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Cyberbullying – a hidden danger

European perspectives from the EU Kids Online II

Project

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The project “**EU Kids Online**”

General presentation



EU Kids Online is a new and unique survey designed and conducted according to rigorous standards by the **EU Kids Online network**.

The project was funded by the **EC’s Safer Internet Programme**.

EU Kids Online II aimed to enhance the knowledge base regarding children’s and parents’ experiences and practices about the risky and safer use of internet and new online technologies in Europe, in order to inform the promotion of a safer online environment for children.

1. To design a thorough and robust survey instrument appropriate for identifying the nature of children’s online access, use, risk, coping and safety awareness.
2. To design a thorough and robust survey instrument appropriate for identifying the nature of parental experiences, practices and concerns regarding their children’s internet use.
3. To administer the survey in a reliable and ethically-sensitive manner to national samples of internet users aged 9-16, and their parents, in member states.
4. To analyse the results systematically so as to identify both core findings and more complex patterns among findings on a national and comparative basis.
5. To disseminate the findings in a timely manner to a wide range of relevant stakeholders nationally, across Europe, and internationally.
6. To identify and disseminate key recommendations relevant to the development of safety awareness initiatives in Europe.
7. To identify any remaining knowledge gaps and methodological lessons learned, to inform future projects regarding the promotion of safer use of the internet and new online technologies.

The methodology of the study



Countries included in *EU Kids Online* : Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Turkey and the UK.

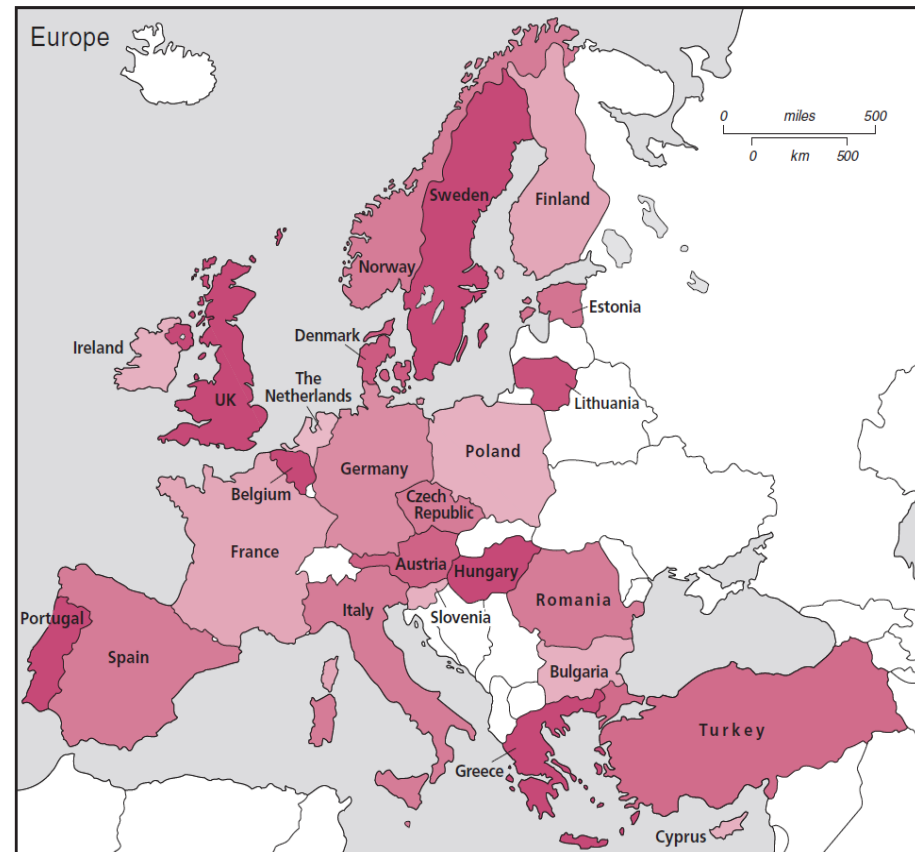
The sample:

- A random stratified sample of 23,420 children aged 9-16 who use the internet,
- A random stratified sample of children's parents.

The period of time in which the survey was made: Spring -Summer 2010.

The survey was conducted in children's homes, as a face to face interview.

The questionnaire applied to children included a self-completion section for sensitive questions to avoid being heard by parents, other family members or the interviewer.



What it is (cyber)bullying?



The term “bully”:

- (verb) “to persecute, to oppress, physically or morally, by (threat of) superior force; frighten into or out of”;
- (noun) “person who uses strength or power to coerce other by fear.”

The sociological term implies:

- A symmetrical relation toward a “formal” assessment (The bullying actions appear among peers, friends, colleagues)
- A relation in which a person tries to impose a (physical or social) power-relation
- The fact that it exists at different levels: individual, small group, or big group (society or nation).
- The fact that it involves different types of aggression: verbal, physical, psychological.
- It exists in different social “spaces”
- It can be transmitted through various technological devices (cyberbullying)

Difficulties facing this type of analysis:

- Translation difficulties from one language to another
- To find meanings of it in accordance with children’s understandings.

“Sometimes children or teenagers say or do hurtful or nasty things to someone and this can often be quite a few times on different days over a period of time, for example. This can include:

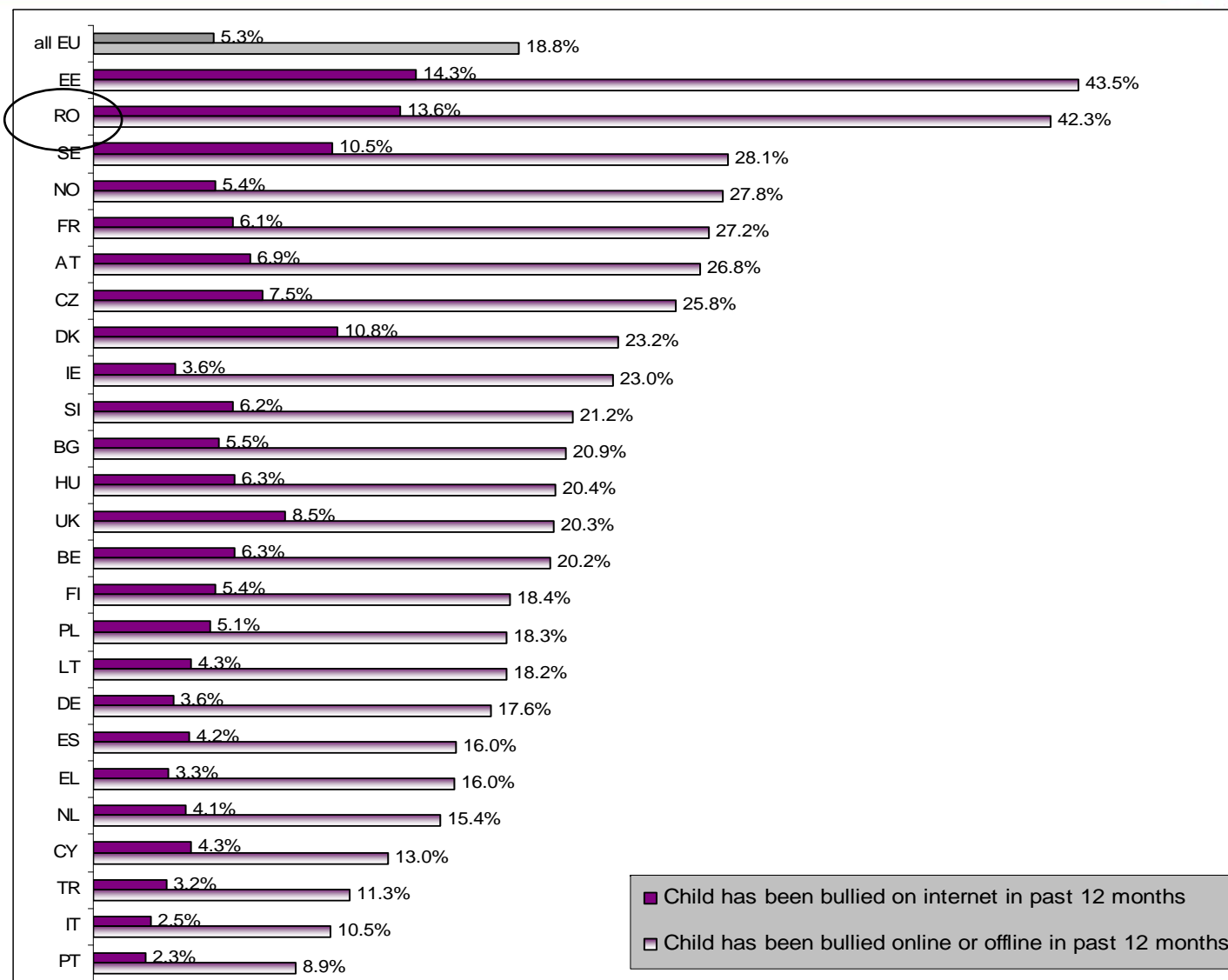
- *teasing someone in a way this person does not like;*
- *hitting,*
- *kicking or pushing someone around;*
- *leaving someone out of things.”*

“When people are hurtful or nasty to someone in this way, it can happen:

- *face to face (in person)*
- *by mobile phones (texts, calls, video clips) No, don’t know or don’t want to say, GO TO Section D*
- *on the internet (e-mail, instant messaging, social networking, chatrooms)”*

General data about (cyber)bullying (1)

EU Data Set



General data about (cyber)bullying (2)

Romanian Data Set



%	9-12 years		13-16 ani		All
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	
In person face to face	14	12	12	13	13
On the Internet	4	5	5	7	5
By mobile phone calls, texts or image/video texts	2	2	3	6	3
Has been bullied at all, online or offline (Base: All children who use the internet in Romania)	18	18	18	20	19

%	Age				All
	9-10	11-12	13-14	15-16	
In person face to face	12	14	12	13	13
On the Internet	3	6	6	7	5
By mobile phone calls, texts or image/video texts	1	3	4	5	3
Has been bullied at all, online or offline (Base: All children who use the internet in Romania)	17	20	19	20	19

Cyberbullying: Where it occurs?

EU Data Set and Romanian Data Set



Ways in which children have been bullied online in past 12 months, by age (Base: All children who use the internet in EU, percentage)	9-10 years	11-12 years	13-14 years	15-16 years	All
On a social networking site	1.3%	2.8%	3.7%	3.4%	2.8%
By instant messaging	1.5%	2.0%	2.6%	4.0%	2.5%
In a chatroom	0.3%	0.3%	0.5%	1.3%	0.6%
By e-mail	0.6%	0.6%	0.7%	1.4%	0.8%
In a gaming website	0.5%	1.0%	0.7%	0.4%	0.7%
Some other way on the internet	0.3%	0.6%	0.3%	0.4%	0.4%
All	3.0%	5.7%	5.6%	6.8%	5.3%

Ways in which Romanian children have been bullied online in past 12 months, by age (frequencies)	15-16 years	13-14 years	11-12 years	9-10 years	All
On a social networking site	3	1	2	2	8
By instant messaging	30	25	22	9	86
In a chatroom	1	4	1	2	8
By e-mail	3	2	4	1	10
In a gaming website	2	4	8	5	19
Some other way on the internet	4	2	8	1	15
All	42	38	32	17	129

Cyberbullying: Types of manifestation

EU Data Set



Can I just check, which of these things have happened in the last 12 months? (Base: EU, percents)	Age				All
	9-10 years	11-12 years	13-14 years	15-16 years	
Nasty or hurtful messages were sent to me	n.a.	3.7%	3.8%	5.1%	4.2%
Nasty or hurtful messages about me were passed around or posted where others could see	n.a.	1.4%	1.6%	2.0%	1.6%
Other nasty or hurtful things on the internet	n.a.	1.6%	1.5%	1.6%	1.6%
I was threatened on the internet	n.a.	1.0%	0.9%	0.9%	1.0%
I was left out or excluded from a group or activity on the internet	n.a.	0.9%	0.7%	0.8%	0.8%
Something else	n.a.	0.6%	0.7%	0.7%	0.6%
All	3%	5.7%	5.6%	6.8%	6.0%

“Be made a ridicule by having personal stuff written about you and then made public.” (Boy, 11, Greece)

Cyberbullying: Types of manifestation (2)

Romanian Data Set



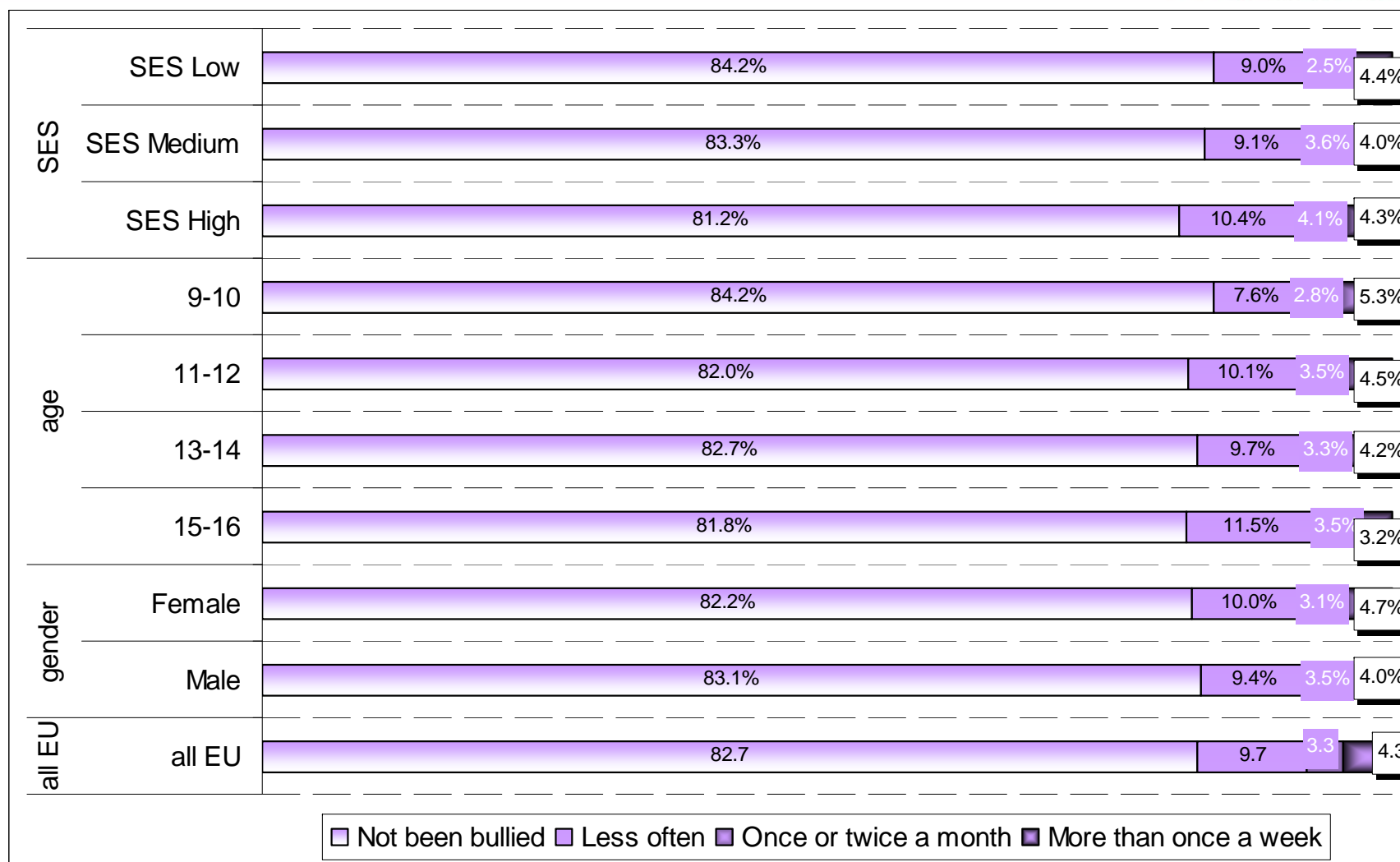
Can I just check, which of these things have happened in the last 12 months? (Base: Romania, frequencies)	15-16 years	13-14 years	11-12 years	9-10 years	All
Nasty or hurtful messages were sent to me	18	19	20	n.a.	57
Nasty or hurtful messages about me were passed around or posted where others could see	3	2	0	n.a.	5
I was left out or excluded from a group or activity on the internet	1	3	1	n.a.	5
I was threatened on the internet	7	4	8	n.a.	19
Other nasty or hurtful things on the internet	2	7	7	n.a.	16
Something else	11	3	4	n.a.	18
All	42	38	32	17	129

Someone broke my password, that is he/she entered on my account, pretend that she/he is me, so the people from my list think that I am laying etc. (...) or speaks with my friends using an indecent vocabulary.”
(Girl, 12 years, Romania)

Frequency of (on-line and off-line) bullying

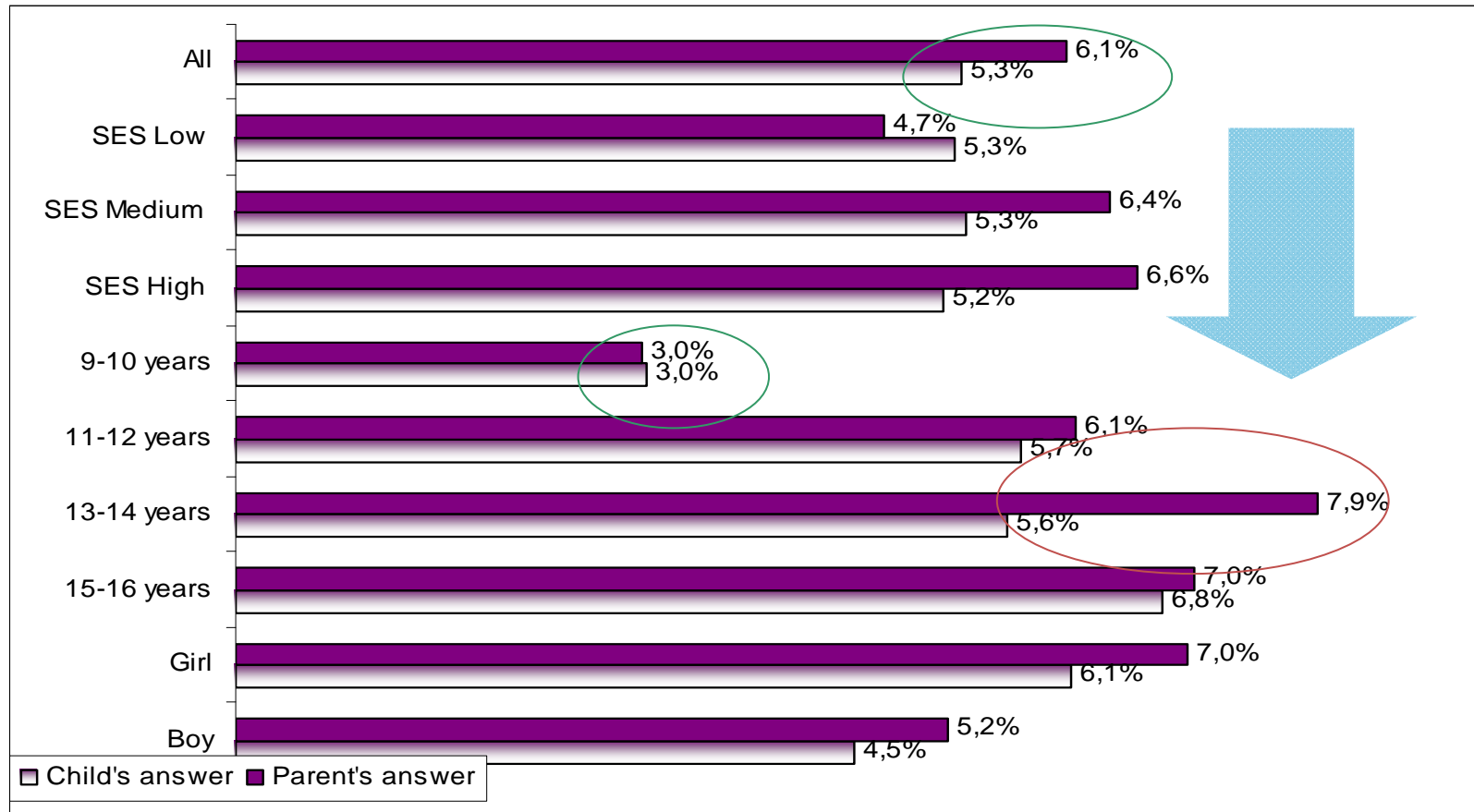
(Q: How often has someone done hurtful or nasty things to you
in the last 12 months?)

EU Data Set



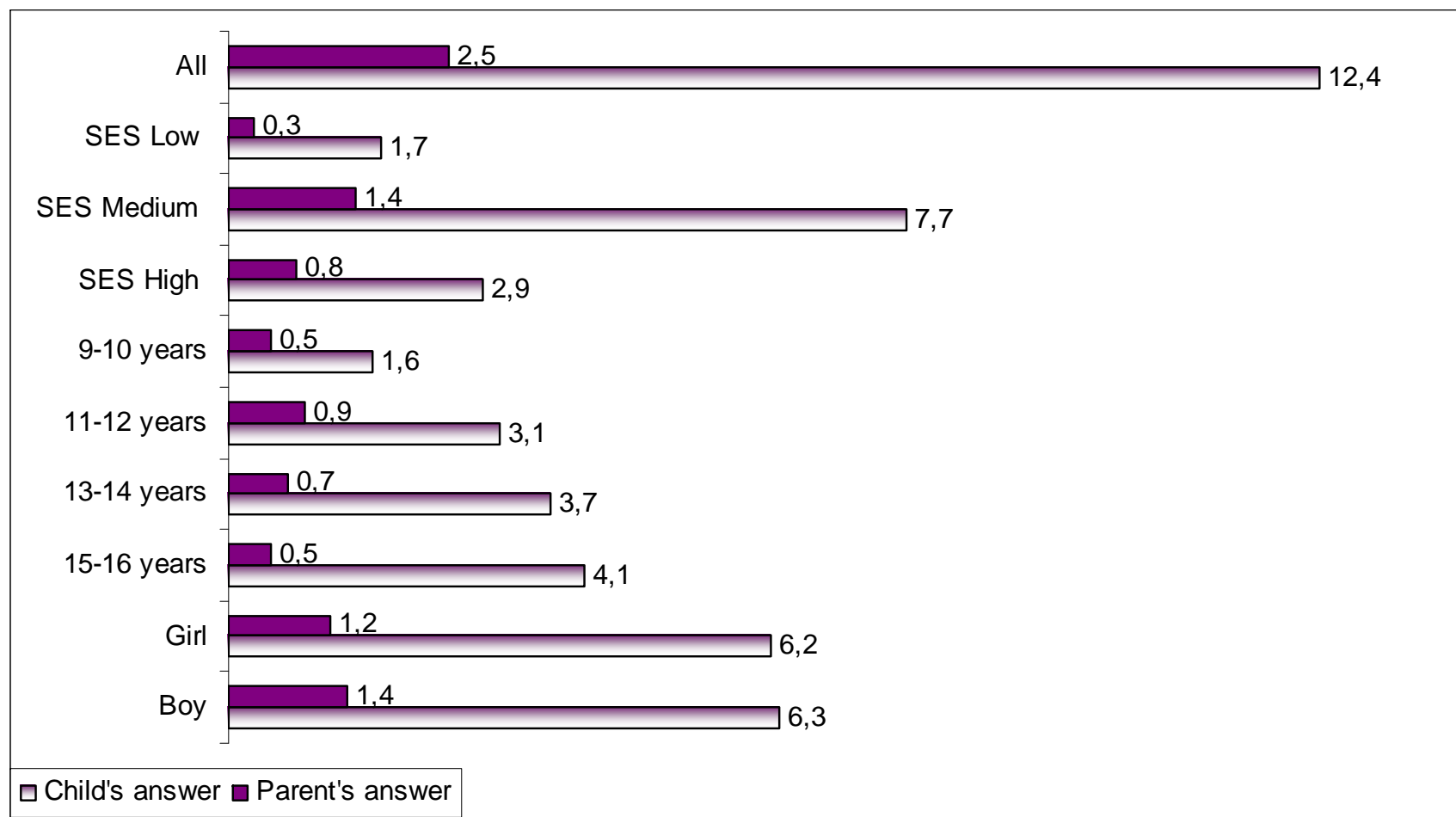
Children and parents' account of whether child has been bullied online

EU Data Set



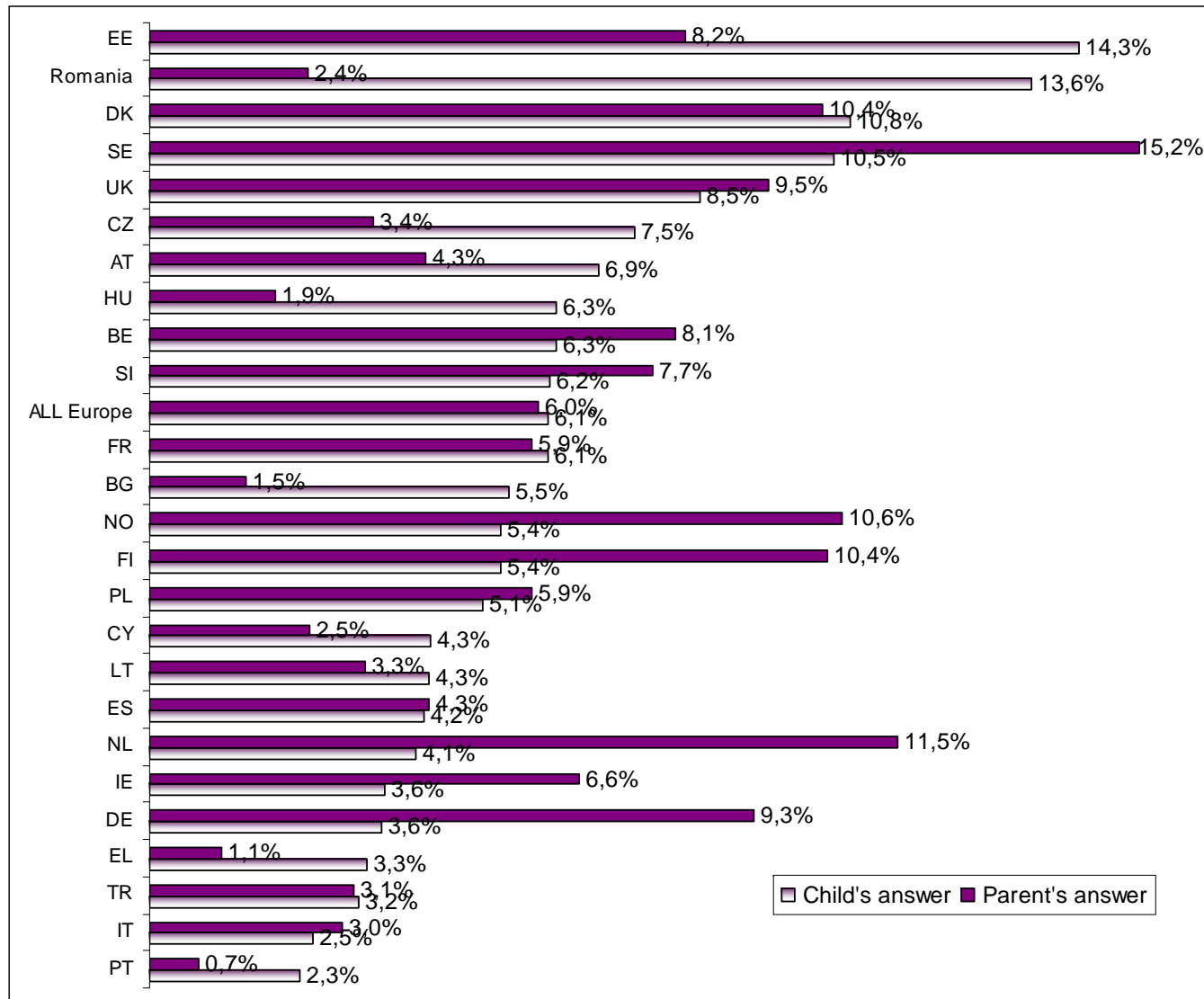
Children and parents' account of the bullying online - The child is the victim

Romanian Data Set



Children and parent's agreement of whether child has been bullied online

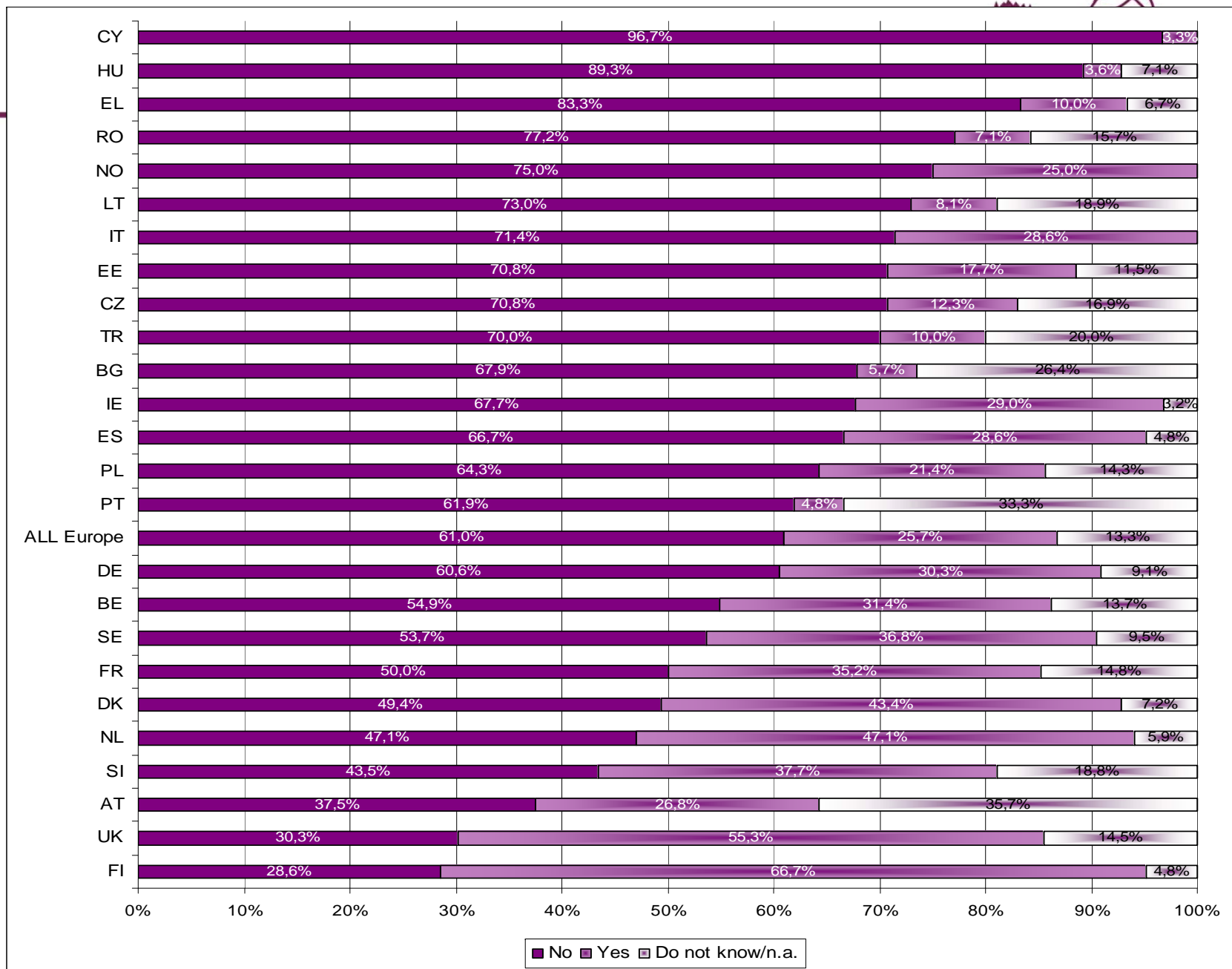
EU Data Set



Has your child been treated in a hurtful or nasty way on the internet by another child or teenager?

Base:

One parent of children who use the internet and who have been sent nasty or hurtful messages online!

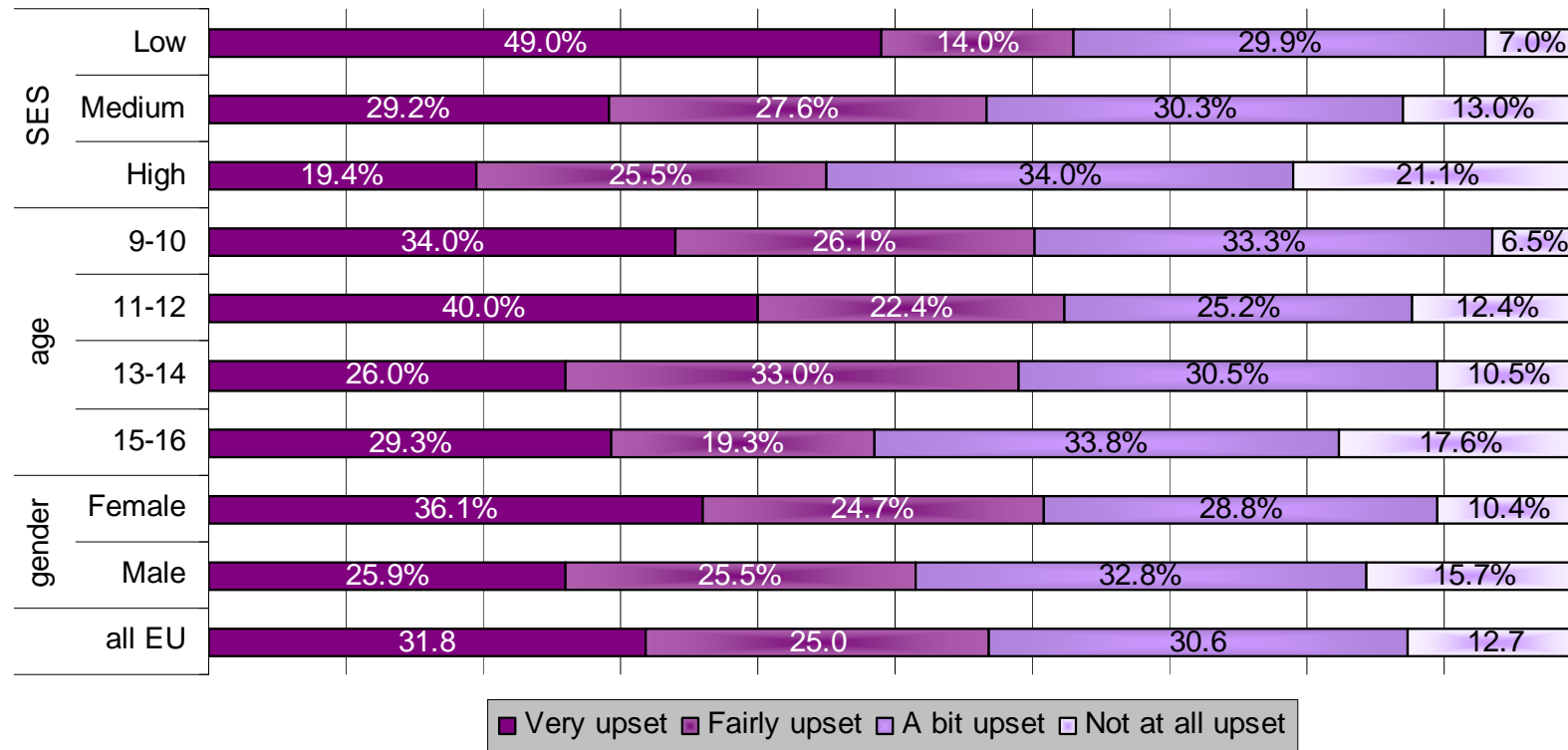


Cyberbullying: The size of the bullying effects for the children

EU Data Set

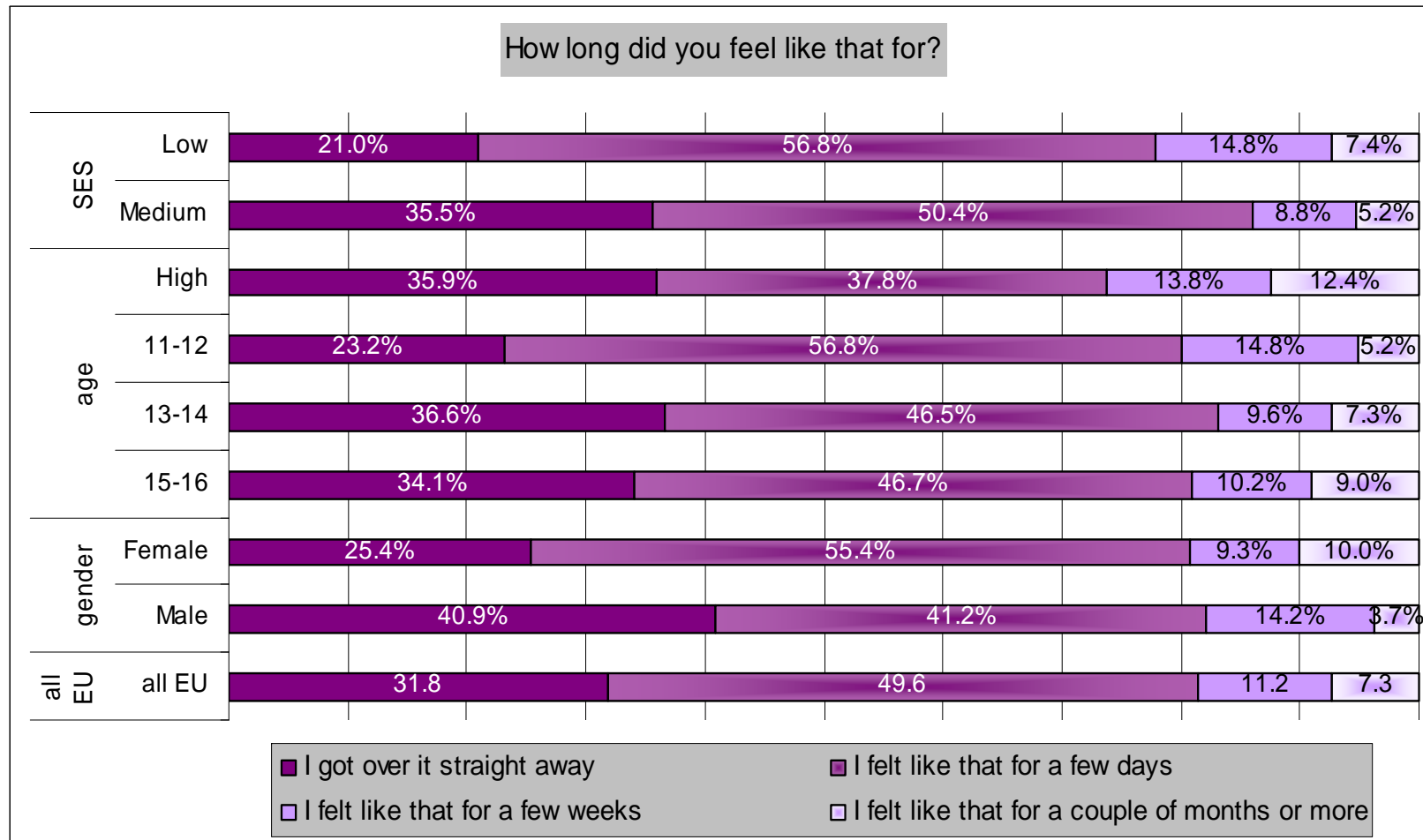


Thinking now about the last time this happened to you, how upset were you about what happened (if at all)?



Cyber-bullying: The duration of perceived harm from being bullied on the internet

EU Data Set



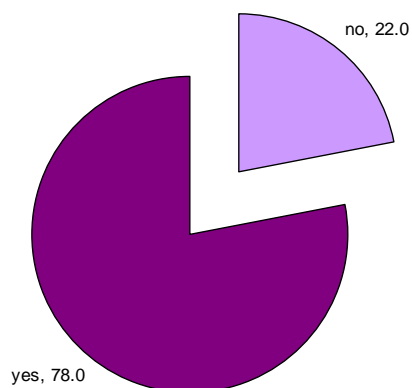
Strategies for coping with the cyber-bullying / The communication's role in coping with the bullying situation

EU Data Set



Did you do any of these things afterwards?:	% Children aged 11 to 16 years who use the internet and have been sent nasty or hurtful messages online.
Fatalistically response: Hope the problem would go away by itself	21.4
Proactively: Try to fix the problem	38.7
In a self-accusatory way: Feel a bit guilty about what went wrong	10.1
None of these things	15.9
Don't know	4.8

Did you talk to anyone about what happened?



Who did you talk to about it?	% Children who use the internet and have been sent nasty or hurtful messages online.	% Children who talk about this with someone
My mother or father	43.1	58.3
My brother or sister	13.7	18.6
A friend	44.5	59.8
A teacher	7.4	10
Some one whose job it is to help children	1.6	2.2
Another adult I trust	11.7	15.8
Someone else	6.5	8.7
Don't know	0.1	0.1

General actions taken to cope with the cyberbullying situation

EU Data Set

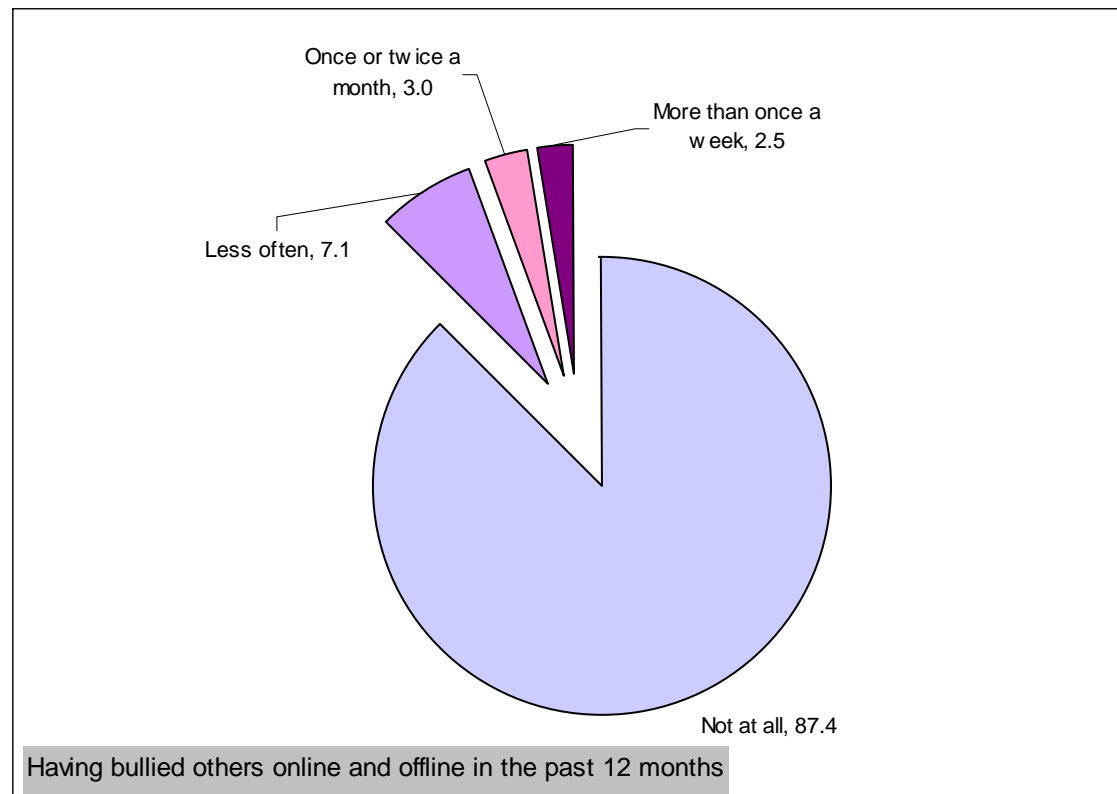


	Still thinking about that time, did you do any of these things?	And which, if any, of the things you did helped you?
I stopped using the internet for a while	19.3	10.9
I deleted any messages from the other person	45.3	27.5
I changed my privacy/contact settings	18.3	11.4
I blocked the person from contacting me	43.9	37.8
I reported the problem (e.g. clicked on a 'report abuse' button, contact an internet advisor or "Internet service provider (ISP)")	11.5	8.2
None of these things	8.1	15.1
Don't know	18.1	19.1
% Children who use the internet and have been sent nasty or hurtful messages online.		

Children: Active agents of (online and offline) bullying /

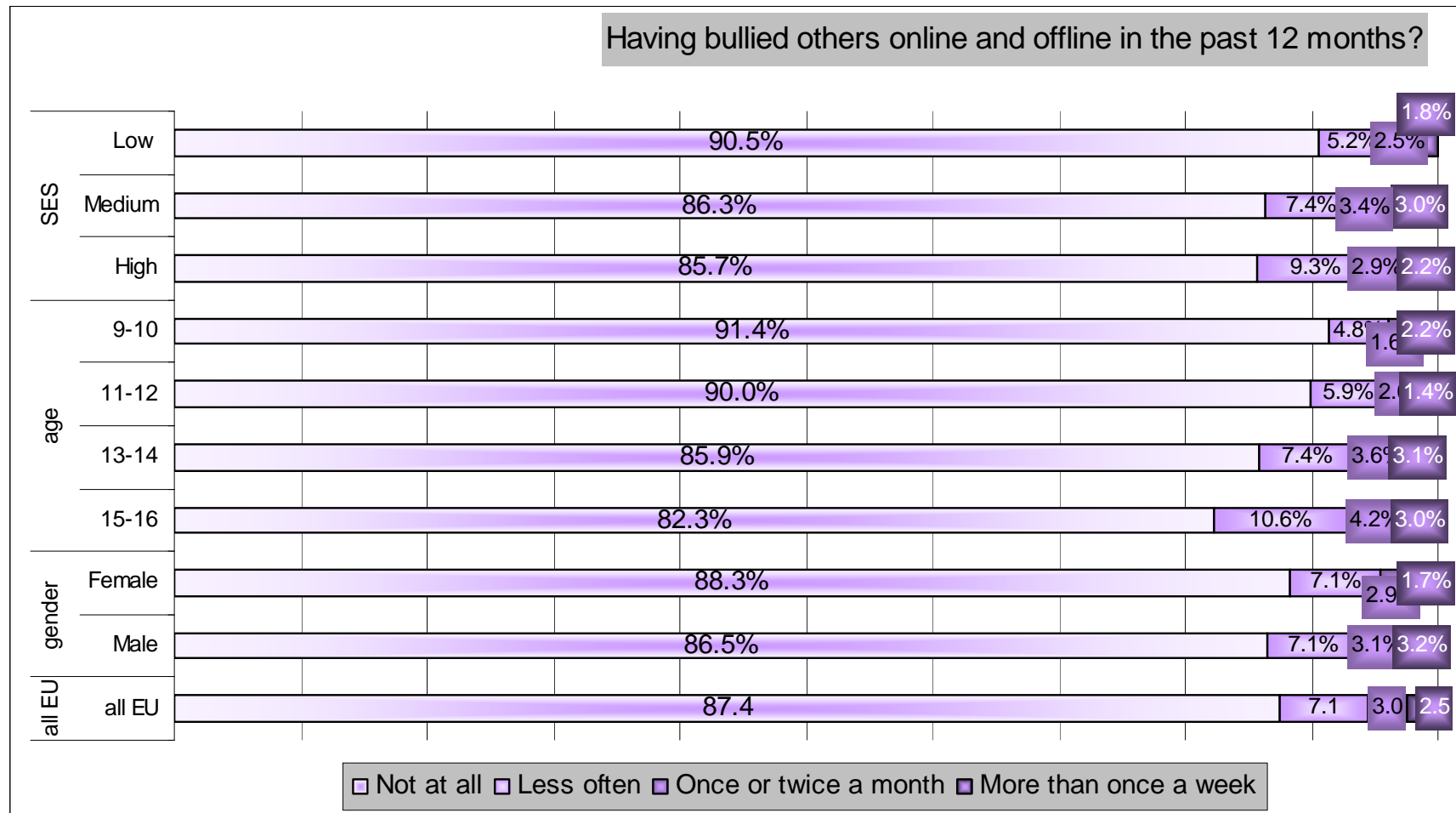
Frequency of the behaviour *(Percent for all the children who use the internet)*

EU Data Set



Children: Active agents of (online and offline) bullying. Who?

EU Data Set



Situations in which the children are active agents of (online and offline) bullying

EU Data Set



Have you acted in a way that might have felt hurtful or nasty to someone else in the PAST 12 MONTHS? In which ways?					
	9-10 years	11-12 years	13-14 years	15-16 years	All EU
In person face to face	6.8%	8.5%	11.9%	14.5%	10.4%
By mobile phone calls, texts or image/video texts	0.3%	1.2%	1.6%	3.7%	1.7%
On the internet	1.1%	1.7%	3.1%	5.0%	2.7%



Thank you!

www.eukidsonline.net