

## **Lithuania**

Lithuanian children are very active internet users. 86% of Lithuanian children use the Internet, 72% do it every day, and 76% have their own social profiles. Lithuanian children have good digital skills and they very positively value the internet and its opportunities. On the other hand intensive internet use is associated with different kinds of risks (e.g. online bullying, pornography, meeting online contacts offline and other) and potential harm. There is a need to protect children from these risks and to lessen the possibility of potential harm resulting from encounter with risks.

Safety recommendations can be made in two areas - internet-related and risk-related: In relation to internet use digital literacy should be raised. Schools could play the main role in education both for children and parents in such subjects as internet safety, online risks, and instrumental management with online risks. Internet providers and media should take an active role in these activities too. As younger children are the most vulnerable and their internet use starts at an early age internet safety information for parents and children should be provided even at preschool level.

On the other hand, raising awareness should be based not only on emphasizing threats and risks. Lithuanian children value the internet and benefit very positively from its use. It is very important that opportunities and benefits of using the internet are emphasized and children learn to use the internet for educational and self-enhancement purposes. In order to achieve these goals people working in educational field should have sufficient digital literacy and update it regularly.

It is more and more evident that the online world and online communication is related to offline reality. This means that some considerable steps need to be taken not only in relation to the internet but also in relation to overall risks. Educational institutions in their curriculum (e.g. during lectures on ethics), media, governmental institutions and NGO's should pay more attention to such risks as bullying, pornography, violent acts etc., its harm and ways of coping with/avoiding it (both offline and online).