The Netherlands

Members of the national team made four main recommendations from the Netherlands:

Online report button: In addition to parents who should be the main contact when children encounter problems online, youngsters might also seek help through the internet, whether or not anonymously. In the Netherlands, such an initiative is the website *Helpwanted*, where young people can report online sexual abuse. Additionally, diverse organizations including the police are developing an online report button for internet problems. It is important that young people can get help offline, as well as online, and do not feel ashamed to be open about harm they experienced online.

Professionalization of digital literacy at schools: The Netherlands already has a high-level ICT infrastructure at schools, but lacks professionalized teachers in ICT. Teachers acknowledge that time spent on digital media literacy is at the expense of time spent on teaching their own subject. In the Netherlands, media literacy is not included in the curriculum and the current policy is not to broaden the core learning objectives at school. Nevertheless, the Netherlands Institute for Curriculum Development (SLO) developed a learning programme about media literacy that schools can voluntarily use. Currently, they are also working on a policy instrument to support schools in implementing this programme. It is important that schools get this support, as they are best positioned to reach all children from different social background and teach them the necessary digital skills from a young age onwards.

Age classification of online content: It might be recommended to develop age labelling for websites aimed at children, similar to television parental guidelines ('Kijkwijzer'-pictograms in the Netherlands) or the international Pan European Game Information (PEGI) for games. Ideally, such an initiative should be co-regulated by government and media parties in a European or international setting. Recently, the Dutch government commissioned a 3-year pilot, called *Mediasmarties*, to provide parents with an overview of online content that is suitable for children of different age categories (between 1 and 11 years old). In this way, the available positive content for children at the internet becomes more visible to be of use for parents and educators, but also for childcare and schools.

Improving digital literacy skills of parents: Research from Sonck and De Haan (2011) did not find great effects from active parental mediation on reducing online risks and harm with European children.[1] Not all parents actively mediate children's internet use because they are not aware of possible problems or they lack digital skills. This emphasizes the importance of awareness raising about online risks with parents and improving their digital literacy skills.

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[1] Sonck, Nathalie & De Haan, Jos (Oct. 2011). *Children and Internet Risks. EU Kids Online research with 9-16-year old internet users in the Netherlands*, The Hague: The Netherlands Institute for Social Research, SCP-report.