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# **CYBER SAFE**

### **CYBERSAFE Newsletter**

CYBERSAFE is a 2-year project funded by the European Union. Nine project partners in 8 European countries aim to develop, promote and disseminate innovative experiential as well as playful educational ICT tools that facilitate behavioural change among teenagers (12-18) on cyber violence against women and girls.

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# Changing attitudes among teenagers on cyber violence against women and girls

Final Conference (online) November 9th, 2021



CYBERSAFE: Conference on changing attitudes among teenagers on cyber violence against women and girls

On 9 November 2021, the CYBERSAFE project held its final online conference on changing attitudes among teenagers on cyber violence against women and girls. The conference presented the main findings and outcomes of the CYBERSAFE project, including the CYBERSAFE Toolkit to address the issue of online violence against girls in a classroom setting. In addition to that, a panel with three specialists from Northern Ireland, Estonia and South Korea was organised to provide different perspectives and promising practices on cyber violence and how to tackle it. The conference took place from 9am to 1:30 pm and welcomed 105 participants throughout the day. It was organised by Union of Women Associations of Heraklion Prefecture and the WAVE

WAVE Executive Manager Stephanie Futter-Orel opened the conference and highlighted the increased added value of the delivery of the CYBERSAFE project due to the COVID-19 pandemic, due to the heightened risk to the exposure of cyber violence. She concluded the introduction by highlighting the efforts of the innovative and experiential educational tools of the project such as the CYBERSAFE Toolkit, which are needed today more than ever to raise awareness as well as to encourage and support young people in safe and responsible online behaviour.

The conference also welcomed the keynote speaker Cecilia Navarra, Policy Analyst from the European Parliament (Directorate-General for Parliamentary Research Services, European Added Value Unit) who presented the EU policy perspective and the assessment of policy options at the EU level through the "Combating gender-based violence: Cyber violence European added value assessment study (March 2021)". From a gender-based violence perspective it is important to include the online component, and from a cybercrime perspective, it is crucial to include the gender and intersectional dimension. Cecilia Navarra concluded her speech by providing possible policy options at the EU level; both legislative and non-legislative. Secure accession to the Istanbul Convention or the development of similar legislation as well as the inclusion of gender-based cyber violence against women and girls in legislation may close the gap in tackling this phenomenon. Civil society and actors in education also need to be involved in the mitigation of cyber based violence.

The conference also highlighted the main findings and outcomes of the CYBERSAFE project, which were presented by

- Barbara Brečko (University of Ljubljana) who shared the connection of previous research to the better understanding of cyber violence;
- Sarah de Vos (International Child Development Initiatives) and Martin Bärmann (Serious Games Interactive APS) who both presented the CYBERSAFE Toolkit and how to address the issue of online violence against girls in a classroom setting, along with guiding the participants through the online toolkit;
- Giorgi Davidovi (University of Estonia) who shared the impact assessment results of CYBERSAFE pilots in 4 EU countries, meaning the implementation of the CYBERSAFE Toolkit in school settings in Estonia, Greece, Italy and the UK, and
- Elena Floriani (WAVE Network) who gave insight into the project dissemination and communication, as well as its activities to reach different target groups such as stakeholders, professionals, and most notably, teenagers themselves.

The second half of the conference continued with a one-hour panel on cyber violence against teenagers and how to tackle it with Laura Milner, senior research analyst from Northern Ireland, Maria Murumaa-Mengel, Associate Professor of Media Studies of the University of Tartu in Estonia, and Mito Kim, campaign and project team manager of Korea Cyber Sexual Violence Response Center in South Korea.

- Laura Milner who presented her PhD research, entitled 'Rituals, Risks and Rules: How girls negotiate and navigate their sexuality in an era of online communication', informed from 18 focus group discussions with 196 girls and young women aged 11 – 16 across Northern Ireland;
- Maria Murumaa-Mengel (PhD in media and communication) who shared her recent relevant research, which includes studies about the "ideal victim" stereotype of child sexual abuse in children's online forums and explorations of Instagram's misogynist content exposé pages, and
- Mito Kim who highlighted the state of cyber sexual violence against women in Korea and the response activities of the Korea Cyber Sexual Violence Response Center (KCSV). KCSV conducts lectures on raising awareness of cyber sexual crimes, advocacy for victims of cyber sexual violence, and institutional and policy-oriented work against this phenomenon in South Korea.

Thank you to all the project partners, participants and panellists for an enriching conference that included fruitful discussion, exchange and engagement.



# General Recommendation No. 1 on the digital dimension of violence against women

On 24 November 2021, the Council of Europe Expert Group on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO) published its General Recommendation No.1 on the digital dimension of violence against women (VAW). In monitoring the implementation of the Istanbul Convention, GREVIO has identified that the digital dimension of VAW is often being overlooked in domestic laws and policies. To present GREVIO's first General Recommendation, a <u>launching event</u> was organised by the Council of Europe's Violence Against Women Division.

During the event, Pille Tsopp-Pagan presented the CYBERSAFE project results. The focus of the discussion was how CYBERSAFE project outcomes are used in school settings to prevent cyber violence against women and girls.

Read the GREVIO General Recommendation No. 1 on the digital dimension of violence against women here: <a href="https://www.coe.int/en/web/istanbul-convention/launching-event-of-grevio-s-first-general-recommendation-on-the-digital-dimension-of-violence-against-women">https://www.coe.int/en/web/istanbul-convention/launching-event-of-grevio-s-first-general-recommendation-on-the-digital-dimension-of-violence-against-women</a>



# Conference on anti-discrimination: increasing capabilities and cooperation between European and Korean CSOs

On 19 November 2021, Nicholas M. Spetsidis from the Greek partner organisation Union of Women Associations of Heraklion Prefecture participated in the KEN – EU KOREA Conference. The conference on anti-discrimination aimed to increase capabilities and cooperation between European and Korean civil society organisations. Furthermore, the event was dedicated to highlighting recent gender equality issues in Korea and Europe being:

- public education on gender equality including digital gender-based violence;
- public education and its effectiveness in Korea;
- digital sexual violence education, and
- eradicating toxic masculinity and engaging men in the context of gender equality in Europe and Korea.

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implementation and the volume of the intervention to the 990 attending participants.





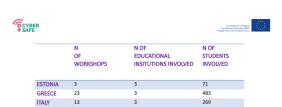
### The Impact Assessment Results of CYBERSAFE Pilots in 4 **EU** countries

In the CYBERSAFE conference, Giorgi Davidovi (University) of Estonia presented the impact assessment results of CyberSafe pilots (implementation of the CYBERSAFE Toolkit in school settings) in Estonia, Greece, Italy and the UK. The focus of the evaluation (Behavioural Impact Assessment framework) was to see if the online tool had an impact on the students' behaviours and what kind of impact it had. There were 4 crucial aspects of the CYBERSAFE Behavioural Impact Assessment framework (BIA) that aimed the validity of study:

- 1. Before carrying out the workshops, CYBERSAFE partners conducted an information session with professionals working with children at targeted
- 2. During the CYBERSAFE Workshops, participating students received the BIA questionnaires before the intervention and then right after the
- 3. The data was also collected from the control groups. Control groups were students from the same setting that have not participated in workshops.
- 4. The follow-up BIA questionnaires were collected from the control group and participating student after 2-3 weeks of implementing the CYBERSAFE workshops.

For the analysis, the pre and post responses of the CYBERSAFE workshop that participants gave were compared, and the results per gender, age, country of origin of the responses, and control and treatment groups were disaggregated. 990 teenagers were reached in educating them on cyber violence against women and girls in 12 schools and 1 sport setting via 43 pilot trainings during 2020-2021.

The CYBERSAFE workshops based on the online tool made a positive difference of adolescents' behavioural intentions towards cyber violence; however, further research is needed to locate the changes detected by the impact assessment in the different political, social, and economic context of each country.



TOTAL



 64 % of participants were 14-15 years old





### More information here:

CyberSafe Replication Guidelines: https://www.stoponlineviolence.eu/wp-

content/uploads/2021/11/CYBERSAFE ReplicationGuide A5 211105 2 web.pdf

CyberSafe Guide for Workshop Facilitators: https://www.stoponlineviolence.eu/wp-

content/uploads/2021/11/CYBERSAFE-Guide-for-workshop-facilitators\_FINAL-with-design.pdf

CyberSafe Authorisation Letter Template and Confirmation Letter: <a href="https://www.stoponlineviolence.eu/wp-">https://www.stoponlineviolence.eu/wp-</a>

content/uploads/2021/11/Cybersafe-Authorisation-Letter.pdf

CyberSafe Pre-Post Workshop questionnaire: https://www.stoponlineviolence.eu/wp-

 $\underline{content/uploads/2021/11/CyberSafe-Pre-Post-Question naire-and-Follow-\underline{up.pdf}}$ 

### **CYBERSAFE Deliverables**

The CYBERSAFE project created several outputs over the project period. Below is a short description of the outputs which can be downloaded from the official project website!

All project outputs are free of charge and are downloadable in the 8 project languages: Danish, Dutch, English, Estonian, German, Greek, Italian, and Slovenian.

- Report on cyber violence against women and girls which describes the existing landscape and key findings on the needs & attitudes of teenagers towards this issue
- Educational Prevention Programme for teenagers on the topic of cyber violence against women and girls which entails:
  - a <u>Serious Online Game</u> promoting behavioural change among teenagers on the topic of cyber violence against women and girls
  - <u>Educational Intervention guidelines</u> that provide relevant information
     & activity tools aiming at the prevention of cyber violence against
     women and girls among teenagers

### **CYBERSAFE Project Partners**

CYBERSAFE has 9 project partners from 8 European countries, working together on preventing cyber violence against women and girls.

- Azienda Speciale Retesalute (Italy)
- International Child Development Initiatives (Netherlands)
- Northern Ireland Rape Crisis Association (United Kingdom)
- Serious Games Interactive APS (Denmark)
- Union of Women Associations of Heraklion Prefecture (Greece)
- University of Tartu (Estonia)
- University of Ljubljana (Slovenia)
- Women Against Violence Europe (Austria)
- Women's Support and Information Centre Women's Support and Information Centre (Estonia)









#cvbersafespace #endcvberVAWG

### Check Out CYBERSAFE Social Media!

Thank you for signing up for the CYBERSAFE newsletter. If you would like to get more frequent updates on what the partners are up to and what the project's outputs are, then please follow our social media accounts.

All project outputs are free of charge and will be downloadable in the 8 project languages: Danish, Dutch, English, Estonian, German, Greek, Italian, and Slovenian.

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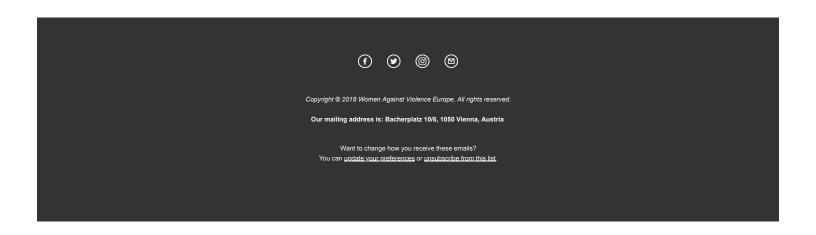
• Instagram

And check out our official hashtags: #cybersafespace #endcyberVAWG

Visit our website too: www.stoponlineviolence.eu







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