

Cyberbullying can be reported to the Croatian Police through the RED BUTTON app

Only 11% of young people sought help after being exposed to disturbing content on the Internet

The Internet is a great invention that connects the world, but unfortunately, it also allows a variety of inappropriate content and there are many of those prone to insulting and intimidating others. According to the survey on the safety of children and youth conducted in Croatia as part of the international project EU KIDS, more than half of the children from 9 to 17 years old received a violating or inappropriate message. Data refer to 2017 when the survey was carried out on a sample of 1017 children, their parents, and guardians.

The results of the research showed that more than 1/10 children aged 9 to 17 years were intimidated on the Internet during that year. It also found that the third of young people aged 9 to 17 years, communicates online with a person who they don't know personally and that every fourth teenager aged 15 to 17 years, met with the person he/she met online. The worrying fact is that only 11% of young people have sought help after they have been exposed to disturbing content.

All this information we found on the Internet, as well as who to contact for those who have been exposed to insults and intimidation over the Internet. The app that can help is called the Red Button. It is the application by the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Croatia (Police). Through this application, all those who have experienced an inappropriate situation on the Internet can report it to the police. Various other forms of exploitation or abuse of children may also apply. The app is available on the <https://redbutton.mup.hr/> link. The instructions for using the application also stated that in urgent cases police should be contacted through emergency contact number 192.

/Lea Harča, 7b; illustrations downloaded from the Internet/