

## **DeSHAME Serbia: RESEARCH ON RISK ONLINE BEHAVIOUR, HARASSMENT AND EXPOSURE TO HARMFUL CONTENT ON THE INTERNET**

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The complexity of sexual content on the Internet represents a potential source of various dangers for young people, and international and domestic trends indicate an increasing prevalence of sexual harassment of minors in the online environment. Accordingly, gaining insight into the potentially risky behavior of young people on the Internet is a matter of extreme importance, both for the individual and the family, and for the wider social community.

Bearing the above in mind, the paper will present the first systematic research on the territory of the Republic of Serbia, on risk behaviors, sexual harassment and exposure of young people to sexual content on the Internet, which represents an extended part of the large international project "deShame" carried out initially in three countries (Denmark, Hungary, the United Kingdom), and then in Croatia. The main goal of the research involves deepening knowledge about the risk behaviors of high school students on the Internet, and gaining insight into the degree of their exposure to sexual content and sexual harassment in the online environment. 2950 students of the 1st and 3rd grades of secondary schools participated in the research, aged 14 to 18. To select respondents in the research, a stratified non-proportional procedure is used, two secondary schools were selected from each of the 16 school administrations in Serbia. The results of the research show devastating data when it comes to sexual harassment on the Internet in the Republic of Serbia, as well as when it comes to the attitudes of students towards other students in the context of the spread of false information, judgment and (in)tolerance in the digital environment.

At the end of the paper, the results of the research, as well as potential recommendations will be presented. Accordingly, space will be open for the creation of various prevention measures in the reduction of various online risks, primarily in the domain of sexual exploitation of children and young people.