

Greece

Greece has been classified as a 'lower use, lower risk' country by the EU Kids Online II findings, where lower levels of internet use among children result in lower exposure to online risks. In this respect, the fact that, overall, few children in Greece report excessive use of the internet (i.e. 5% of them reported having gone without eating or sleeping because of the internet; 12% felt bothered when not being able to get online; 20% caught themselves surfing while not really interested; 8% spent less time than appropriate with either family, friends or doing schoolwork because of the time spent online; and 15% tried unsuccessfully to spend less time online) is no cause for alarm.

Greece is also among those countries with the lowest risk encountered online (along with Turkey, Portugal and Italy), whether that refers to seeing online sexual images (14%), having been sent nasty online messages (4%), seeing or sexting (11%), having contact online with someone not met face-to-face before (20%), gone to meet someone face-to-face that was first met online (6%), encountering potentially harmful user-generated content (19%), or having experienced any kind of misuse of personal data (7%). Following that, the percentage of Greek children that reported feeling at least a bit upset as a result of the above risks is rather small, indicating that for the large majority of them, such online activities are harmless - something to be taken into consideration when planning risk management. Having said that, as often argued by the EU Kids Online network, and following a developmental path, rising levels of internet use are expected to be accompanied by rising levels of opportunities as well as risk, hence children in Greece need to be advised of how best to balance their

regulatory management of online practices for children. In fact, as the level of digital skills of children in Greece (a mixture of critical and safety skills) is among the lowest in Europe, policy makers need to prioritize the development of such skills as a matter of urgency.