

Czech Republic

The Czech Republic is one of the countries with very frequent Internet use and – perhaps naturally – with a relatively high incidence of online risks in comparison to other European countries. This represents a challenge for schools, parents and other responsible subjects to balance the present wide variety of opportunities and ensure a safer online environment for children.

Active parental mediation is relatively strong in the Czech Republic in comparison to other European countries, while restrictive parental mediation is relatively weak. Czech parents do not restrict their children too much as far as Internet usage is concerned. However, Czech children often state that their parents limit their internet use too much and children also ignore parental recommendations concerning the internet – 54% of children claimed that they tend to ignore parental mediation in this area (what parents say about the internet). It seems that Czech children demand a lot of freedom in the online world, a fact that could lead to certain risky consequences. Additionally, the Czech Republic is a country with relatively high intergenerational differences in the perception of online risks. Parents often underestimate the risk of the online behaviour of their children and at the same time Czech children use the Internet very intensively.

Czech stakeholders recommend educating children and also their parents about risks on the Internet. Children should be more educated in schools because they often tend to ignore parental advice. Parents should receive education from different sources; for example Czech mobile operators could help here. Parent-child communication about internet use should be improved, while the causes of current poor communication in this respect are probably low parental awareness and a lack of general knowledge about the issue.