



SaferInternet4Kids.gr

ΓΙΑ ΕΝΑ ΑΣΦΑΛΕΣΤΕΡΟ ΔΙΑΔΙΚΤΥΟ



# PROJECT REPORT 2016-2019



# INTRODUCTION

The Greek Safer Internet Center (SIC) was launched in July 2016 under the auspices of the Foundation for Research and Technology - Hellas (FORTH), in particular the Institute of Computer Science (ICS). FORTH is one of the largest research centers in Greece with well-organized facilities, highly qualified personnel and a reputation as a top-level research institution worldwide. FORTH reports to the General Secretariat for Research and Technology of the Hellenic Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs.

FORTH conducts specialized scientific research in strategic high-added value sectors, focusing on interdisciplinary research and development (R&D) activities in areas of major scientific, societal and economic interest, such as: Lasers and Photonics, Microelectronics, Advanced Materials/Nanotechnology, Molecular Biology and Genetics, Biotechnology, Computer Science, Bioinformatics, Precision Medicine, Systems Biology, Robotics, Telecommunications, Applied and Computational Mathematics, Chemical Engineering Sciences, Energy, Environment, Human and Social Sciences, Astrophysics and Astronomy.

FORTH comprises 9 Research Institutes:

- Institute of Electronic Structure and Laser (IESL)
- Institute of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology (IMBB)
- Biomedical Research Division in Ioannina (BRD)
- Institute of Computer Science (ICS)
- Institute of Applied and Computational Mathematics (IACM)
- Institute of Astrophysics (established in 2018)
- Institute for Mediterranean Studies (IMS)
- Institute of Petroleum Research (established in 2019)
- Institute of Chemical Engineering Sciences (ICE-HT)



# THE INSTITUTE OF COMPUTER SCIENCE

The Institute of Computer Science has had a relatively long history and recognized tradition, since its establishment in 1983, in conducting basic and applied research, developing applications and products, providing services, and playing a leading role in Greece and internationally, in the fields of Information and Communication Technologies.

Activities of ICS cover important research and development areas, encompassing new perspectives, emerging fields of research and technological challenges worldwide. In its continuing efforts to exploit its research activities and results, the Institute contributes significantly to the diffusion of modern Information and Communications Technologies in the public and private sectors. Thus, ICS acts as a catalyst for the development of the Information and Communication Technologies sector in Greece, and the creation of favorable conditions for the emergence of an Information Society acceptable by all citizens.

## **FORTH-ICS**

Has achieved excellence by establishing a balance among its various activities, and in particular:

- Basic and applied research, development of large scale applications exploiting the results of research, development of products and services, cooperation with other research institutions and the private sector, participation in national and European research and development projects, as well as in collaborative projects with industry.
- Is highly competitive at an international level, and many of its activities are carried out in the context of European collaborative research and development projects, which emphasize the development of Information Society Technologies and infrastructures in a number of domains of national importance and regional interest.
- Is a protagonist in the sector of Information and Communication Technologies in Greece. Its activities cover important research and development topics in the framework of the emerging Information Society.
- Contributes to the economic, social and technological development of the Region of Crete through international collaborative activities and, in particular, through its participation in programmes addressing the South-East Mediterranean area. In this effort, FORTH-ICS collaborates closely with local authorities and organizations.
- Places special emphasis on education and training, by providing a significant number of scholarships to undergraduate and postgraduate students and by training numerous professionals in cutting-edge Information and Communication Technologies.

# GREEK SAFER INTERNET CENTER AT A GLANCE

The activities of the Greek Safer Internet Center evolve around the following main axis:



## SaferInternet4Kids.gr

Awareness for the safe use of the internet is achieved through the informative portal [www.saferinternet4kids.gr](http://www.saferinternet4kids.gr), which addresses children, teenagers, parents and educators, offering a variety of multimedia educational material. Publications on the main social media channels, such as Facebook, Twitter and Instagram play a key role in the promotion of the awareness activities. Last but certainly not least, informative sessions are held on a weekly basis for students, teachers and parents, while many major events take place in central locations nationwide.



## Help-line.gr

The Help-line offers direct support and advice from specialized psychologists on topics related to the proper and safe use of the internet. The Help-line is available by phone at 210-6007686 and online at [www.help-line.gr](http://www.help-line.gr).



## SafeLine.gr

The Greek Hotline for illegal internet content, available online at [www.safeline.gr](http://www.safeline.gr), provides to the public the ability to report anonymously illegal internet content and activity. SafeLine is an official member of INHOPE since the 18th of October 2005, and cooperates with the Cyber Crime Unit of the Greek Police and INTERPOL.

# THE GREEK SAFER INTERNET CENTER IN NUMBERS (JULY 2016 - JUNE 2019)

The Greek Safer Internet Center, in its three years of operation, under the auspices of the Foundation for Research and Technology - Hellas, engages in a series of actions to raise awareness and provide information about internet safety for children, young people, parents and educators. Awareness and empowerment efforts include the creation and provision of educational material that can be used in the classroom or at home with the primary goal of adopting good practices of internet use while promoting the positive aspects of technology.

**119.031** unique visitors on [www.saferinternet4kids.gr](http://www.saferinternet4kids.gr)

**30.000 followers** on Facebook, 13.000 followers on Twitter, presence on Instagram

**350+ informative events** in schools

**60+ major informative events** in central locations nationwide

**3 major events for the celebration of Safer Internet Day** (SID) under the auspices of the Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs

**3 National Student Competitions**, organized on the occasion of Safer Internet Day, under the auspices of the Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs

A national survey concerning the online behavior of children and teenagers with more than 14.000 participants between 10 and 17 years of age, under the approval of the Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs. The survey is the largest one on this topic ever performed in the country.

**Online surveys** for parents

**350 articles** on internet safety

**62 informative leaflets**

**30 PowerPoint presentations**

**17 educational videos**

**15 online webinars** for teachers

**3 e-books** for small Kids

**Educational material**  
for kindergarten children

**50+ posters** with a variety  
of messages

**15 online quizzes**

Informative educational material has already been created for people with special needs and children with special educational needs.



A webinar for individuals with hearing loss has been created in collaboration with “Communication Bridges”, the National Association for Individuals with Deafness. Although technology and the internet provide excellent opportunities for any individual, the excessive use of the internet is a significant problem among teenagers with hearing loss. This webinar describes in their own language (the Greek sign language) how they can avoid excessive use of the internet.

Furthermore, part of the “star toolkit” webpage (<http://www.childnet.com/resources/star-toolkit>) of the UK Safer Internet Center (copyright Childnet International) which addresses children with special educational needs has been translated/adapted and became available in Greek.

The key role of the media in spreading the message of safe internet use and quality online content is recognized by the Greek Safer Internet Center. A great number of press releases on various issues related to child protection on the internet are spread, and very often Greek Safer Internet Center’s representatives are invited on television and radio shows. Moreover, on the 27th of October 2016, the biweekly emission of the Greek Safer Internet Center aired at the National Greek radio station ERT. All radio and television activity of the Greek Safer Internet Center are available on the Center’s YouTube channel.

With the support of the Radio and Television Council, radio and TV spots have been broadcasted on national and regional radio and TV channels. More specifically:

**100+** television interviews

**90+** radio interviews

**2.000** publications in electronic and printed media

A Newsletter is issued every three months and is been delivered through all major communication channels to schools, educators, the press and through the web portal and Center’s social networking sites (Facebook, Twitter and Instagram).

# ONLINE SURVEY TO 14.000 STUDENTS IN GREECE ABOUT THEIR ONLINE HABITS

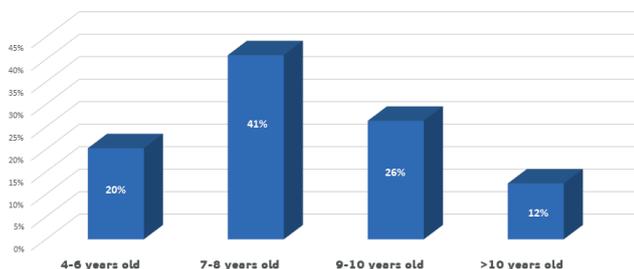
The main goal of this research performed by the Greek Safer Internet Center, is to capture children's internet habits and to draw safe conclusions that will be used as guidelines for planning the Center's awareness policy and educational activities for children, parents and teachers.

At the same time, as this is the only survey at this scale for the topic in Greece, it can serve as a valuable tool for policy- and decision-makers, such as the Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs, in order to resume a leading role in educating students in this very important subject. Furthermore, it is a useful tool in the hands of the educational community, as the survey reveals children's risky habits when using the internet, which can lead to difficult or even dangerous situations.

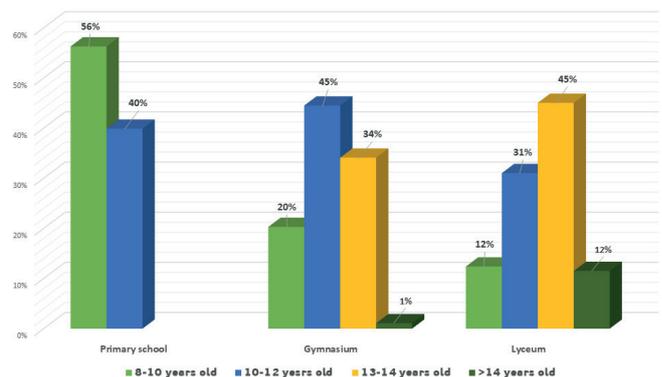
The survey took place in November-December 2018 under the approval of the Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs. The unit of analysis was primary and secondary school pupils. More specifically, 14,000 pupils between 10 and 17 years of age from 400 schools of Athens, Thessaloniki, Heraklion Crete, Patras and Larissa responded to the survey.

It was conducted in the form of an anonymous online questionnaire which was submitted by students mainly during the computer lesson under the supervision of their instructor. The variables of the survey are the educational level (Elementary / Secondary school), Gender (Boy / Girl), sampling area (Athens / Thessaloniki / Heraklion / Patras / Larissa) and the educational level of parents (Basic Education / University Education).

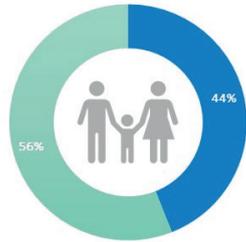
## When did you start to use the internet?



## At what age did you start to use social media?



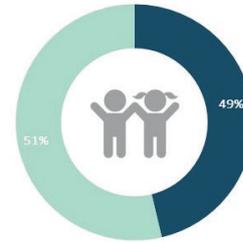
Educational level of parents



56% have basic education

44% have University education

Students Gender



51% are girls

49% are boys

## GENERAL RESULTS

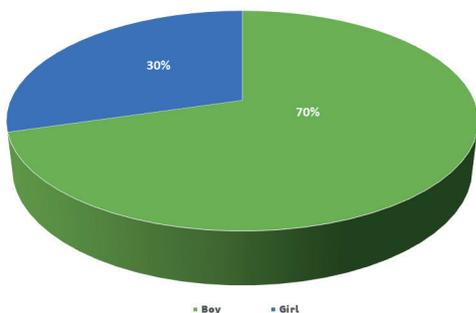
In conclusion, most parents in Greece do not realize the importance of setting limits and rules concerning internet use for their kids from very young age, and they lack the required vigilance on this topic.

Children make use of social networks at an ever-younger and inadmissible age, often opening profiles of falsehoods, ignorant of their parents. A large percentage of them put themselves at risk by adopting wrong practices such as accepting friendship requests from strangers, meeting people they get to know online, sharing very personal photos on the web, sharing material without thinking of the possible consequences. A point of utmost importance emerging from the answers is the fact that one in five children admit to have received some kind of online harassment at some point in their "digital" life.

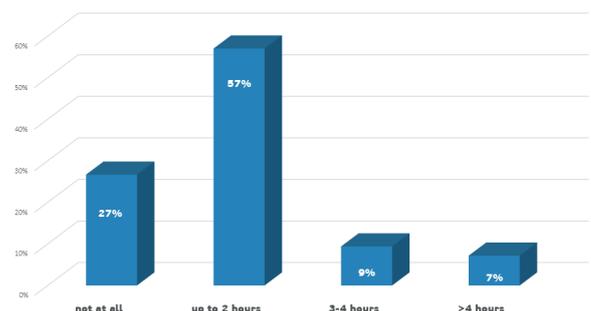
Concerning the key issue of excessive use, almost half of the children admit that they are neglecting their activities for the sake of the internet, while about one in three children either admit or believe to have an internet addiction problem.

Other results of the survey show that almost all children use the internet either daily or half days of the week. 9 out of 10 children have mobile phones, the majority of children start to use the internet at 7-8 years, an age constantly decreasing over time. One in five children begin to use the internet at the very young and sensitive age of 4-6 years. Girls, as shown by the survey, are mainly engaged in social networks and boys in online games.

### Playing online games is the most frequent activity online



### How much time do you spend on online games per work day?





## **PROPOSED ACTIONS BY THE GREEK SAFER INTERNET CENTER**

Based on the survey results it is apparent that:

- Enhanced knowledge of safe internet use is important not only for children but also for parents. The Greek Safer Internet Center, through a series of awareness actions, will attempted to further sensitize the hard-to-reach parent target group in order to become more aware of the potential dangers hidden behind inappropriate internet use, while emphasizing the benefits and added value of the internet as a powerful medium in every aspect of life for the generation to come.
- There is a need for all teachers - regardless of their specialization - to be trained on safe internet use, in order to acquire the abilities that will allow them to be effectively supportive to children, as well as, to strengthen children's trust in educators for general internet usage issues.
- It is important to strengthen the knowledge of good practices related to internet use by children. The Greek Safer Internet Center, in collaboration with other stakeholders, will take initiatives to persuade decision-makers in the Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs about the necessity of incorporating appropriate internet safety courses into school curriculums.
- At the same time, planning of the awareness policy of the Greek Safer Internet Center is based and will be further led in the future by much of the research results. Targeted interactive educational material will be designed for all educational levels to be delivered to schools, while relevant material will be also designed for the training of parents and educators.

# CONTRIBUTION TO THE BIK PLATFORM

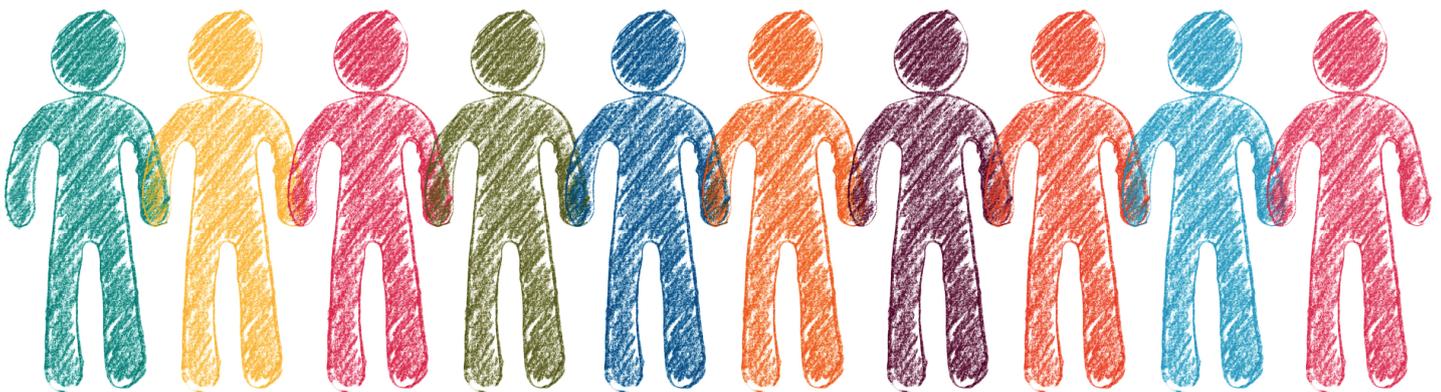
The Greek Safer Internet Center is a member of the Insafe European Network in order to exchange expertise in various forms as follows: provides input from its activities such as published material, developed tools and methods, etc. The Greek Safer Internet Center also contributes to the development of better exchange tools and communication between national nodes and the European Network. It participates effectively in the further development of best practices in light of emerging trends and changes in the internet and helps build a pan-European approach and a common vision. It also, participates in all meetings and events organized by the European Network, and helps develop a common strategy and vision in critical issues.

30 articles      85 awareness tools and methods

## NATIONAL COOPERATION

The Greek Safer Internet Center networks at national level with all relevant stakeholders (Ministries, the Police authorities, ISPs, NGOs, Consumers' Unions, etc.), bringing them together into a single united body, the Advisory Board of the Center, that meets up once a year, while engaging jointly in a variety of other activities throughout the year.

The Advisory Board acts as an open communication channel transferring to key national organizations news from the EC and the European Networks, and injecting best practices and the highlights of the European scenery related to safer internet. Complementary, the Advisory Board acts as an information exchange body, promoting dialogue and helping carry the message of safer internet through all major stakeholders in Greece.



# COMPOSITION OF THE ADVISORY BOARD

Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs  
 General Secretariat of Information  
 Cyber Crime Unit of the Greek Police  
 Criminal Investigation Department, Police Headquarters Greek  
 Hellenic Data Protection Authority  
 The Panhellenic School Network  
 Facebook  
 OTE / Cosmote  
 Google Hellas  
 Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, School of Law

National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, School of Law  
 National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Experimental Psychology Laboratory  
 University of the Aegean, Department of Information & Communication Systems  
 Research Center Demokritos  
 Youth Office of the Archdiocese of Athens  
 UNICEF  
 Umbrella NGO  
 Consumers Union EKPIZO  
 Juvenile Probations Officers

The third meeting of the Greek SIC's Advisory Board took place on Tuesday, 13th of November 2018, gathering representatives from the state, industry, the academic community and child protection organizations. The discussions focused on the changes in the protection of children's online privacy that are still pending, even after the implementation of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

Constructive discussions arose from the statements of Dr. Konstantinos Limniotis from the Hellenic Data Protection Authority, Facebook's representative Ms. Laura Bononcini, and the representative from Viber Mr. Momchil Elenkov.





## YOUTH PANNEL

The Greek Youth Panel is composed of 27 members from various locations in Greece. The youth panelists are in various educational levels, elementary school, gymnasium and lyceum. The geographic distribution of the youth panel members can be seen in the map below. Members from all geographical areas of Greece have been included.

Members of the Youth Panel participate, exchange opinions and receive education from events organized at pan-European level between Youth Panel representatives of the other European Awareness Centers. The members of the Youth Panel meet twice a year setting out the policy they will follow in order to raise awareness among their peers. From the very first meeting young people's concerns about whether they will receive the appropriate skills to become responsible digital citizens have been highlighted.

The Youth Panel played a protagonist role during the main event for the celebration of SID 2019. Through their experiences and self-made videos, they sent a strong message that life is not on a screen but outside where one can develop real relationships and experience real feelings. The intervention of the Youth Panel on issues such as cyberbullying and the protection of personal data was also crucial. Based on their own experiences they created two relevant guides.

## ACADEMY OF TRAINERS

The Greek Safer Internet Center has created an Academy of Trainers - the Safer Internet Ambassadors. The Academy is composed of educators and health professionals, who participate and contribute voluntarily. The role of the Academy is to educate the public via seminars addressing students, parents and professionals all over Greece for issues pertaining to the better use of the internet.

The Greek SIC ambassadors are spread all over the country, covering a large portion of the population and acting as peer educators for students and parents all over Greece.

They use the material developed, adapted, and promoted through the Greek Safer Internet Center, and they are educated and informed about the latest developments on internet safety through live webinars at regular intervals.

# SAFER INTERNET DAY 2019

## GREAT CELEBRATIONS IN GREECE

On the occasion of SID 2019, a major event was organized by the Greek Safer Internet Centre at the Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs, where more than 1,000 participants raised their voices with one message: "Together for a better Internet".

At the same time, supporters from all educational levels and from all over the country organized parallel activities, using educational material provided by the Greek SIC. All the supporters participated in the celebration of their schools or organizations and sent a loud message for not only a safer, but also a better internet.

Excessive online gaming, children's self-esteem in the era of social networks, and fake news were the main issues discussed during the event. Young people from the Greek Youth Panel were once again at the spotlight, when they shared their experiences and thoughts about the web today. Furthermore, they created a video with powerful messages to persuade their peers that life is not in front of a screen but out there, in the real world, where one can develop real relationships and experience real feelings.

The event concluded with the awards ceremony for the National Student Competition, which were organized on the occasion of Safer Internet Day 2019, under the auspices of the Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs. More than 400 schools of all educational levels from across the country participated, and children's contributions surpassed expectations, making the selection of the winners a very challenging process for the organizing committee.







SaferInternet4Kids.gr

www

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Awareness action of the Greek Safer Internet Center

help  
saferinternet **line**

The Helpline of the Greek Safer Internet Center

safeLine.gr

The Hotline of the Greek Safer Internet Center  
for illegal Internet content



Co-financed by the European Union  
Connecting Europe Facility