Council of Europe Democracy in Action Project

Focus group Students

National Financial Economic School March 27,2017

1. **How much time you spend daily in the social networks?**

 I'm online for 2-3 hours daily. Of course, I do not stay in all the time – I use school breaks ,I'm online when I go to and back from school, as well during the evenings at home.

   I spend almost one third of my time in the net.

   I 'm online for 3-4 hours, I'm very much the same.

   I do not know what exactly is social media. What about you tube – is this social media or not?

   I spend a lot of my time in social networks – I read and chat – this takes 3-4 hours from my time.

    Yes, I do spend a lot of time in the net – I do not know whether this is good or bad, may be I'm addicted?

2. **How would you define the communication in the net or in social networks?**

   In social networks we do communicate or the net is a part of our communication. According to me, the chat has the same deficiences as the written communication – you could not see the other person. From the other side you could reply in a more simple way and concisely. I think that in communication online one is not as much engaged as in direct communication in life.

   The communication is not material, almost immediately the message disappears.

For me communication online kills the courage or the desire to speak directly to the other. As well in this type of communication there is no place for emotions, feelings.

You know, the big problem is that you can't see the reaction of the other.

Usually the communication is mixed –Bulgarian, English, sometimes numbers are used. But the level of written messages is so low, I should say it is close to illiteracy.

I could agree with you, everyone writes in its own peculiar way, there are no rules or the rules are not followed and that's much different from the written communication offline.

This is fast communication, the distance between the communicators disappears almost immediately. Because of all these peculiarities it is not hard to discover very soon how literate is the one on the other side.

3. What about the communication rules in social networks?

I will say simply – there are no rules, no moral code. That's the beauty you could use signs, icons, mimes. All this do replace the emotions. There are some unwritten rules - you have to wait the other ,for example; you have to start writing from the right side in order to provide space for the other.

Yes, there are unwritten rules, but most of the rules are invented by the participant and he/she keeps to these rules. If one is well brought he behaves in the very same way online.

As about privacy rule , no this is not followed. One has to be cautious -doesn't have to disseminate anything which you won't like to see afterwards online. All the shared things – they stop to be private or personal. One has to count that everything communicated between two persons could find its way beyond.

Yes, everything goes public. Very often there are no rules, like there is evident lack of respect for the other person, or more precisely – for its opinion. And the net is not a tolerant space- the people do curse one another, insults are

something common. Expressing its own opinion often causes fights, clashes, scandals. The people we know are different When there is disagreement and there is argument is just like a personal battle and not a discussion which aim is to get agreement on the problem discussed.

Are there any good norms of communication in the net? It depends on the social network. If this is a professional network or a forum gathering people with common interests – the communication is more "normal".

I do not agree – namely in the forums there is striking absence of normal communication. One is usually more aggressive in the net. As well one tries to present oneself better than he/she is in real life.

For me it is important that in the net one could get much faster approval and could find people who think the same way.

4. At school is it discussed the behavior of the students in the networks?

At school sometimes the attention is paid to the dangers, connected with the participation in social networks. Yes, it is clear to us that there is a risk to be manipulated in the net.

The social networks should be used for project development and management, all of the time in Facebook are created numerous groups in support for one or another initiative, for problem solving.

Yes, it is true we are not so involved in such initiatives. In our school we use very little the net and only in few subject fields.

As about the online initiatives I would like to say that many of it are unsuccessful because the people in the net do not know one another and therefore there is no confidence.

According to me the social networks are good space for starting and developing firms, foundations, for marketing.

I think that while participating in a social network one has the opportunity to develop its own analytical and critical thinking and therefore such person could

not be manipulated easily. Very often in the net there are warnings concerning ongoing manipulations, thefts, frauds. Just see that the phone frauds are contacting as a rule elderly people with no access to internet. It is very difficult to cheat one who spends a lot of time in the net. When you have access to more sources of information you are developing your sensitivity, you are more cautious and possess critical reasoning.

5. **What do you think about the basic Human Rights in the net - are they realized or violated?**

   What about the rules – we are all equal, we are free, have a freedom of thought, of expression and cet.

   Yes about the net it's true – we have equal rights, we have equal start , everyone is in front of the computer screen. At least this is in the beginning and afterwards it depends how many likes one gets.

   Everyone has the right to a safe life – the social network doesn't realize or is not a guarantee for this right – one could be made fun of, ridiculed, humiliated, insulted, harassed, verbally abused. One could be hurt and insulted and this happens very often.

   My point is that everyone could freely think and express himself in the net, doesn't he.

   Yes in the Universal Declaration of the Human Rights it's written "that everyone has the responsibility to respect the rights of the other people "but in the net this is not the case.

   The privacy topic - nothing like this. One has to be cautious and have to behave ib that way . Do not do to the others the things you do not want to be done to you and do not disseminate anything which you don't want to see in the net afterwards.