ITU Regional Development Forum for Europe (RDF-EUR)

Information and Communication Technologies for Attaining Sustainable Development Goals

Tuesday 26 May 2020 | 11:00 – 15:30 | Remote Meeting

https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Regional-Presence/Europe/Pages/Events/2020/RDF/Remote.aspx

CONTRIBUTION BY SWGfL/UK

TITLE: National Child Online Protection Report

CONTACT: David Wright, david@saferinternet.org.uk, +44 7899905387

Europe Regional Initiative: [Tick the relevant boxes or delete the irrelevant items]

☐   EUR4: Enhancing trust and confidence in the use of information and communication technologies

Year(s) of implementation: [Tick the relevant boxes or delete the irrelevant items]

☐   2019
☐   2020
☐   2021

Background [max 300 words]

Little is more important in life than protecting our children from harm. Today, their world exists as much online as it does physically, however those responsible for protecting children are often blinkered and oblivious to this. Whilst protecting children is everyone's responsibility, given the variety and complexity of actors, technologies and agencies as well as opportunities and threats, the establishment of a national strategy that drives coordinated activities an imperative

In line with the resolution 179 (Rev. Dubai 2018) from the Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Busan, 2014) and within the framework of the ITU Regional Initiative on Europe (WTDC-17, Buenos Aires) on Enhancing trust and confidence in the use of information and communication technologies that aims 'to support the deployment of resilient infrastructure and secure services allowing all citizens, especially children, to use ICTs in their daily lives with confidence', in-country support is provided through ITU which aims to address the following

- State Assessment of the existing situation, supplemented by existing statistical sources, covering infrastructure, education, organizational activities and child protection legislation, including identification of gaps in the legislation;
- Summary of current issues with associated online safety provision together with any specific recommendations

- Suggested areas for a national online safety strategy and action plan to consider and cover. The national online safety strategy would encompass Governmental entities, Information Society (young generation, parents, schools and teachers), Telecom operators, Media)

A report is compiled following preparatory desktop research and supplemented by online surveys completed by children, parents and stakeholders within the country. Detailed interview meetings are then held with a range of Government Ministries, NGOs, Industry and Schools during an organized mission.

The report structure and headings are informed and directed by the ITU 'Guidelines for Policy Makers on Child Online Protection' and supplemented by a section that identifies further issues. The report illustrates a combined analysis of the situation and details the concluding recommendations. The recommendations are elaborated in terms of priority and timescale together with examples of good practices.

The report published for Ukraine included the following sections

1. Introduction
2. Technology and Online Child Protection
3. Legal Framework
4. National Focus on Child Online Protection
5. Development of local resources
6. Public Education and Awareness
7. Reporting Mechanisms
8. Use of Technical Tools
9. Analysis and Recommendations

Proposal [max 400 words]

Proposal 1

In country support through ITU is offered to ITU Membership of Europe region to address Child Online Protection using the methodology developed for the assistance provided to Georgia in 2018 and Ukraine in 2019 and the updated ITU Child Online Protection Guidelines published in 2020. The support will address the particular needs of the requesting country while adhering to a standard methodology. Spain, Serbia and Bosnia have expressed an interest to receive this support and any further Countries who wish to avail of this assistance are requested to contact us or ITU.

Proposal 2

The array of ITU Child Online Protection guidelines, initially published in 2009 (and some updated in 2016), were reviewed and significantly updated in 2019 and 2020. The latest versions have been completed and are due to be published in June 2020. The purpose of the guidelines is to provide ITU Member States a user-friendly and flexible framework to understand and act upon their legal obligation to provide for the protection of children in both the "real", physical and

"virtual" worlds. ITU support is offered to countries in adopting and implementing these guidelines

Supporting new COP guidelines rollout