online safety education.

The 2010 edition of the Safer Internet Forum will take place on 21-22 October, in Luxembourg.

### Safer Internet Day

Safer Internet Day, organised by INSAFE, has been celebrated since 2004 in more than 50 countries. Held every second Tuesday in February, it is part of a global drive to empower young people and to rally a wide range of online safety stakeholders to the cause.



The Safer Internet Programme supports the local initiatives and organizes a central event to increase the visibility of Safer Internet Day.

The 2010 edition of Safer Internet Day, which took place on 9 February, promoted the slogan "Think before you post!", aimed at helping children and young people make informed choices on the personal information they post online and informing them on potential consequences of their online actions.

## D. Self-regulation

The Internet and mobile technologies are areas that develop at a fast pace. In order to react quickly to new developments in terms of children's use and emerging risks, the Commission supports industry self-regulation, with an aim to ensuring a safer environment for children and young people.

Two self-regulation initiatives have been taken by the industry at European level with the support of the European Commission.

### 1 European Framework for Safer Mobile Use by Young Teenagers and Children

In February 2007, leading mobile operators and content providers signed a **European Framework for Safer Mobile Use by Younger Teenagers and Children**.

The Framework describes principles and measures that the signatories committed to implementing on the national level throughout Europe.

Implementation reports published by GSMA Europe in March 2008 and April 2009 show that most European countries adopted national codes of conduct in order to ensure safer mobile use by young people. These apply 90% of the European code.

### 2 Safer Social Networking Principles for the EU

In February 2009, major social networks active in Europe signed the **Safer Social Networking Principles for the EU**, a self-regulatory document regarding the online safety of under 18s.

The signatories to the Principles have provided the Commission with publicly available self-declarations on how they implement this agreement in their safety policies. In February 2010, the Commission published the results of an independent assessment of the implementation of this agreement.

**Further information on the Safer Internet Programme**, as well as contact details of the running projects can be found online at

<http://ec.europa.eu/saferinternet>