



T-ES(2018)ICT-IT-NGO

LANZAROTE CONVENTION

Council of Europe Convention on the protection of children
against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse

Comments on the replies to the thematic questionnaire

ITALY

INDEPENDENT AUTHORITY FOR CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS

2nd thematic monitoring round

“The protection of children against sexual exploitation and
sexual abuse facilitated by information and communication
technologies (ICTs)”

Replies registered by the Secretariat on 17 January 2018



Autorità Garante per l'Infanzia e l'Adolescenza

Comments and additional information provided by the Italian independent Authority for children and adolescents (*Autorità garante per l'infanzia e l'adolescenza*) with regard to the replies of Italy to the questionnaire

Question n. 1

As can be seen from the reply given by the Department for Equal Opportunities (DPO), there are a lot of programmes with a wider content about the use of the web and the relevant risks, also including the issue of self-generated sexually explicit images and/or videos or self-generated sexual content.

It should be probably useful a specific focus on the above mentioned two issues, as implicitly encouraged in the questionnaire, given the particularly sensitive nature of the topic concerned, dealing with a behaviour in respect of which there is a lack of children's awareness.

It is also important to make the possible "disseminators" of images responsible with regard to the social and legal significance involved in sharing sexually explicit images, videos and/or content.

To this end, some awareness-raising materials have been produced within the project "*Generazioni connesse* (Safer Internet centre)", already mentioned in the reply of Italy, of which the Italian independent Authority for children and adolescents is a partner. Some materials are specifically related to the theme in question: in particular, the story of the 'visible girl', with a video addressed in particular to adolescents, as well as explanatory material on the theme of sexting addressed to children, parents and teachers.

Here below the links:

Video about the 'visible girl':

<http://www.generazioniconnesse.it/site/it/ragazzi-regazza-visibile/>

General document about sexting:

<http://www.generazioniconnesse.it/site/it/sexting/>

Document about sexting for adolescents:

<http://www.generazioniconnesse.it/site/it/2017/10/19/amore-al-primo-selfie/>

Document about sexting for parents and teachers:

<http://www.generazioniconnesse.it/site/it/ilsexting/>

Document about sexting and pedopornography:

<http://www.generazioniconnesse.it/site/it/pedopornografia-scuole/>

The educational message to be spread through specific prevention programmes should not only regard an invitation to be aware about the risks and the consequences of certain acts. Rather, educational programmes must help to recognize the dignity of one's own body, intimacy and privacy of the emotional sphere, the total inadequacy of the web to meet those needs and, therefore, the inadvisability of undertaking any act that is, in the end, contrary to the wellbeing of the person.

Question n. 5

Among the research conducted by public bodies on the phenomenon of producing and sharing as children self-generated sexually explicit images and/or videos or self-generated sexual content, the research conducted by the Postal and Communications Police (*Polizia Postale e delle Comunicazioni*) in partnership with "La Sapienza" University in Rome, entitled "How much do you share" ("*Quanto condividi*"), is to be pointed out. Its aim is to explore the degree of awareness and perception that adolescents have when they share such materials on-line.

Here below the links:

Abstract of the research:

<http://www.poliziadistato.it/statics/29/abstract-ricerca-quanto-condividi.pdf>

Questionnaire and short presentation of the results:

<http://www.poliziadistato.it/statics/16/polizia-postale-8-giugno.pdf>

Video material (testimony):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NA0bBiWE-OE&feature=youtu.be>

Question n. 13

Among the actions carried out by the Authority for children and adolescents in order to protect children's rights, there is the drafting and dissemination of a *Vademecum* for Police forces in order to give essential operational indications about how to adequately manage the contact with children – either victims or offenders. Among the issues dealt with in the *Vademecum*, cyberbullying and pedopornography, also resulting from self-generated sexually explicit images and/or videos or self-generated sexual content, are included.

Here below, the links:

http://garanteinfanzia.s3-eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/documenti/Vademecum_Forza_di_Polizia_tascabile_0.pdf

Question n. 14

A further challenge concerning the prosecution phase is the use of restorative justice programmes. As the events often involve minors – not only with regard to victims but also

to offenders – and considered that all of them are almost fully unaware about the consequences of their actions, restorative justice could represent an appropriate means in order for children and adolescents to become really aware of the consequences of their actions through the “experience” of the other person.