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Annual Report

Bulgarian Safer Internet Centre

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2010



Introduction

Bulgaria has been participating in the Safer Internet Programme of the European Commission since 2005 through its national Safer Internet Centre operated by several non-governmental organisations under the co-ordination of the Applied Research and Communications Fund (ARC Fund), Sofia and co-financed by the European Commission.

ARC Fund has established and launched the Bulgarian Internet Hotline for fighting illegal and harmful for children content and conduct in Internet in May 2006. From June 2008, ARC Fund, in consortium with three other Bulgarian organisations - Association Roditeli (Parents), the Bulgarian Federation for Electronic Sport and DeConi Advertising Agency - founded the national Awareness Centre, co-financed by the Safer Internet *plus* Programme of the European Commission.

ARC Fund is a full member of the International Association of Internet Hotlines (INHOPE), as well as of the European Network of Safer Internet Centres INSAFE. It is also a member of the National Network for Children – a network of some 50 non-governmental organisations, working in the field of children rights, child care, and children protection, which is a member of the Regional Network of non-profit organisations and UNICEF for children from Central and Eastern Europe, the Commonwealth of Independent States and Baltic countries.

The aim of the Bulgarian Hotline is to provide a reporting facility, easily accessible by every citizen and minor, for reporting spotted online content or conduct, which is illegal according to Bulgarian legislation or may have a traumatic or other harmful effect on the minor users of the web. The main priority in the Hotline activities is to fight dissemination of child sexual abuse images and children grooming in Internet. Some of the risks for minors in Internet are arise as a result of the online actions and interactions of the minors themselves. Among these are cyber-bullying, e-violence and posting of illegal and harmful content in websites for image and video sharing and in social networking sites.

The European and Bulgarian experience proves that setting up a public Internet Hotline increases significantly the efficiency of the competent law enforcement authorities in their fight against illegal and harmful for minors content, conduct and contact in Internet. Most Hotlines are being run by non-governmental organisations thus simplifying the procedures for reporting illegal and harmful content and conduct and guaranteeing the anonymity of the reporting persons.

Who We Are

The Applied Research and Communication Fund (ARC Fund) is a non-governmental, non-profit organisation in public interest, established in Sofia in 1991. Today ARC Fund is among the leading Bulgarian organisations working for building up a knowledge-based society, empowered by the might of information technologies and innovation.

ARC Fund has been actively involved in the efforts to formulate and implement policies for the development of an information and knowledge-based society both on national and international level by:

- _ research and analyses aimed at formulation and implementation of adequate policies;
- _ activities aimed at achieving consensus by involving representatives of the government, industries and civil society, as well as by forming coalitions and public-private partnerships;
- _ capacity building of different professional groups through trainings and know-how transfer and good practices;
- _ disseminating innovative decisions for strategic development through initiating pilot projects which reveal the benefits of particular technologies for civil society and for creating a competitive business environment

Association Roditeli was established in 2001 as a non-profit organisation in public interest, founded according to the law for non-governmental legal entities.

Association Roditeli is:

- _ Member of EPA – European Parent Association
- _ Member of the National Network for Children
- _ Member of working groups of the National Council of Child Protection
- _ Member of the Public Council on Safer Internet Use
- _ Member of the Consultancy Board for Education of Sofia Municipality
- _ Member of the Consultancy Board "Children of Sofia"

The mission of the Association is to encourage parents to be the best parents they can be and to support kids to grow up as the best adults they can become. Its main aim is to develop and win recognition of parenthood as a main spiritual value of the society as well as natural environment for rising up and educating the children.

Public Council on Safer Internet Use

In line with accepted European practice, the activities of the Bulgarian Internet Hotline for fighting illegal and harmful for children online content and conduct is being supervised by an advisory board - the Public Council on Safer Internet Use, founded in April 2006.

The members of the Public Council are representatives of the major stakeholders - public institutions, industry associations, private companies and non-governmental organisations involved in development of information technologies and knowledge-based society which share the common mission of the project to make Internet a safer environment for minors.

At its regular meetings the Public Council discusses and approves the periodical activity reports and the annual Public reports of the Hotline and the national Safer Internet Centre and gives recommendations for improving its work. It monitors abidance by the approved operational procedures of the Hotline and takes decisions to change them when the conditions in the country – legislative, social and economic- change.

The Public Council initiates various activities for popularizing Safer Internet rules and raising social awareness about risks for minors in Internet and the ways for their prevention. The member organisations of the Public Council play an active part in a number of initiatives of the Safer Internet Centre.

When an organisation or individual expresses willingness and has proven capacity in the area of safer Internet the Public Council, in conformity with its Statutes, votes for new members. The new members must have the capacity to contribute to raising the efficiency of the activities of the national Safer Internet Centre and the Bulgarian Hotline for fighting illegal and harmful for children online content and conduct.

Members of the Public Council on Safer Internet Use

1. Chair – **Galina Bankovska**, deputy chair of the parliamentary Commission on education, culture, children, youth and sports
2. Deputy-chair – **Dimitar Dereliev**- Deputy minister of Culture
3. Deputy-chair - **Teodor Zahov** - chairman of two major IT business associations - the Association for Electronic Communications and the Bulgarian Association on Information Technologies.
4. Ministry of Culture
5. Ministry for Education, Science and Youth
6. State Agency for Child Protection
7. Ministry of Interior
9. Executive Agency for Information Technology and Communications
10. Sofia Municipality
11. Bulgarian Association for IT /BAIT/
12. Cisco Systems- Bulgaria
13. Law and internet Foundation
14. Roditeli Association
15. Bulgarian Federation for Electronic Sport
16. Gender Education, Research and Technologies Foundation
17. Vivacom
18. Mobiltel
19. GLOBUL
20. Microsoft Bulgaria
21. Applied Research and Communications Fund
22. Center for the Study of Democracy

Hotline Operational Procedures

The operational procedures of the Bulgarian Hotline have been initially approved and afterwards amended by the Public Council on Safer Internet. The full text of the procedures is available at the Hotline website.

The aim of adopted Hotline operational procedures is to ensure that the activities of the Hotline are efficient and fully transparent to the general public.

The procedures guarantee, according to the reporting person's choice, full anonymity. The Hotline uses a secure communication channel for transmitting the reports to the competent authorities which are authorized to take the necessary measures.

After receiving a report, the Hotline operators trace the content to find out its physical location. When the content has been traced to a server or other computer in Bulgaria, the report is transmitted via a specially established communication channel to the Ministry of Interior in virtue of a framework Agreement for co-operation officially signed in 2006.

When the content has been traced to the territory of a country member of the International Association of Internet Hotlines INHOPE, the report is transmitted to the partner Hotline. When the content has been traced to a third country, the report is transmitted to the Ministry of Interior for taking further measures based on the international police co-operation procedures. The Hotline operators answer queries by phone or by e-mail in case when there is a threat for the physical or psychological well-being of a minor.

The Bulgarian Hotline is reporting periodically to the Public Council on Safer Internet and to the general public in annual reports which are being regularly published on the Hotline website.

Hotline Activities

During 2010, the Bulgarian Hotline received and processed a total of 857 reports. In comparison to 2009, there is a decrease in the total number of reports, but the percentage of real ones is higher. In 2009, out of 1227 reports received, 142 reported actual illegal or harmful content or behavior. In comparison, in 2010, out of 857 reports, the genuine ones were 398. Observed is a worrisome trend for a sharp increase of online grooming – from 3 in 2009 to 17 in 2010.

705 of the reports concerned websites in Bulgaria and abroad, which were reported to contain inappropriate for minor content or malicious behavior. After the initial analysis by the Hotline operations, the following the classifications of the reports were as follows:

- child pornography – 95;
- child erotica – 161;
- child nudity – 6;
- child grooming – 17;
- adult pornography accessible to minors – 16;
- adult pornography – 13;
- extreme pornography – 3;
- propaganda for self harm – 71;
- propaganda for using narcotic drugs – 1;
- terrorism – 2.

One hundred and four of the cases concerned content on the territory of Bulgaria. Fifty-two users consulted the Hotline for advice.

The Hotline undertook 527 actions, as follows:

- 11 of the reports were transferred to the appropriate competent authorities;
- 2 hosting organizations were informed about inappropriate content;
- 94 website owners or authors of content were contacted regarding inappropriate content;
- 121 reports were transmitted to respective partner hotlines in other countries;
- replies to 52 inquiries were provided;
- 121 of the people who submitted reports and did not request anonymity were informed about the progress of their case.

Safer Internet Centre Activities

In 2010 the Bulgarian Safer Internet Centre actively worked on enhancing the awareness of children, parents and educators about online risks and ensuring safer use of Internet by minors. An important aspect of the Centre's activities have been the informational and media campaigns and events, which aim to increase public alertness about the online risks to children and to make more effective the work of the Internet Hotline for reporting harmful or illegal content and behavior on the Internet.

International Safer Internet Day and the “Think be4 U Post” Campaign

On 9 February 2010, with an event organized in the club of the National Press Agency, SIC officially announced the start of the pan-European campaign “Think be4 U post”. Co-organizers of the event were Microsoft-Bulgaria and the State Agency for Child Protection (SACP). Among the participants were children from the Student Council at SACP and Mr. Orlin Kuzov, Director of the “Information and Communication Technologies” Directorate at the Ministry of Education, Youth and Science. At the event, the 14 year old Damian Dobrev and the 17 year old Vladimir Dobrev, Bulgarian finalists in the pan-European video competition regarding the Personal Data Protection Day, presented their video.



The participants in the event and the media also had the opportunity to see the official TV spot for the just-launched pan-European campaign “Think be4 U post.” It was aired more than 100 times by 7 popular amongst youth TV channels, between February and the end of May 2010. Two of the TV channels also uploaded the clip on their websites, registering about 200,000 impressions. For two months, three screens played the video in the Sofia metro.

“A Changing World: Young People and Risk Online” Conference

On 16 September 2010, a conference titled “A Changing World: Young People and Risk Online” took place at the Academy of the Ministry of Interior in Sofia. The one-day event was co-organized by the *Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP)* - a British law enforcement agency with the capacity for social work and intelligence, Visa Europe and the Bulgarian Safer Internet Centre. Some of the other participants included the Bulgarian Ministry of the Culture, the State Agency for Child Protection, the Executive Agency for Information Technologies at the Ministry of Transport, Information Technologies and Communications, the Bulgarian mobile provider Mobiltel, etc.

The main purpose of the forum was to reemphasize the serious risks that accompany the inevitably-changing nature of our world, where time spent online has become an indelible part of our daily lives and especially of those of our children, whose primary way of socialization is done virtually. The participants agreed that it is crucial to raise awareness about the threats that internet has brought along, such as cyber-bullying, pornography, grooming, etc, and to join efforts in safeguarding the virtual space. The partakers presented the issue from legal, technological, financial, and social perspectives, and pinpointed the major achievements and drawbacks, which have accompanied the struggle to make the online environment safer.

Round Table E-Childhood: Research Methodologies and Legal Framework for Online Protection of Children.

On December 1, SIC organized a “Round table: E-Childhood: Research Methodologies and Legal Framework for Online Protection of Children.” More than 40 experts from public institutions, private sector, academic circles and non-governmental organizations discussed proposals for amendments in the relevant Bulgarian legislation. Mr. Dimitar Dereliev, Deputy-Minister of Culture, opened the event. Other participants included the State Agency for Child Protection, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Education, Youth and Science, Ministry of Transportation, Information Technologies and Communications, Association “Roditeli”, Center for Inclusive Education, “Animus” Foundation, International Private School “Zlatarski,” Vivacom, and others.

SIC presented the European Commission's proposal for a new Directive on sexual exploitation of children,

which stipulates the criminalization by all EU members of all forms of web-facilitated sexual abuse of children indicated in the text, the harmonization of national legislations and the enhancement of coordination among law enforcement and judicial bodies. In addition, SIC presented a comparative analysis of the Bulgarian and international legal frames and penalties for online sexual abuse of children, which strongly recommends that:

• a precise definition of child pornography be formulated and adopted by the Bulgarian national legislation of;



- the existing laws for online grooming, article 155a, §1, 2 and 155b of the Penal code be strictly applied;
- specific minimum penalties for online sexual exploitation of children be set and the current maximum penalty of 1 yr. for possession of child pornography, which is among the lowest in Europe be raised;
- a register for convicted child sex offenders be created and a mandatory consulting of this register by employers for positions requiring communication and/or work with children be implemented.

At the forum representatives for Bulgaria of the EU Kids

Online project of the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) introduced and interpreted the pan-European study to the audience. SIC presented a comparative analysis of Bulgarian and international research methodologies, which provoked a discussion about the ways the used methodologies affect the results of the projects like LSE's that investigate the online behavior of young people.

For Professionals

Cybercrime Investigation Trainings

SIC took part in a project for training policemen and magistrates of all appellate regions of the country. Organizer of the project is the newly-founded International Cybercrime Investigation Training Academy, established with support by the America for Bulgaria Foundation, Ministry of Interior and the Supreme Court Council on May 2010.

Experts of SIC participated in three consecutive trainings: Nessebar (29.09-02.10.2010), Bansko (24.11 – 27.11.2010 r.) and Troian (02.12 – 04.12.2010 r.), reaching more than 80 police employees, judges and district attorneys. SIC presented its activities, the Safer Internet Program of the European Commission, the role of INHOPE and INSAFE, and the operational procedures of the Bulgarian Hotline. The participants learned about the risks to children online, the national and international legal provisions, and SIC's recommendations for changes in the Bulgarian Penal Code.

Initiative for the Bulgarian Social Networking Sites

The newest trend in using the Internet and communication technologies by minors is concentrating a significant part of their online activities in social networking sites. This trend has produced new risks to children online. To respond to the new challenges, on 2 February 2010 SOC organized a working meeting with the owners of the most popular Bulgarian social networking sites, to discuss ways to introduce in Bulgaria the European principles and standards for safe social networks of 2009.

In the event took part Mr. Kalin Kamenov, deputy-chairman of the State Agency for Child Protection, Mr. Yavor Kolev, chief of the Cybercrime Unit at the General Directorate for Combating

Organized Crime, representatives of the Ministry of Transportation and the Ministry of Culture. SIC presented the findings of a study, which experts of the Centre conducted, on social networking sites's best and worst practices. Three new cases of online child grooming were mentioned, where easily accessible personal information on social networking sites was used. SIC defines these occurrences as indicative of a pressing and worsening problem that requires immediate attention on behalf of the respective websites to strengthen their security settings for protection of users who are minors.

SIC's recommendations for enhancing online child protections were also discussed. Social Network Cite owners presented the already implemented regulations as well as their planned measures. The owners of 7 sites with a total of 2.7 million users took part in the discussion – Aha.bg, Sladur.com, Sofianci.com, Limpa.bg, Impulse.bg, Teenproblem.net, and Flirt4e.com. Site representatives agreed on setting up a SIC – coordinated action group to work on proposals and base standards for online child protection, as well as for sharing of best practices.

Initiatives for Children

Open Lesson “Safer Internet during the School Break”



On 20 May 2010, in 97th high school “Bratia Miladinovi” in Sofia, SIC presented a lesson-discussion with 48 second grade students from two schools – 97th and 137th high school, which participate in the awarded project “Our First Steps on the Internet.” The project by Desislava Milenkova, a teacher in 137th high school, and Rumiana Neminska, a teacher in 97th high school, received the highest recognition at the European teachers-innovators forum in Berlin on 23-25 March 2010. Their project was about electronic education of primary school students.

The meeting with second-graders was devoted to discussing safety online during the school holidays and concluded with awarding students certificates for participation. They also received presents from the Safer Internet Centre - a booklet, “Flashboy: Mission Familatlon” an a magic cube displaying the same animated hero, mascot of SIC, who received his name as a result of an online competition by the Dechica.com website in the beginning of the year.

The second grade students actively participated in defining the three primary functions of the Internet – informational, entertaining and communication. They named the risks to children related to each of these functions.

Event for Children and Parents “Safe on the Street, Safe Online”

On the Bulgarian Independence Day, 22 September, more than 200 parents and children took part in an exploration-tour “Time Machine,” under the motto “Safe on the Street, Safe Online.” Co-organizers of the family orientation game were Association “Roditel” and SIC. It included map reading and locating of five given downtown landmarks. Upon arrival at a landmark, the participants received a card, which pictured the way the building of interest looked in the old times. When children-parents teams gathered all five cards, they had them bound together in a nice



keepsake album. Children also received as prizes a magic folding cube and a game-book, featuring the online child defender character Flashboy, as well as a poster with the main rules of internet safety and stickers with the web-address of the Internet Hotline.

Parents were given an “Are you ready to talk to your children about Internet” brochure, and those who had a first-grader this year also received a “Welcome to School, Parents” booklet.

The initiative took place as a part of the European Mobility Week, which culminated in closing of traffic in the center of Sofia on 22 September and having a large bicycle parade, organized by Bike-Evolution Association, under the patronage of the mayor of Sofia, Mrs. Yordanka Fandakova.

Open Lessons on Internet Safety for Students

In January, Yavor Kolev, chief of Cybercrime unit at the General Directorate for Combating Organized Crime of the Ministry of interior, Veni Markovski, chairman of the Public Council of Internet Society, and Georgi Apostolov, coordinator of SIC, met with students from the Sofia Mathematical School. At a discussion about responsible behavior online, which is the primary factor to online safety, students shared their thoughts about the meaning of the motto of the campaign “Think be4 U Post.”

On the eve of the International Safer Internet Day an open lesson took place in the Bulgarian-Korean Internet Center in Sofia with students from several schools from the capital city. Representatives of the Ministry of Transportation, the E-Centers project and SIC participated in the event.

On 11 November 2010, in the town of Smolyan, experts from the Bulgarian Safer Internet Centre, the General Directorate for Combating Organized Crime and the US Federal Bureau of Investigation talked to 12-year old students from the “St.St. Cyril and Methodius” school about staying safe on the Internet.

Mr. Yavor Kolev informed students about real cases of children who fell victim to online abuse and advised them to stay alert while surfing the virtual world. Mr. Kolev pinpointed that it is crucial to be very careful with choosing online friends and which websites to visit.

Mr. Georgi Apostolov acquainted children with the activities of the Bulgarian Internet Hotline, where they can report internet-related crime, such as cyber-bullying and child grooming for sexual abuse. Mr. Apostolov gave some useful tips on staying safe while surfing the Net. Youngsters need to keep their identity private and avoid disclosing any personal information to people they do not know in real life. Furthermore, it is important that they share with their parents should anyone attempt to coax them online into doing inappropriate things or insists on a real-life meeting.

Special agent Brian Herrick of the FBI’s Cybercrime unit in the state of Philadelphia, United States, discussed a few of the American online child abuse cases. Mr. Herrick also encouraged students to share with parents and seek their advice about anything that bothers them on the Internet.

All three experts strongly emphasized that youngsters should not upload personal photos and videos that may compromise and harm them in the future. Having uploaded a material, they lose control over where this material goes and who sees it.

The three experts conducted the same workshop on 15 November in the 22nd school in Sofia.

Video Contest “How Did You Mark the Beginning of the New School Year at Your School”

To minimize the risks to child safety online, in addition to campaigns, trainings and information events, an essential role plays stimulating the positive use of new information and communication technologies.

For the purpose of this, SIC supported Teacher.bg and Dechica.com’s initiative for organizing a video contest titled “How did you mark the beginning of the new school year at your school.” The competition had a great turnout by students from the entire country. In addition to the main three large prizes, provided by Microsoft – Bulgaria and Kabinata BG, ten of the participants received encouraging educational prizes from SIC.

For Parents

Second Family Event Familation



On 15 May, the UN Day of the Family, the Bulgarian Safer Internet Centre organized for a second year Famillathlon - an outdoor event for children and parents under the auspices of H.E. the Ambassador of France in Bulgaria and the EC Office in Sofia.

The event supported by Sofia Municipality, Oak Foundation, Vivacom and Save the Children Norway, was opened in the city centre by Sofia city Mayor Mrs. Yordanka Fandakova. An address from the EC Office head was announced and the start was given to a Bicycle Tour for parents and children to the South Park. Participants ranged from 4 to 54 years of age.

From the central stage in the South Park the youngest and the oldest participants in the tour received their prizes and the Family Safer Internet Day was announced by the Deputy Chairman of the State Agency for Child Protection Mr. Kalin Kamenov.

There was a lot of music, presentations of dances, singing, and martial arts from groups of children from various schools. The children and their parents participated in competitions organized by more than a dozen of sports federations and children organizations.

Most interest attracted the orientation competition "Little Europe" - children had to run across the park to find the locations of the 27 capitals of the EU countries and receive a stamp. After collecting all stamps they received prizes - the awareness booklet "Flashboy: Mission Famillathlon", magic folding cubes with the same Flashboy - the hero defender of the children online, EU starred balls and toys. For the parents the booklet "Are you able to talk with your children about Internet".

A Safer Internet quiz competition from the stage on the theme "Think B4 U Post" brought additional prizes for the smartest answers.

More than 2,000 parents and children took part in the whole day event and even the occasional showers could not spoil the joyful mood.

First Steps on the Internet for Parents

Jointly with Association "Roditeli," SIC prepared a second, updated edition of the young parents' guidebook "Are You Ready to Talk to Your Children about the Internet?" It was disseminated to parents on the Familation Day and the "Time Machine" event of 22 September.

For Educators

Training on Combating Real and Virtual Violence

In 2010 the workshops on the "Real and Virtual Violence: Prevention through Interactive Education in School" methodology continued in 20 schools in Sofia. The methodology was also implemented in all public schools in the city of Varna. It was also taught to Sofia University students. A second volume of the methodology guidebook was prepared, featuring 25 additional lessons.

In March and June two trainings of all of the pedagogical counselors and school psychologists from the public schools in Varna took place. The workshops were possible thanks to the assistance of the "Preventions" and "Education" directorates at the Varna Municipality. The professionals had the opportunity to learn about the new concept and the second part of the guidebook and to discuss the featured topics. The trainings on the Real and Virtual Violence methodology in Varna commenced in the 2009/2010 school year and continued in the next school year.

In Sofia, a new group of educators were trained. Along with this continued the holding of lectures on safer Internet during free school lessons in 20 schools. The second volume of the methodology guidebook was completed, which added 25 new lessons, which have been designed to deepen the development of emotional intelligence and social skills that will help young people avoid aggression in real and virtual communication.

By contract with Sofia University, nine 4th- and 5th-year psychology major students completed a special training on the “Real and Virtual Violence” methodology. After successfully passing an interview, three of them were selected to specialize in Sofia schools as a part of the team of educators. In November, an annex to the contract with Sofia University provided for extending the training and school and practice to students from the Philosophy Department.

Throughout the year, the methodology was presented at two INSAFE meetings, where it was favorably accepted by other participants. Due to the high interest by other centers to implement the methodology in their countries, SIC translated the guidebook into English to disseminate among interested Safer Internet Centres. The English version is also featured on the INSAFE website <http://saferinternet.org> for partner organizations to download and use.

E-education for Teachers

As part of a project by the Ministry of Education, SIC developed a training module to prepare teachers on online safety of minors. The module is included in an online education course offered by the Ministry of Education. More than 10,000 teachers from the entire country completed the course, passed the final tests and received certificates for successful completion.

In partnership with Kabinata.com SIC gave two online lectures for teachers on the new strategies to educate children about safer Internet use and Internet addiction by young people. The lectures were followed by over 300 teachers from across the country through the “Virtual School” platform of the Teacher.bg website.

Teachers’ Safer Internet Guidebook

The “Partners-Bulgaria” Foundation issued the teachers’ “Safer Internet” guidebook as a part of the “You Choose” campaign of SIC with support by the European Parliament MPs Iliana Yotova and Phyllis Husmenova. Each tenth child stays online overnight during the school holidays, said Mrs. Husmenova at a press conference on 19 September about the official release of the guidebook. The book, which has already gained high popularity, is being distributed in schools and in 11 information centers around the country.

SIC’s Youth Panel / Peer Group

To involve young people in online safety activities and increase the efficacy of different initiatives, SIC regularly seeks the opinions and perspectives of young people. For the purpose of this, a Safer Internet Peer Group was set up to operate along with the Center.

After two years of successful cooperation with the Youth Council of the Oborishte region in Sofia, SIC made contacts with the Peer Group of the Varna municipality. During two training sessions of Varna schools’ pedagogical counselors, meetings with the members of the Peer Group took place. They expressed high interest in the subject of online safety. With the assistance of Varna municipality’s “Preventions” directorate and “Education” directorate, an official agreement was signed, which approved the Varna Peer Group as the new youth panel at SIC. SIC encourages and facilitates young panel members’ participation at different European and national initiatives, seeks their opinions about the newest trends in using online technologies by their peers, about current online risks and the adequacy of SIC’s campaigns and initiatives.

In July, two representatives of the Youth Panel went to an international summer EU youth camp in Bran, Romania. The camp was organized by the Romanian Safer Internet Centre. The two youngsters completed training on different topics ranging from online safety to development of projects and peer training.

International Activities

Partner Training

As a joint project of the Center for Inclusive Education, Save the Children – Norway in Sarajevo, SIC hosted five representatives of NGOs from Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia. They passed 4-day training on developing national safer Internet centers and internet hotlines. A brief training also took place on applying at school the “Real and Virtual Violence: Prevention through Interactive Education at School’ methodology.

SIC led a 3-day workshop for two Macedonia experts in the framework of a newly launched project by the European Commission for training of representatives from non-EU states. The two Macedonians learned about the Safer Internet program, the activities of INSAFE AND INHOPE, as well as the experience of the Bulgarian Safer Internet Centre.

At the end of September, invited by the Austrian ERSTE Foundation, SIC held two seminars with teachers and students from Central and Eastern Europe in Senec, Slovakia on cyber-bullying among minors.

In 2010 members of SOC took part in 5 INSAFE and INHOPE meetings and in the annual forum on Safer Internet in Luxembourg, where SIC presented its experience and initiatives about ensuring a safer online environment for minors in Bulgaria.

The Bulgarian Safer Internet Centre thanks all of its partners and supporters, who helped with the realization of all activities in 2010.