

eNACSO IMPACT ASSESSMENT

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1. What is eNACSO?

eNACSO is a **European Children's Rights NGO** network, established in 2008, with a focus on children's and young people's **safety and empowerment online**. The overall aim of the network is to promote and support actions at national, European and international level, to protect children and fulfill their rights online. eNACSO's mission is firmly based on the 1989 UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).

eNACSO membership includes 24 leading children's rights and child protection NGOs from across Europe. eNACSO is funded by the European Commission under the Safer Internet Programme.

2. What do we do?

eNACSO brings together the expertise, experiences and voices of European NGOs that work to **promote children's rights and needs in digital media**. We work to ensure that **child protection** and children's **empowerment** online are high on the **digital political agenda** in Europe.

eNACSO **monitors and analyses emerging trends** in the **digital environment** in order to identify opportunities, concerns and priorities in relation to children's rights and child protection online. We carefully **examine the impact** of online practice, policy and law **on the lives of children**. Together, we **develop** advocacy **strategies, policy and action** to address issues that violate children's rights and promote the empowerment of children online.

A **key strength** of eNACSO is that our network, drawing on our **collective knowledge and experience** of the challenges that children in Europe face online, can develop contributions towards harmonized **cross-border action** and **initiatives** that are of mutual interest to all European countries.

Child participation is a **central and indispensable** part of eNACSO's work. Our research is carried out with the active involvement of children, through focus groups, interviews and written consultations. Children from diverse geographies, cultural and social contexts and backgrounds have generously shared their knowledge and experiences with eNACSO, providing valuable insights, challenging and expanding positions and contributing with ideas to address concerns and empower children online.

eNACSO's key priority areas in recent years include: Business, Children and the Internet; The rules governing General Top-Level Domains; Child sexual abuse and sexual exploitation online; Reform of EU data protection rules and; Migrant Minors and the Internet.

Research: In recent years, eNACSO has commissioned and carried research including on [Business, Children and the Internet](#), [Child, sexual abuse and exploitation online](#), [Young people, sexual rights and the internet](#).

Policy Development: eNACSO carefully examines the impact of current and emerging practice, policy and law on children's rights and children's rights and lives. On the basis of our findings, we develop [policy](#) and recommendations for decision-makers, legislators, the corporate sector etc.

Advocacy: In recent years we have provided [extensive written and oral input](#) to inform legislation and policy. We have organized and engaged in [debates](#) and [written articles](#) and [blogs](#).

eNACSO has contributed to a number of [public consultations](#). We have met and been in contact with policy-makers and legislators, including from the European Commission, the European Parliament and European countries.

Networking: eNACSO has provided unique opportunities for European NGOs to engage in networking, exchange and mutual learning. We have facilitated numerous [members meetings](#) and engaged heavily in [child participation](#). We have also provided opportunities for our members to connect to policy-makers, researchers and other key stakeholders. We engage with NGOs, Universities and the corporate sector.

Awareness-Raising and Empowerment: eNACSO and its members have invested heavily in awareness-raising and empowering children, young people, care-givers, teachers and professionals who work with children in many different areas related to digital media.

3. What does the future hold for eNACSO?

Over the past decade, eNACSO has been funded by the European Commission through the Safer Internet Programme¹. The continuation of this programme is now provided under Connecting Europe Facility (CEF). Unfortunately, the programme under the CEF no longer provides opportunities to fund eNACSO. **Despite action to negotiate a solution with the European Commission and to diversify and seek alternative sources of funding, it looks like eNACSO will cease to exist in 2016.**

Further investment in eNACSO is a strategic and important choice for children's rights and provides good value for money.

eNACSO is in a unique position to harness results, build on progress made and act on remaining challenges. We hold an extensive body of research, policy and institutional knowledge. We already enjoy the involvement of key experts and have broad geographical reach and contacts. eNACSO was conceived of as a project but now represents a strong alliance of European organizations committed to work together.

eNACSO operates on a slim budget and invests only where there is a real need to close a gap in terms of research, policy-development and advocacy. Our deep commitment to making the internet a better place for children is combined with extensive experience, expertise and input from key experts and practitioners across Europe, at a low cost. We are recognised for our valuable contributions among policy-makers, legislators, educators, researchers and other key stakeholders.

¹ DECISION No 1351/2008/EC OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 16 December 2008 establishing a multiannual Community programme on protecting children using the Internet and other communication technologies

There are currently no other European networks of children's rights organisations that engage across the range of our diverse policy priorities. We highlight concerns and opportunities related to children when no one else does, making children's voices heard on issues that really matter to them.

Why do we need a campaigning body with a focus on online child protection policy?

There are still a great many outstanding challenges.

Key facts from studies published in 2015 or 2016.

- [1 in 3](#) of every internet user in the world is under the age of 18 and children and young people are the fastest growing group of digital media users.
- In some countries [40%](#) of young people between 5 and 15 have their own tablet computer, including 15% of 3-4 year olds (the latter up from 11% in 12 months).
- Europe's data privacy commissioners [found](#) that 67% of web sites and apps targeted at children collected personal data but only 31% had effective controls to limit data collection and only 24% encouraged parental involvement.
- [Online marketing practices](#) are having clear impacts on children's behavior. Online advertising to children does not always disclose its commercial intent. Children are not receiving equal protection against unacceptable online marketing across the EU.
- [Access and exposure to pornography](#) are linked to children's and young people's engagement in "risky behavior" and affects their sexual beliefs.
- The [live streaming](#) of child sex abuse is now an [established](#) "harsh reality".
- The sheer volumes of [offenders](#) and [child abuse images](#) in circulation are challenging the capacity of law enforcement to cope meaning the [high tech industries](#) must do a great deal more to combat this terrible crime.

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