# The Protection of Children Online

**An OECD study on risks faced by children online and policies to protect them**

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ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC
CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT

# The OECD

## 30 member countries

| | |
|---|---|
| Australia | Korea |
| Austria | Luxembourg |
| Belgium | Mexico |
| Canada | Netherlands |
| Czech Republic | New Zealand |
| Denmark | Norway |
| Finland | Poland |
| France | Portugal |
| Germany | Slovak republic |
| Greece | Spain |
| Hungary | Sweden |
| Iceland | Switzerland |
| Ireland | Turkey |
| Italy | United Kingdom |
| Japan | United States |

## Countries invited to membership talks

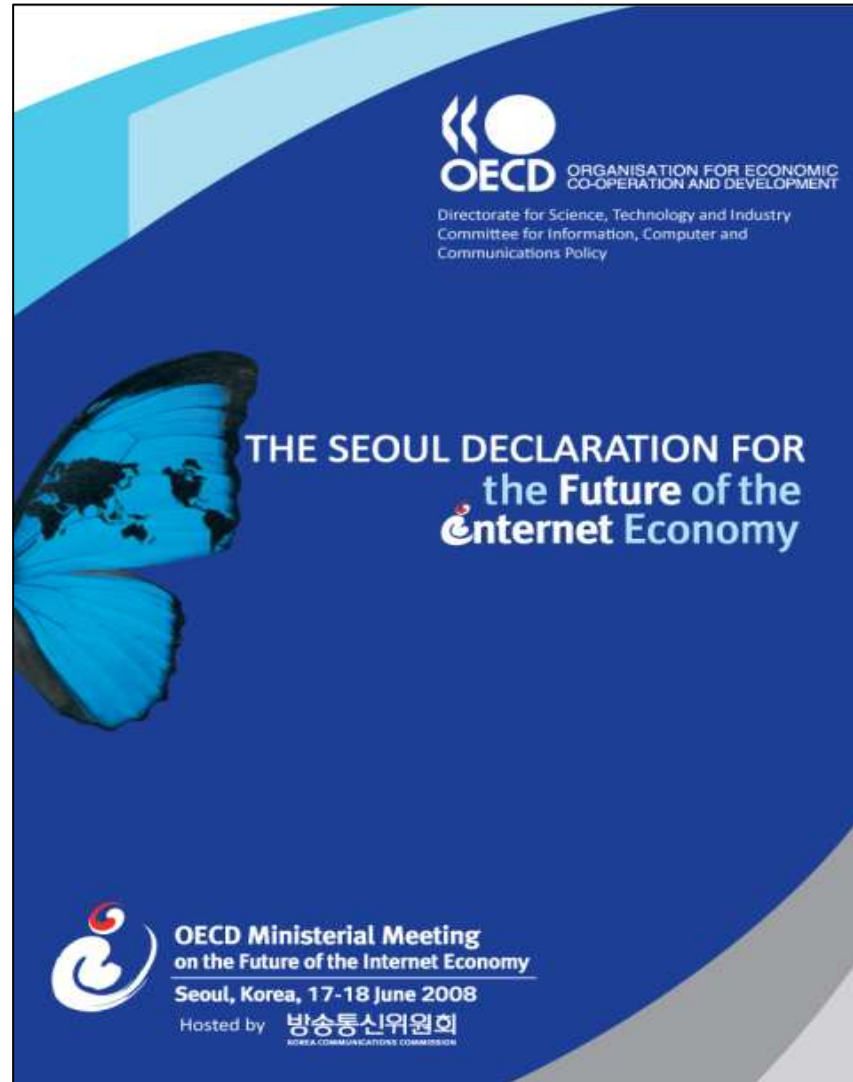Chile – Estonia – Israel
Russia – Slovenia

## Enhanced Engagement

Brazil – China – India
Indonesia – South Africa

OECD shares expertise and exchanges views with more than 100 other countries.

Business – Civil Society
Internet Technical Community

The OECD helps **governments coordinate** among themselves and with **other stakeholders** to design and implement national **policies** that are **effective** in an international environment.
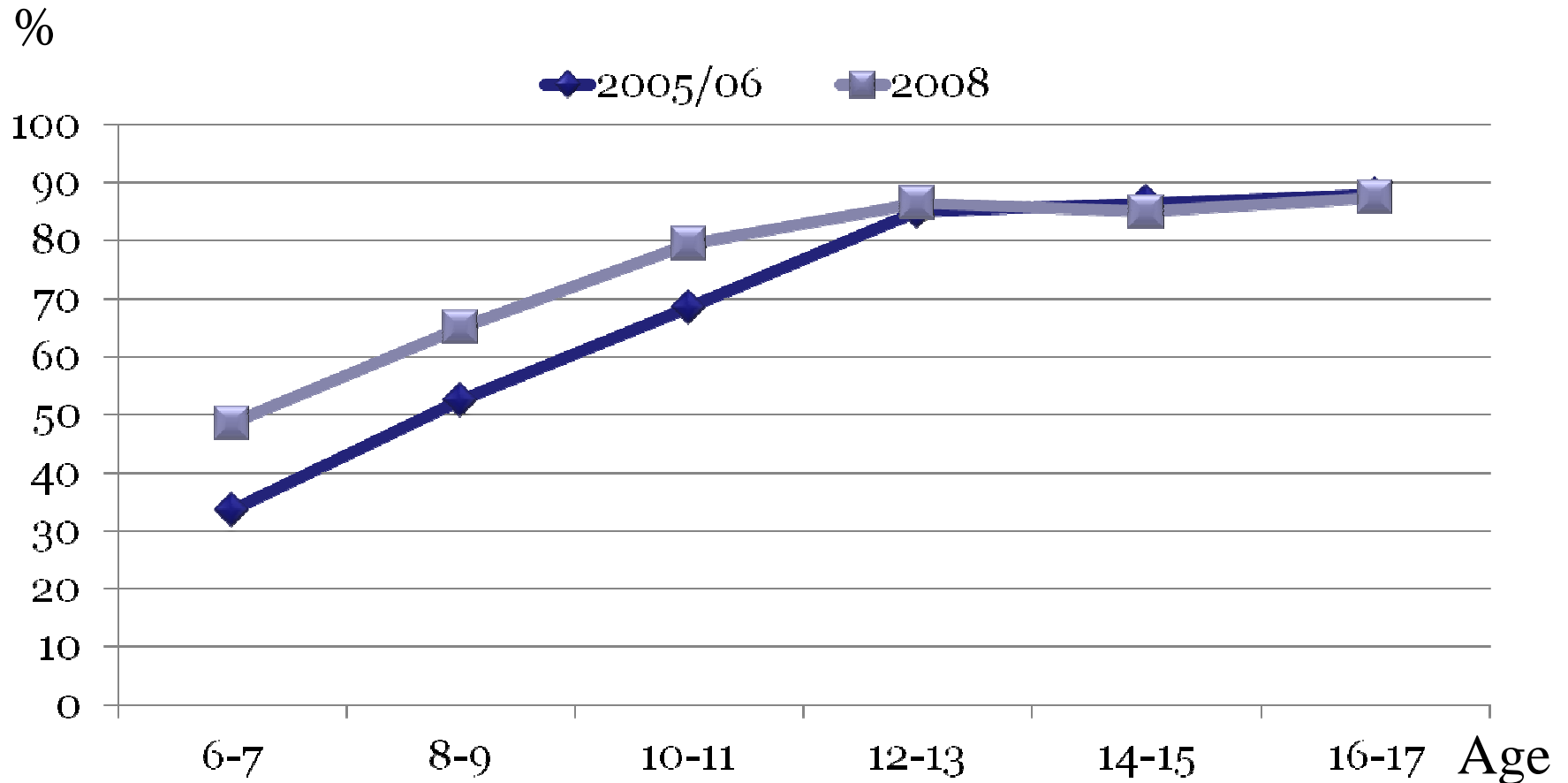
**www.oecd.org/futureinternet**

# OECD Work on the Protection of Children Online

- Scope

- Cooperation with Council of Europe & Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)

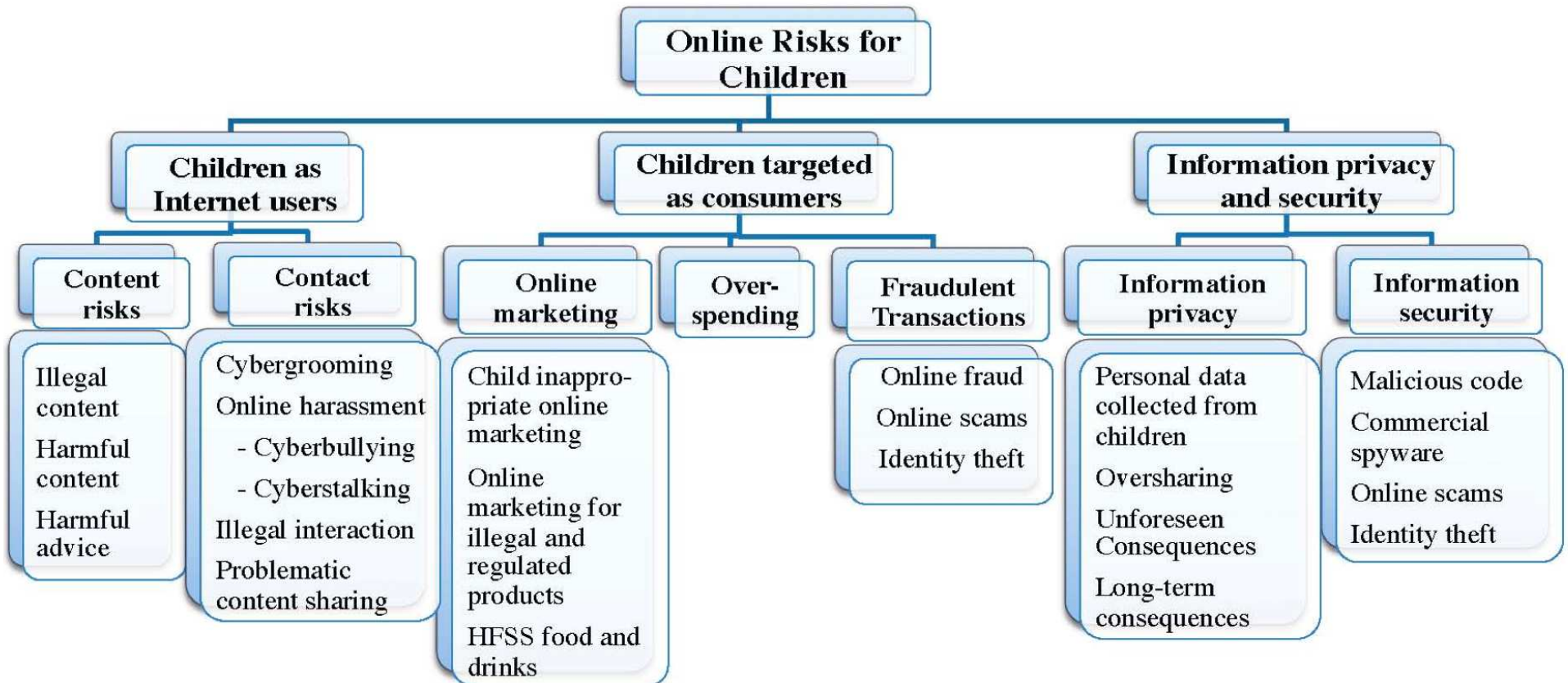- This is work in progress

- Possible next step

# Internet access is on the rise and increases with age

**Children who use the Internet by age in Europe**

%



Legend: 2005/06 — 2008

Y-axis: 0, 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, 100

X-axis: 6-7, 8-9, 10-11, 12-13, 14-15, 16-17 — Age

*Source:* OECD calculation based on Eurobarometer 2005 and 2008.

# Typology of Risks

# Data on risks

- A large quantity of data is available.
- The number of studies varies across countries and regions
- The availability of quantitative data varies with the risk

| Small amount of data | Larger amount of data |
|---|---|
| •Illegal interaction<br>•Harmful Advice<br>•Online marketing<br>•Fraudulent transactions<br>•Information security risks<br>•Privacy risks related to location information | •Exposure to inappropriate content (mainly on adult pornography)<br><br>•Cyberbullying<br><br>•Cybergrooming |

# Comparability of data

- No consensus on the **definition** of risks

- **Age groups** are inconsistent

|  | Exposed to sexual content | Age group considered |
|---|---|---|
| UK | 57% | 9-19 |
| Italy | 25% | 7-11 |

# Commonalities

- Balancing opportunities and risks

- Dynamic and universally accessible Internet content challenges policies

- All stakeholders share responsibilities

- International cooperation is key.

- No single policy solution

# Main Policy Challenges

- Effectiveness, compliance with and enforcement of national policies

- Rapidly changing technologies & uses

- Online material and services from abroad are beyond the reach of national policy

- Increasing volume of online material & services

- Balancing opportunities & risks mitigation

- Consistency with fundamental rights

# Policy coherence, holistic approaches

- Multi-dimensional policy with sustainable commitment over time

- Complexity

- Policy co-ordination is key

- Policy formulation and evaluation based on evidence