



ANNUAL REPORT

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## Welcome from the BOARD

As a child rights organization the primary aim of the European NGO Alliance for Child Safety Online (eNACSO), is to work to secure a better, inclusive and safe Internet for all children. The online environment is constantly changing and children are offered more opportunities to learn and engage. At the same time, these latter constantly face new challenges and risks when online. Online grooming, cyberbullying, the production and distribution of child abuse materials are key concerns, as well as the excessive use or addiction to social networks or games. The inappropriate use of children's personal data and the impact of online advertising and e-commerce is also an increasing cause of concern.

Since its establishment, in 2008, eNACSO has worked primarily in the field of policy formulation and analysis. These activities provide the foundation for our principal task which is to act as advocates for children's rights in the digital environment. We want to help shape a world in which every child can benefit from the advantages new technologies offer.

eNACSO network is under the lead Board working closely with the Coordinator and the team of staff and advisers to strengthen the network, to identify new trends and emerging challenges and to quickly respond to opportunities and concerns.

Drawing on our network's vast knowledge and experience, we look forward to building on progress made and to continue to engage with the new European Commission and Parliament to support policy and legislation that protect children's rights online in Europe and beyond.

eNACSO Executive Board of Directors

## Introduction

eNACSO is an alliance of leading children's rights, child protection and child welfare NGOs drawn from the 28 EU Member States and a number of non–EU states.

In an environment in which international treaties, laws and framework decisions have an increasing impact at the national level, there is a need for a strong voice promoting and defending children's rights and children's welfare in cyberspace. eNACSO is that voice!

Children and young people benefit enormously from the communication and information potential of the Internet. However, there are still many issues which must be addressed relating both to different kinds of harmful content or services and to the Internet's ability to facilitate harmful contacts with abusers.

With this report, we would like to provide an overview of the network's activities from September 2014 to August 2015

## **About**

Our mission is to promote and support actions to protect children and young people by promoting their rights and welfare in relation to the Internet and its associated technologies. We want a better Internet for kids. With co-funding from the European Union's Safer Internet Programme, a living network of children's NGOs has emerged. By sharing good practices and drawing upon the expertise of members we work to ensure a strong NGO voice at the European level and more widely. Based on a solid children's rights framework, eNACSO focuses its efforts on ensuring that policies and strategies related to the Internet take the needs of children and young people fully into account.

Our work is based on the 1989 UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and the Optional Protocol to the UNCRC on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, nonetheless it is evident that the UNCRC did not anticipate the potential degree of intrusiveness into young people's lives that the internet represents.

## Thematic Priorities

Our key objectives are:
① To assess and make recommendations on current and future policy developments related to online child protection and safety and children's rights in cyberspace
<b>2</b> To develop and implement an "Agenda for Action". This includes targeting stakeholders' engagement and influencing decision-makers at the EU, national and international levels.
3 To build a strong and thriving network by sharing experience and best practices, particularly in relation to advocacy.
<b>4</b> To ensure that children are appropriately involved in, and consulted on, eNACSO's work.
eNACSO's work on policy development and the exchange of expertise focuses on four core themes:
Internet governance and collaboration
Fighting online sexual abuse material and combating online grooming
Assessing the effects of new technologies on children's lives from a child rights perspective, with a particular emphasis on ecommerce and associated privacy issues
Furthermore, it is central to eNACSO's approach to ensure that a child rights perspective informs strategies and policy making at all levels within the EU and internationally.

## Key achievements and highlights from the 2014 - 15

#### **Policy Development**

#### When free isn't

An increasing amount of attention is being given to the role of children and young people as economic actors in the online space. Linked to this an associated set of issues are starting to arise in relation to the use and misuse of children's personal data. Furthermore their exposure to different kinds of advertising and commercial activities which typically takes place in situations where close parental supervision or support may be elusive or altogether non-existent. Are businesses doing enough, for example, to ensure that age restricted goods and services are not being illegally acquired by persons who do not meet the stipulated age criterion?

Jointly authored by Professor Agnes, Nairn, this policy paper is scheduled for publication in late Autumn 2015.

#### Child Friendly Report

As part of the strategy to strengthen the dialogue with children and support children's participation in the network's activities, eNACSO decided to develop a child friendly version of "When free isn't". The most important parts of the policy paper are introduced in a highly visual publication, specifically designed by experts in info graphics.

#### **ICANN**

The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) plays a key role in global management of the internet, there has been little action to address a range of serious child protection interests in terms of the way the domain name system operates. Recently ICANN decided to expand the number of domain names available for sale and use. Specifically ICANN proposed to allow the establishment of a .kids domain as well as other domains which have an obvious potential appeal to children and young people e.g. .games, .juegos, .play, .school, .toys. eNACSO is investigating the policies and approaches that ICANN has been pursuing up to now in order to ensure appropriate child protection

measures are built in wherever possible. Exchanges have taken place between the eNACSO Secretariat and representatives of ICANN and further meetings are to be expected in the following months. We strongly believe that our concern will be taken into serious consideration.

#### 'Young people, Sexuality and New Media'- Strategy Group

At the end of the previous phase of the project, eNACSO opened up debates on a new topic related to 'Young people, Sexuality and New Media'. It commissioned a desk research, carried out by Professor Sonia Livingstone at the Department of Media and Communications at LSE, examining available data on the risks and opportunities that 10-17 year olds face when seeking or encountering sexual information or experiences online. The findings establish a solid evidence base for eNACSO's policy development and advocacy in this area. A workshop aimed at developing a common Advocacy Strategy to apply to the Policy Paper on Young People, New Media and Sexualization was held in Brussels on June, 8-9, 2015.

#### The Sustainability Group

eNACSO is a Network funded under the Safer Internet Programme 2009-2013, a multiannual Community Programme on protecting children using the Internet and other communication technologies. 2014-2016 is the 4th and last round of funding for the network.

eNACSO is currently exploring different ways to maintain the project. A Sustainability Group, composed by Save the Children staff, experts and representatives of the Network is currently drafting an operational plan. The 1st Group Meeting was held in London on June, 13th and 14th. The Group is exploring possible structures and the related financial and governance implications of a range of possible funding arrangements.

### **Recent Events**

Directive 2011/93/EU on combating the sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children and child pornography

The Directive 2011/93/EU on combating the sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children and child pornographywas adopted by the European Parliament and the Council on 13 December 2011.

The Directive required Member States to ensure that their legal framework was in line with the Directive by December 2013. A coalition of NGOs, including Missing Children Europe, eNACSO and ECPAT International, undertook a survey to assess the progress made in Member States in terms of giving effect to the Directive. The project looked at a selected number of topics in the EU Member States bound by the Directive.

The NGO Coalition hosted a Workshop on 24th April 2015 in Brussels, presenting the findings of the survey entitled 'Together against Sexual Exploitation of Children' on the transposition of Directive. It focused on three of the seven topics covered by the survey: i. Criminalization of online grooming (Article 6 of the Directive); ii. Disqualification and screening of convicted offenders (Article 10 (1) and (2) of the Directive); iii. Assistance, support and protection measures for child victims (Article 18, 19 and 20 of the Directive).

#### First Member's Meeting in Rome, February 2014

The main purpose of the meeting was to examine the transition between eNACSO II and eNACSO IV, to present the results of work undertaken during eNACSO III and to formally open eNACSO IV.

At the meeting, there was a presentation of the advocacy strategy linked to the policy paper on Business, Children and Internet and the progress made so far. There was also a discussion on possible scenarios for national dissemination of the Child Friendly version of the document.

We also explored new topics related to the Policy Paper, in particular in relation to Privacy and Data Protection. Under the heading 'Cloud and Big Data', experts presented opportunities and challenges in relation to emerging technologies and global Regulation and jurisdiction.

The event was also aimed to broaden the discussion on the topic "young people, sexualization new media"

tackled during previous meeting. The members received a briefing on the mid-term findings resulting from the research that helped us to consider this issue from different perspectives, including the educational one.

The participants also discussed expectations for the future of eNACSO, allowing room for a general debate on which measures are likely to be taken to ensure the Sustainability of the Project beyond the EU funding.

In compliance with formal requirements, the meeting nominated the members of the new Board, which will be responsible for leading eNACSO until the end of this project phase.



Figure 1: A moment of the debate during the event

The event gathered 28 participants in total: 18 representatives of members\associates NGOs; 7 experts and representatives of the academia; 3 people from the eNACSO secretariat.

## **Communication Strategy**

eNACSO has been working to improve its external as well as it external communication abilities. The external strategy aims at influencing key decision makers to develop and implement appropriate actions (policy, legislation, funding and self-regulation) for a better and safer internet for children.

The overall goals of the Communications Strategy are:

- to disseminate news about project activities;
- to share relevant articles, the latest news on internet governance and the children's rights perspective, children's rights and responsibilities in the online world;
- to follow up and spread eNACSO participation in main international events; to raise awareness about key issues and challenges among the main international stakeholders.

Our website is a source of information to industry, lobbyists and key decision makers at EU level as well as general public. It information on members, eNACSO activities, news updates and all our policy and position papers. Project members can contribute to the eNACSO website by proposing news items. The news items posted on the eNACSO website are available also on eNACSO's Twitter account and vice versa. A general restyling of the website is ongoing aiming at making it more suitable for Advocacy purposes.

Also the intranet will be reviewed to encourage and support involvement of partners, including by creating a Platform to share opinions and expertise. Internal communication was enhanced through the development of stronger online communication tools and periodic updates.

eNACSO's Twitter account is currently very active. In February 2015, the number of followers were 527 and the number of tweets were 329.

The network continued to be present in European and international events. Participation in international events is an important tool to pursue the network's advocacy strategy and to raise awareness among stakeholders.

## New Membership Strategy

In view of the crucial phase that eNACSO IV will face in the upcoming month and taking into consideration the recommendations of the Commission upon the need to involve partners in a more active role inside the Partnership, the Board has agreed to not to enlarge the Network to other Organisations, though to strengthen the participation of those existing and consolidate their expertise.

## Strategic Partnership

eNACSO is highly appreciative of the opportunities that our partnerships provide to – together - protect children's rights online. We constantly continue to sustain and develop strategic contacts and partnerships with key decision-makers and stakeholders. This allows us to build alliances and to open up channels through which we can contribute to policy-making and other actions. It also helps us to keep up to date with emerging opportunities and challenges.

With a new European Commission and Parliament in place, our efforts in Spring 2015 were mainly placed on building positive relations with the new Commissioners and Members of the European Parliament (MEPs).

eNACSO welcomed Vice-President Ansip, Commissioner Jourová and Commission Oettinger and subsequently met with their respective Cabinets to introduce the network and to discuss forthcoming opportunities and challenges, in particular in relation to the Digital Single Market.

Our priority on Business, Children and the Internet, prompted us to establish new relations with key actors in DG Justice and Consumer Rights. Meetings were held with the Commission Coordinator on the rights of the child and colleagues working on the protection of vulnerable consumers.

eNACSO also welcomed old and new MEPs, and took steps to establish a relationship with the new EP Intergroup on Children's Rights, offering support in the area of children's rights and digital media.

A summary of our policy paper on Business, Children and the Internet was distributed to MEPs with a particular interest in consumer rights and the Digital Single Market, in some cases resulting in meetings and stronger relations with key influentials in this area.

In light of the forthcoming EP report on the implementation of the Directive on combating child sexual abuse, child sexual exploitation and child pornography, we also continued, together with our NGO partners, to engage with MEPs in the area of child sexual abuse and exploitation online.

eNACSO is currently exploring key strategic partnerships in relation to our priority on young people, sexuality and new media, and is planning to develop alliances to promote our recommendations in the near future.

### Who we are

#### **Members**

Save the Children Italy (Coordinator)

NSPCC United Kingdom

Nobody's Children Foundation Poland

Save the Children Denmark

ISPCC Ireland

**ECPAT Netherlands** 

Save the Children Finland

KÈK VONAL Foundation Hungary

**ECPAT Austria** 

Estonian Union of Child Welfare

**E-Enfance France** 

Save the Children Romania

Child Focus - Belgium

Obrela Greece

Children Support Centre Lithuania

Kanner Jugendtelefon Luxemburg

Deutsche Kinderhilfe Germany

Save the Children Norway

#### Associated members

Action Innocence France

Innocence in danger Germany

<u>La Strada - Ukraine</u>

<u>Stellit - Russia</u>

Media Ecudation Center - Armenia

Happy Children Association Turkey

International Children Centre Turkey

Narodni centrum bezpecnejsiho internet (NCBI) Czech Republic