**The Safety on The Internet**

Everyone uses the internet for different purposes. But It doesn´t matter if you are in Russia, Portugal or Brazil, medialization is everywhere. You make presentations for school, watch films or series on Netflix, study, social media, video games, etc. In a nutshell, the internet is a useful tool, full of joy, fun, excitement, but also danger and responsibility. And if you don´t follow laws or basic rules, it can get you in prison faster than ever before. And I mainly want to talk about European legislation and the basics you should know and carefully follow. But the most important topics are the GDPR and Copyright directive. You´ve probably met these pieces of legislation already, but not many people know what it means to them. I´ve gotten to know confused people, and even in videos about it, it isn´t always said in facts but usually in the form of feelings instead. This Article divides into four sections, and its purpose is clear. It should finally settle down your questions about your internet behavior if you have any. And if you do not question it, after reading this, you most likely will.

**GDPR**

GDPR is known as “General Data Protection Regulation,” and you must have heard about it. You must sign a GDPR document after a definitive period in a school or a workplace.

It means that they are allowed to put up on their websites your picture and general information. In its core, it extends your privacy and protects you from manipulating your internet footprint by entities or companies nationwide or across different countries and regions. It merely extends your right to your data and the right to withdraw at any given time.

Trying to control companies and protect customers goes way back into the 1970s. Because the government has known that it could cause severe problems as they have been going digitalized ever since. And in 2012, the European Union has put all the efforts of countries behind them and created the GDPR. And it had come a long way until 14th April 2016 when the European Parliament has decided by a majority to put the GDPR into a law. And they had given two years to countries as any other proposal to implement the regulation. As of 25th May 2018, every member country has to have its kind of GDPR assigned to their constitutions. In 2018, even members of EEA (European Economic Area – Lichtenstein, Iceland, Norway) had agreed for the implementation of the GDPR.

**Cookies**

If you use the internet, there’s no way that you couldn’t meet with the cookies. Because when you open any given address, there’s a window where you must accept or refuse them. They are small pieces of text files, and they are stored when you open a website. There are first-party or third-party cookies. First party cookies mean text files get deleted after you close the browser. Third-party cookies are the website’s cookies, and they usually have something to do with your ad preferences and why you see the ad of a new model of boat that you just purchased earlier. I just wanted to mention this because, in my opinion, it’s essential to know what you click on because it’s a fundamental problem of safety on the internet. You can think that you can only accept it, but it’s not true. In these particular cases, you can always reject, but it’s also good to mention that your website doesn’t have to work correctly.

**The Copyright directive of 2019**

This directive is probably one of the most discussed and controversial pieces of legislation of recent years. It’s a directive on copyright on the European single market, and its purpose was to protect the content of creators, artists, writers, and others. You may have heard things like the censorship of the internet, end of the internet as we know it, etc. It’s simply not true. And I would like to explain why and why a lot of confusion is around the internet and the particular Article 13. Firstly, it has evolved since the first idea came up. A lot. And once, it had been more of a draft of ideas than actual thing that would work. It meant to help people, but instead, it caused problems and probably would be bad for sites like Youtube and others. Not anymore, so let me go through it and say what is included or not. Article 5 is about education, and It has an exception. Wikipedia has an exception (The new draft doesn’t cover it). It strengthens journalism. It imposes no filters. Memes and GIFs excluded. It simply isn’t the censorship of the internet at all. It helps owners of digitalized content. There’s no need to panic. If you don’t believe it, it’s alright. I’ll upload a link to the Q&As of the European Commission. The makers of the draft. Plus, it can change in a few ways since every member state has to implement it into a law. When I’m talking about copyright, I can’t forget to mention one big problem that every student has to go through. The issues with the presentation. And I want to talk about creative commons because this is the easiest way how to use photos for your history class and get it right. Because if the picture supports ccs, that means that you can use it in most cases. Don’t forget to give the author credit. But it’s usually easy to find, or you can search for its website. Just follow the link in the TwinSpace.

**Your Judgement**

I can talk for hours about laws and regulation of data privacy, but It still isn’t enough. That’s why I want to stop and tell you how important it is to think about what you are doing right or wrong. Do you watch films or tv series on illegal sites, or do you pay Netflix for movies and Spotify for music? Do you post your personal information on the internet, or do you post just the necessities? It would help if you had in mind that every decision that you will make can affect you or someone else in the future. Do you want to be a president? Then, you shouldn’t have posted that porn video that you have made with your friends. Do you want to listen to your favorite artists? Then, you should have paid for the Spotify premium because they couldn’t earn a living, so they had to stop and start working elsewhere. And there are thousands of cases, examples and sad stories. And I cannot cover them all, but I can advise you to change your ways of behaving with the internet content. It isn’t going to be the cheapest way, but It’s going to be the right one. I can advise you to think before you post something, how this might affect you or your family. Because the best option for how to support artists, creators of digital content aren’t laws or regulations, the best way is to stop using illegal content.

To mention everything, it would be a year-long study. But after reading this, I hope that you got a sense of how it is crucial to know what you click on, how you manage your digital information, or how you should behave with copyright laws and what it means to you. If you have any questions or you want to ask me anything about these topics or anything related, non-related, write to me on Instagram or Twitter under @krystofkanive.