

OUR FINDINGS ON THE BASIS OF QUESTIONNAIRES

In our Erasmus+ project we tried to raise awareness about the dangers hidden behind internet and social media. In order to do this, we decided to start with a questionnaire, the aim of which was to find out about our students' habits connected with this topic. Students solved the first questionnaire at the beginning of the project and then once again at the end of the project.

We compared the two questionnaires to see if there are any significant changes. After two years and a half we see that our students still use mobile phones and social media, as this is inevitable nowadays. In the course of this period students even came across new kinds of social media. In the first questionnaire, we learned that our students use mostly Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, Tiktok, Pinterest now they also use Omegle, which they didn't even know before. Because of the home learning experience and constant videocalls they also learned about different videoconferencing networks such as Jitsi meet, Zoom, Viber and WhatsApp, all suitable for distance learning and group learning.

Unfortunately, this epidemiologic period forced our students to spend even more time behind computers and mobile phones – the one thing our project's aim was to diminish. Nonetheless, we are confident to say that our students have learned how to use social media in a wiser way – they are aware of the dangers facing them so they don't publish pictures and personal information, they use complicated passwords and are generally more careful. They also know that social media can be a useful tool for communicating with their school friends, solving more difficult homework and searching for data. Especially in the period of social distancing it was important to them to stay in a way connected to their friends through social media, the drawback again being spending too much time in front of computer and phone screens.

After students returned to school they once more had the opportunity to interact with each other, consequently there is a decrease in the use of social media at the moment. However, there is a worrisome fact that we noticed after the period of distance learning; there are a few students who developed an addiction to game playing. Teachers discussed this topic together with the students' parents at the parents-teachers meetings at school. We fear this might be a topic we should pay more attention to in the future.

All in all we can say that the amount of time spent behind computer and mobile phones screens has not diminished, but the students are far more careful about what they watch and what they publish on social media. Although the project is reaching its end, we still plan to continue spreading the knowledge about social media that we achieved in the last years in order to raise awareness about the excessive use of social media, games addiction and safe use of the internet to future generations of students.

Erasmus group from Slovenia

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