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From EU Kids Online, London School of Economics and Political Science, UK

European countries divide into four groups:

Researchers have found that European countries divide into four main groups, based on children's risk profiles:

•Supported risky explorers (Denmark, Finland, the Netherlands, Norway, and Sweden)

This cluster has more children who are experienced social networkers. They encounter more sexual risks online and their parents are more actively involved in guiding their children's internet use.

•Semi-supported risky gamers (Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Poland, and Romania)

In these countries, children encounter only moderate online opportunities, mainly focused on entertainment, especially games. Yet they still experience relatively high levels of risk and harm: some encounter a specific risk, others a range of risks.

•Protected by restrictions (Belgium, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Portugal, Spain, Turkey, and the UK)

Children's online experiences in this cluster of countries is characterised by relatively low levels of risk probably because internet use is also more limited, largely restricted to practical activities. While parents might be glad that their restrictive mediation practices prevent risk, it does seem that they may miss out on many of the online opportunities

•Unprotected networkers (Austria, Hungary, Lithuania, and Slovenia)

Finally, there is a cluster of countries where children's experiences are fairly narrow but potentially problematic since parents are not involved in their children's use: web 2.0 opportunities are intensely taken up and the children encounter related risks but not as much harm, other opportunities are less likely to be taken up.

For more information:

The report *"Country Classification: Opportunities, Risks, Harm and Parental Mediation"* updates and deepens the understanding of cross-national differences among the countries surveyed in EU Kids Online. This new analysis reveals that differences within countries are substantially larger than differences between countries, whether measured in terms of online opportunities, risk of harm or forms of parental mediation. The advantage of such pan-

Information about the project and survey:

The *EU Kids Online* project aims to enhance knowledge of European children's and parents' experiences and practices regarding risky and safer use of the internet and new online technologies, and thereby to inform the promotion of a safer online environment for children. The project is funded by the EC Safer Internet Programme (SI-2010-TN-4201001).

EU Kids Online conducted a face-to-face, in-home survey among 25,000 9-16 year-old internet users and their parents in 25 countries, using a stratified random sample and self-completion methods in the case of sensitive questions.

Countries included in the survey are: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Turkey and the UK. In addition the project includes research teams from Croatia, Iceland, Latvia, Luxembourg, Malta, Russia, Slovakia and Switzerland.

For more findings, see Livingstone, S., Haddon, L., Görzig, A., and Ólafsson, K. (2011). *Risks and safety on the internet: The perspective of European children. Full findings*. LSE, London: EU Kids Online, available at http://eprints.lse.ac.uk/33731/. Other reports and technical survey details are at www.eukidsonline.net