

# National report for Denmark

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Contribution to the European report:

Uwe Hasebrink, Sonia Livingstone and Haddon, L. (eds) *Comparing Children's Online Opportunities and Risks across Europe: Cross-national Comparisons for EU Kids Online*, a report for the EC Safer Internet Plus Programme, 2008.

## 1. The Internet

### 1.1 Findings on children's access to the Internet and online technologies

Figures from the 2007 Danish statistics show that 96% of Danish families have Internet access at home, and 88% of single-parent families have Internet access. 73% of Danish children have access to the Internet at their school.

[http://dst.dk/upload/se\\_-\\_befolkningens\\_brug\\_af\\_Internet\\_2007\\_\(revideret\\_udgave\).pdf](http://dst.dk/upload/se_-_befolkningens_brug_af_Internet_2007_(revideret_udgave).pdf)

### 1.2 Findings on children's use of the Internet and online technologies

A 2003 study found that most children use the Internet several times a week, and 18% use it several times a day (based on the SAFT online).

<http://saft.medieraadet.dk/upload/pressekonference220503.pdf>

A 2004 report on Danish cultural habits shows that Internet use increases with a child's age; 56% of 13 to 15 year olds use the Internet almost every day, compared to just 26% of 10 to 12 year olds and only 6% of 7 to 9 year olds. In addition, 42% of children in the latter category never use the Internet in their spare time. This number is reduced to 7% among 13 to 15 year olds.

[http://kum.dk/graphics/kum/downloads/Publikationer/Danskernes\\_kultur-og\\_fritidsaktiviteter\\_2004.pdf](http://kum.dk/graphics/kum/downloads/Publikationer/Danskernes_kultur-og_fritidsaktiviteter_2004.pdf)

The same report concludes that there is no gender difference in the amount of Internet use, although the number of boys playing computer games is slightly higher than that of girls.

[http://kum.dk/graphics/kum/downloads/Publikationer/Danskernes\\_kultur-og\\_fritidsaktiviteter\\_2004.pdf](http://kum.dk/graphics/kum/downloads/Publikationer/Danskernes_kultur-og_fritidsaktiviteter_2004.pdf)

### 1.3 Opportunities experienced by children online

In 2003, children identified the following online opportunities that they use (based on the SAFT online):

- Computer games: 71%
- Emails: 50%
- Homework: 28% of the 9 to 12 year olds and 67% of the 13 to 16 year olds
- Online searches for other information: 50%
- Surfing just to experience the Internet: 39%
- Visiting fan sites: 32%
- Chat: 28% of the 9 to 12 year olds and 68% of the 13 to 16 year olds
- Downloading music: 31%
- Visiting hobby sites: 24%
- Creating a website: 18%

- Instant messaging: 12%
- Downloading software: 10%
- Visiting news sites: 9%
- Online shopping: 7%

<http://saft.medieraadet.dk/upload/pressekonference220503.pdf>

The SAFT online study also showed that in 2003, parents identified the following online opportunities for their children:

- As a tool for doing homework or obtaining useful information
- For getting information other than homework
- Developing data skills
- Playing games
- Fun or hobbies

[http://saft.medieraadet.dk/upload/saft\\_parentstudy.pdf](http://saft.medieraadet.dk/upload/saft_parentstudy.pdf)

Data from the 2004 report on Danish cultural habits show that as children get older, they use a wider range of Internet services. Children in the 13 to 15 age range are especially likely to use a variety of services, including TV, radio, music or film downloading sites, computer games, online newspapers, search engines, email, chat features, or creating their own websites and downloading software.

[http://kum.dk/graphics/kum/downloads/Publikationer/Danskernes\\_kultur-og\\_fritidsaktiviteter\\_2004.pdf](http://kum.dk/graphics/kum/downloads/Publikationer/Danskernes_kultur-og_fritidsaktiviteter_2004.pdf)

#### 1.4 Risks experienced by children online

The 2003 SAFT online research found that 39% of Danish children trust the information they find online, which indicates that there is a risk of misinformation. In addition, 35% of children have accidentally encountered violence once or several times, 27% have inadvertently come across hateful content and 29% have visited sites with pornographic content. The report also found that 39% of children had been asked for their personal information and 77% of children have been insulted while chatting.

The Eurobarometer survey from 2005-2006 showed that 28% of parents/guardians think that their child has ever encountered harmful or illegal content on the Internet. The EB 2007 focus groups of children aged 9 to 14 showed that most children across groups think that chat rooms and emailing had the most potential risk, followed by MSN and downloading things from the Internet.

<http://saft.medieraadet.dk/upload/pressekonference220503.pdf>

#### 1.5 Parental mediation

The SAFT online parent report from 2003 showed that Danish parents prefer to mediate through parenting and education; 67% of the parents consider that expanding their children's media competencies is the way forward. In addition, many parents have rules about their children's Internet use (47%), 55% have rules about how much time their children spend online, 19% create rules about giving out personal information and 18% control their children's access to forbidden sites. In all, 40% of the parents expressed a sense of control of their children's Internet usage.

[http://saft.medieraadet.dk/upload/saft\\_parentstudy.pdf](http://saft.medieraadet.dk/upload/saft_parentstudy.pdf)

#### 1.6 Media literacy

Children in the 2003 SAFT online research reported that when they visit hateful websites they cope by using the following methods:

- 24% don't think much about it
- 23% get upset
- 7% thinks it's funny
- 6% agree with the content
- 5% thinks it's cool
- 17% have other feelings
- 11% don't know

<http://saft.medieraadet.dk/upload/pressekonference220503.pdf>

39% of the children said they ignore any violent content they encounter, while 19% have visited harassment sites. Most of them don't give it much thought, or they might think that it's fun or cool to agree with the content on the site. A third of the children passed these links on to friends. 10% of the children had tried bullying persons or groups online.

Another identified risk of the Internet is meeting chat friends in real life for the first time. When doing so, 18% of children went alone, 64% brought a friend of a similar age, 7% brought their mother, 3% their father or sibling, and 2% took another adult.

Eurobarometer 2005-2006 found that 69% of parents/guardians think their child knows what to do if he or she is uncomfortable online, compared to the 24% who think they do not.

The EB 2007 focus groups of children aged 9 to 14 have shown that:

- Generally, children are not nervous about using mobile phones and the Internet, and do not seem to be afraid or take it very seriously. Their awareness of the risks of Internet and mobile phone use does not make them change their conduct in any remarkable way, and normally only a negative experience that will lead to a change of behaviour.
- Most of the older children surveyed were used to encountering pornographic content online, which they do not consider to be a big problem. They deal with such websites by simply going to another one.
- Although most children are aware of the dangers of talking to strangers online, many do it anyway, and without telling their parents. This is especially common among 12 to 14 year old boys, who do not communicate with their parents about what they do online.
- Across all the groups, children were very aware of bullying in its different forms, but it was mostly the girls who considered it a problem. However, of all the different risks and problems dealt with in the discussions, bullying was the one that most children had something to say about and the one that they tended to have most concerns about.