

Finland

According to EU Kids Online children and young people in Finland use the internet mainly for online games, watching video clips and communicating with each other. Using the internet for schoolwork, on the other hand, is less common than in most other European countries. Finland is one of the countries where internet risks are encountered more often than in other European countries though few children say that they have not been bothered or upset by something on the internet. The most prevalent risk is seeing sexual images on- and offline. At the same time, young people in Finland seem to have more digital skills than any other country in the survey.

According to both parents and children parents are very active in their mediation of internet safety. Interestingly, there are big differences between parents' and children's opinions especially on the question of whether parents monitor the child's internet use. Parents claim to be much more active than children think they are suggesting that discussion about children's internet usage in families is insufficient.

The principal recommendation in Finland is that media education and pedagogical use of ICT should be part of school curriculum. It is important to enhance children's reasonable, positive and productive use of ICT and media. Social support should be strengthened and family interaction should be highlighted. The role of parents in guiding use of the internet and social networking seems to be effective especially among younger children. Therefore it is important to reinforce parental awareness of internet safety and understanding of internet environments such as social networking that requires new kinds of privacy management. Also, there is a clear need for creative and positive online content appropriate for young children.