

# Bulgarian Safer Internet Centre

**Bringing key stakeholders together to support children's rights to provision, protection and participation on Internet**

Luiza Shahbazyan, PhD

Applied Research and Communications Fund

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# About Bulgarian Safer Internet Center

- Bulgarian Safer Internet Centre was founded in 2005
- Coordinated by Applied Research and Communications Fund and Association Parents
- Part of the European network of Safer Internet Centers Insafe and International association of internet Hotlines INHOPE
- Member of the EU Kids Online research network
- Committed to engage key national stakeholders through Public Council on Safer Internet Use
- Member of the Board of the National Network for Children – 128 NGOs
- Member of the National Council for Child Protection
- Member of the Board of SafeKiddo Foundation

# Rights to protection

- SIC coordinates the INHOPE hotline and Insafe helpline to protect children against harmful and illegal content and conduct online
- Cooperation with Cybercrime Unit at the General Directorate for Combating Organized Crime and the State Agency for Child Protection
  - Drafting joint proposals for legal amendments and calls for action
    - In November 2011 the Convention of the Council of Europe against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children ratified (draft bill prepared by SIC).
    - Proposals included in Penal Code Amendments Bill for transponding Directive 92/2011 – voted September 2015
  - Delivering joint trainings on online safety for students and professionals



Special award from the Ministry of Interior for their outstanding civil contribution to the work of the police

# Rights to provision

- SIC develops awareness campaigns and deliver trainings in schools to ensure children can safely get the most from the online services offered
- Cooperation with leading mobile operators to promote Safer Internet Day
- Cooperation with MoE, Mol, SACP and industry to create and disseminate good practices to address the safe and positive use of internet
- Cooperation with schools, other NGOs and industry to reach parents and grandparents



Mobile clinic for safe and secure mobile devices used by children  
Supported by Telenor and Mol  
Idea adapted from the Luxemburg SIC

# Rights to participation

- SIC works with children to survey their digital experiences and engage them in planning, delivering and evaluation of its activities
- Children exchange ideas at BLK portal coordinated by Insafe and take part in SIF
- Children participate in discussions, workshops and campaigns
- SIC has created, together with Telenor and Mol, a national network of cyber-scout teams of pupils prepared to provide advice and support to their peers





Award ceremony for the most active cyber scout teams



# More measures needed

- Existing national policy and practices address mainly protection
- The prosecution and court practices do not always make adequate use of existing legislation
- Most initiatives are project-based and have limited geographical scope
- There is insufficient evidence and lack of systematic evaluation of practices
- Cooperation between different stakeholders could be challenging because they are following different agendas

A comprehensive national strategy for children's rights should address internet both as a threat and as an opportunity, outline the roles of key stakeholders and provide funding for systematic, nation-wide, evidence-based measures.



Thank you!

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