

SuperCyberKids Call: ERASMUS-EDU-2022-PI-FORWARD Project No.101087250 Project Coordinator: National Research Council of Italy (CNR)

Information Sheet on the Pilot Study conducted as part of the SuperCyberKids Project

What is this research about?

Cybersecurity for children has become a rapidly growing topic due to the increased availability of the internet to children and their consequent exposure to various online risks. Children start going online at an early age, and it is therefore very important to provide teachers with proper training in cybersecurity skills so that they can transfer them to their youngest pupils. SuperCyberKids (SCK) aims to respond to this need by providing children aged 8 to 13 and their teachers with an educational ecosystem that provides learning content on cybersecurity, adopting a game-based approach to increase motivation and engagement. The core mission is to deliver two main outputs: the educational ecosystem and the related guidelines for implementing it. The pilot activities will be carried out in four different settings (Europe-wide in English, and in local languages in Italy, Estonia, Germany) to test and evaluate the project's outputs. Both teachers and headteachers will be involved in this study, each providing valuable insight and feedback about the implementation of the activities carried out. Teachers will be asked both to participate in specific training on cybersecurity in the educational context and on the theoretical framework developed in SuperCyberKids, and to implement educational activities in their classrooms. Headteachers will be asked to provide insight and evaluate SuperCyberKids activities with regard to their experience and the integration of SuperCyberKids



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piloted activities into school curricula. This pilot evaluation will be carried out with the use of questionnaires, focus groups and feedback forms.

Who is doing this research?

The SuperCyberKids project is co-funded by an Erasmus+ grant from the European Commission. It is coordinated by the National Research Council of Italy (CNR), in partnership with seven other partners from five countries: the University of Mannheim (UMA), Tallinn University (TLU), GRIFO Multimedia SRL (GRIFO), CGI as CGI EESTI (CGI), AVANZI SPA Società Benefit (AVANZI), the European Cyber Security Organization (ECSO), and the European School Heads Association (ESHA). Further details on the partnership can be found on the project website, at the following address: <u>https://www.supercyberkids.eu/partners/</u>. This pilot study will be jointly conducted and coordinated by all the project partners in four different languages and settings: Europe-wide in English, and in local languages in Italy, Estonia, Germany. For each country, a contact person will be available to support schools and teachers with the pilot deployment and to provide participants with further information if required.

Why have you been invited to take part?

We are looking for teachers and headteachers of European schools educating students between 8 and 13 years old belonging to one of the four different settings in which pilot activities will be carried out:

- schools located in Estonia, using the Estonian language;
- schools located in Europe, using the English language;
- schools located in Germany, using the German language;
- schools located in Italy, using the Italian language.

Accordingly, selected teachers and headteachers will be invited to participate in the implementation of project activities and take part in evaluation questionnaires, tests and focus groups.

What happens if you decide to take part in this research study?

Participating teachers and headteachers will be engaged in a training programme that will explore cybersecurity topics and concepts and their application in the educational context. To help with the evaluation of the activities, before the start of this training programme, participants will be asked to answer a questionnaire intended to collect information about their familiarity with cybersecurity



concepts and gamification teaching strategies, and their perceived urgency and confidence with regards to the implementation of these inside school curricula.

Participants will be then trained on the theoretical framework of SuperCyberKids, which clearly outlines fundamental skills and competences related to the world of cybersecurity considered critical in the context of education. These skills will enable students to face today's and tomorrow's challenges related to the world around them, which is increasingly characterized by technological integration. This training will mostly be carried out via online webinars.

Following this initial training, participants will be introduced to the SuperCyberKids ecosystem, to the related digital platform, and to the selected educational resources involved in this pilot. At the end of these training activities, participants will be asked to answer a questionnaire designed to establish the perceived usefulness of the presented materials and their intention to implement SuperCyberKids actions and resources in their classrooms.

Teachers then participating in piloting activities will go on to enact four cybersecurity-themed lesson plans in their school context. They will have the opportunity to bring the resources and methodology provided by the project into their classrooms and to try out first-hand the educational approach promoted by SuperCyberKids, all in a context facilitated and guided by the project partners. During these practical implementations, participants will be asked to complete feedback forms on the specific modules and resources used, as well as provide a rating on their quality.

At the end of these lessons, participants will be asked to provide feedback related to their use of the platform and their overall experience in implementing the piloted activities, both through a questionnaire and taking part in a focus group.

The experience will end with a final webinar in which participants will review the outcomes achieved during the piloting of SuperCyberKids activities and resources.

How will your data be used and protected?

Data collected during this pilot study will be used to evaluate the impact of the developed methodology and resources on participants and on their in-classroom experience, as described above. Participants' names, surnames, countries, roles and emails will be used only for the purposes of pilot recruitment and organization, including demonstrating participants' attendance in the training activities, and for user registration and use of the SuperCyberKids platform. Data from questionnaires and focus groups will be collected and processed anonymously, without any reference to the

individuals involved. Results from the evaluation process will be used to communicate project developments to the funding agency and for scientific dissemination, such as publication in journals and presentation at conferences. Arrangements will be in place throughout the pilot study to ensure that the identity of each participant remains confidential; all data collected from this pilot study will be de-identified and, whenever possible, evaluated as aggregate anonymous data.

Data collected during this research will be processed in compliance with European data protection legislation, specifically Regulation (EU) 2016/679, known as the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). All information will be securely stored and used exclusively for research purposes, respecting confidentiality principles and safeguarding participants' privacy.

All the data used for evaluation purposes will be collected via secure online procedures and will be used exclusively for the purpose of this research and evaluation of the impact of project activities.

What are the benefits of taking part in this research study?

Your participation in the SuperCyberKids project will help us gain valuable insights into the usefulness of the developed methodology and resources as a new and more engaging educational approach helping the young to learn cybersecurity topics. We hope that the pilot, and the project generally, will allow headteachers, teachers, and therefore their students to benefit from the SuperCyberKids approach in various ways: self-efficacy, attitude, methodology, and availability of educational resources on cybersecurity concepts, related risks and mitigation strategies.

What are the risks of taking part in this research study?

There is minimal risk to participants in taking part in this research project, limited specifically to the possibility of a data breach. Both the SuperCyberKids project in general and the pilot study specifically follow the guidance of an External Advisory Board. Its partners commit to following the highest standards in confidentiality and data protection to protect participants' data and minimize any potential risk.

Can you change your mind at any stage and withdraw from the study?

Participation in the study is on a voluntary basis. If at any time you decide that you no longer wish to participate in the study, you may freely withdraw and there will be absolutely no negative consequences for you, your school, or your students. Should you choose to withdraw, you will not need to provide a reason why, and you will not be required to complete any further questionnaires or



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tests. In any case, data collected from questionnaires already administered to teachers and headteachers will continue to be used for research and evaluation purposes in an aggregate and deidentified form (art. 17, GDPR).

How will you follow the progress of this project?

For more information on the SuperCyberKids project please visit <u>https://www.supercyberkids.eu/</u>.

Contact details for further information

For more information on the research and the pilot study, please email:

- Estonian Pilot:
 - o Catlyn Kirna (CGI), catlyn.kirna@cgi.com
- European Pilot:
 - Anne-Sophie Van Vaerenbergh (ECSO), annesophie.vanvaerenbergh@ecs-org.eu
- German Pilot:
 - o Nicolai Plintz (UMA), nicolai.plintz@uni-mannheim.de
- Italian Pilot:
 - o Giorgia Bassi (CNR), giorgia.bassi@iit.cnr.it

We welcome any questions you may have about this project.

Please note that separate consent forms will need to be filled in before participation can take place.



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