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PREVENTION OF RISKS FOR THE MINORS IN SOCIAL NETWORKS AND INTERNET

RESULTS REPORT

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT



galicia

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INTRODUCTION

1. INTRODUCTION

Social environment which a teenager interacts is able to have influence in the formation of his personality and abilities, despite determining the risks which he is exposed to. That area of relationships has always overflowed the face-to-face, local or familiar sphere because teenagers are so exposed to the social media, books or publicity than any person. That exposition level to external agents has always been a polemical issue: what children can or must watch and how to protect them has always been a matter of discussion. From a long time ago, limits of age in the acquisition of certain products, inappropriate contents at certain times or products or publication classifications have been being legislated. Those have been the control and access or exposure vigilance tools for the mentioned influences. That begs the question where the responsibility of each agent starts and finishes in a so complex area.

The learning is a multidimensional process that affects to all life facets and is influenced by the different agents that are exposed through their social face-to-face, mass-media, belonging and reference groups, primary and secondary groups' spaces in which this person is involved.

Technology has been transformed in the last few years. Physical and static mediums which served as containers of the information (tapes, discs, cassettes) have been gradually transformed in virtual containers that can be shared, modified, hidden or exchanged through multiple channels. Digital devices not only entry points (such as it was television, radio, game console or the computer) but they are exit of information points too. Thanks to the internet connection, this exit point is hardly permanent active nowadays.

Some of the limits and classifications formerly assumed are dissolved in internet. The difference between the public and the private or between what is mass-media and particular or private information appear confused. Information sources available cannot be valued in a resembling manner anymore because people can hide themselves, transform or hide interests. Companies, institutions and people try to exploit their business opportunities, manipulate their image or recruit followers for their interests. There are new tools to interact, more activities in the network can be performed. In the meantime, children start to access into internet at an increasingly early age and perhaps parents do not always count with the most accurate abilities to manage that process.

All these possibilities open rich fields for the learning providing new Resources but also delinquency has adapted to the changes. It can be observed that old crimes that have been adapted to the online digital media (thefts, threats, attacks to people privacy...) but also new phenomenon that did not exist (sexting, cyberbullying, impersonations...).

The network has been evolving from an initial official websites emergency, electronic messaging and contents download to a new stage in which users interaction is stronger and more varied, developed through the named web 2.0, 3.0 etc. Here the interaction is produced between the users but also with companies and institutions. Occasionally, these agents can remain more or less hidden, at the same of their interests.

Parentnets starts from an each time more extended reality: Young people interact through on-line tools which parents does not know their uses and risks. Parentnets project starts from that reality to wonder for the role which parents can or could play in their children prevention when they use internet.

The project trains parents and teachers in the main social networks and activities that minors practice in the network exposing their uses and advantages insisting **on the detection and prevention of the new risks** that new technologies can represent for the youngest.

In order to this learning process be the simplest and playful as possible, a website containing a multimedia manual and a multimedia game will be designed.

A multicultural y multilingual Project

Parentnets is a project integrated by institutions from 7 different countries. The outcome will be product of the ideas, impressions and problems arisen from each one, for which reason it becomes a tool with a wider and diversified scope. Furthermore, all Parentnets products will be available in five languages: Spanish, English, Romanian, Portuguese and Galician.

Parentnets results

The principal results of the project will be the creation of a Manual and a Multimedia game which contribute to the prevention and solution of the possible risks that Internet brings to children and teenagers.

In the drawing up process of these materials, we distinguish three stages:

1. A preliminary investigation which will show operative information with reference to the ways that the project should take, allowing to know the use that young people make of the internet. Each partner will make a list of the most important social networks in their country, so as to the major threats in relation to the different tools and online websites.

With the gathered data, a report will be drafted with the most important results, by country, and for the general syndicate. This report will be the basis for the future content developed.

2. As a container in which include the mentioned multimedia tools, a website will be developed. This portal will have, furthermore, the function of serving as a reference in the project **website** and supporting the spreading of it.

3. Finally, the Manual and the Multimedia Game will be made known, the two most important products and *lei motiv* of the previous stages.

The investigation

The current document contains the results of an opinion poll made to parents. The questions dealt with knowledge, uses, permissions and prevention strategies against the risks in internet for their children.

An opinion poll has been made through a random selection, to parents and children between 6 and 18 years old to know accurately the data regarding the use of internet and social networks. There have been gathered habits from parents and children, because the own parental abilities are a relevant factor to know the tools and necessities to develop the project.

The questionnaire included aspects related to the habits and protection measures so as to the attitudes and knowledge of the parents of the risks that their children could be exposed when using internet and social network, the protection measures and the needs detected. The used questionnaire is in Annex I of the current document.

This survey allows to clear up the points in which knowledge and abilities from parents are more capable or need to improve their abilities.

It permits as well to know technological habits from parents and children because it establishes the ages when the use of the different devices are allowed and the control measures are applied.

The questionnaire contents could be classified in four blocks:

- Parents' characteristics: their personal or social characteristics and their technological habits.
- Habits of their children in the use of the internet and social networks
- Knowledge of the risks of internet for their children.
- Knowledge and use of protection measures against the risks of internet and social networks.



1.1. Investigation methodology

SAMPLING

The sampling applied of methodological definition is structural random by combination.

There have been established minimum sizes to obtain an appropriate representative in rural, urban, and semi urban environment, collecting a representative sample of every stratum.

The geographical scope of the survey is the European territory, but there have been chosen as combinations 4 participant countries in the project Parentes&Nets: Spain, Portugal, Romania and Ireland.

The stratum continues with a selection of schools, making the poll opinions to all the voluntaries disposed to collaborate in every selected educational centre.

In this manner, there have been obtained **a sample of 1184 valid questionnaires, which implies a margin of error of 1.45% for a 95% of level of confidence.**

DATA COLLECTION

Questionnaires have been made available for the selected schools, so the poll opinions have been self-completed by the own school age children parents. The poll opinion have been self-completed in an onsite manner, with the assistance of a pollster whereas it was self-completed.

After completing the planned sample, a manual validation has been made, and the completed questionnaires have been recorded.

SAMPLING WEIGHING

The sample collected in every country have been of a different size. There has been a procedure to make a sampling weighing operation of the cases for the global results count with the same mathematician weight of every country. As a consequence, the final results, exposed in the document, are fruit of establishing a balance in the weight of the data collected in the four countries.

RESULTS |

2. RESULTS

2.1. Family units characteristics.

It is important to start describing the technological literacy of parents, in order to make an evaluation of their abilities and attitudes to manage the control and prevention of the use of the internet and social networks by their children. In this manner, it will be possible to check if that level is affecting their security.

According to the European organism EUROSTAT, the middle age of mothers at the birth of their children has been continuously increasing from the 29,1 to 30,30 between 2002 and 2013 in Europe (28 countries). So the parents universe which conforms the survey, will have ages rounding the 30 s and 50s (children from 6 to 18 years). The 96% of the parents sample which the current poll opinion manages declares that their age is between 30 and 50 years. In the following graphic it can be observed that the middle range could vary. In particular, it can be contrasted from the 27,4 years of maternity in Romania to the 31,7 in Spain.¹

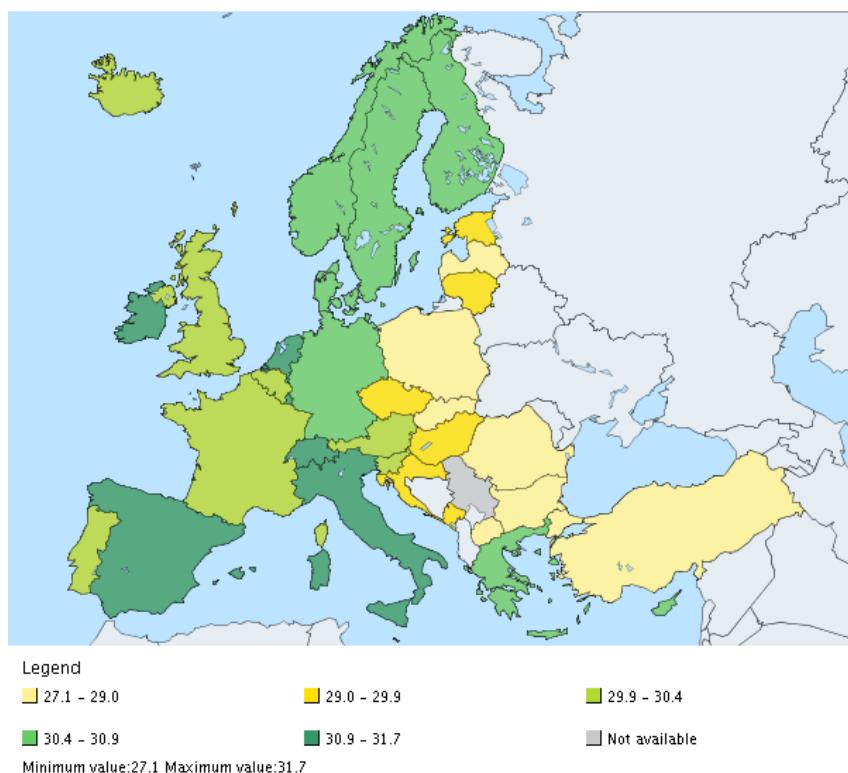
Figure 1. Maternity middle age in Europe by countries.

¹ More details can be found at:

<http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/tgm/table.do?tab=table&plugin=1&language=en&pcode=tps00017>

Mean age of women at childbirth

Years - 2013



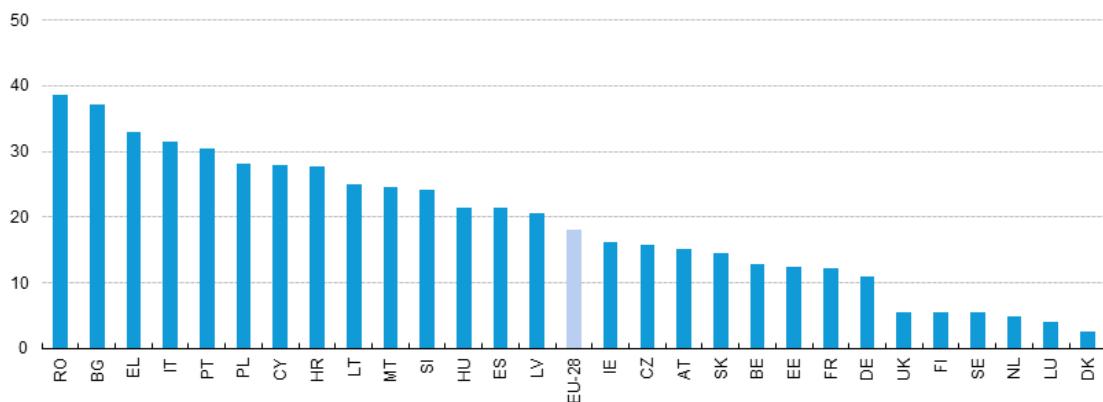
Source of Data Eurostat

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It is a population so young to suppose a high technological literacy level. According to the data that EUROSTAT² publishes, only the 18% of the European adult population had never surfed the internet in 2014. Among the analysed countries, Romania has the higher value, hardly with the 40% of population that have not surfing internet.

Figure 2. Adults that have never surfing the Internet by countries.

² EUROSTAT: the main charts about education in internet are available at the following link: <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/information-society/data/main-tables>



Note: Romania, break in series in 2014 due to 2011 population census results.

The average age of the poll opinion sample used for this survey is 43 years old, and its distribution by bands and countries is showed in the following page. It can be confirmed that it has been accurately reflected the typical structure by age of the fathers and mothers in Europe.

More mothers tan fathers have participated, an accurate reflection of certain persistent habits in relation to the distribution of the housework and the responsibility on the children care, especially in private spheres.

As an example, Eurostat shows us the middle time dedicated to housework and care of the children by gender in some European countries. It can be observed that the average dedication use to be around the double among women, achieving the triple in some cases such as the Spanish.³

Figure 3. Average time dedicated to housework by gender in Europe.

GEO/UNIT	Household and family care	
	Males	Females
Belgium	2:28	4:10
Bulgaria	2:37	5:01
Germany (until 1990 former territory of the FRG)	2:22	4:14
Estonia	2:33	4:53
Spain	1:37	4:55
France	2:24	4:34
Italy	1:35	5:20
Latvia	1:50	3:56
Lithuania	2:09	4:29
Poland	2:22	4:45
Slovenia	2:38	4:56
Finland	2:16	3:56
United Kingdom	2:18	4:15
Norway	2:21	3:47

The average age of the parents who participated in the survey could be a factor which influences in their level of technological literacy. At the following graph it is showed the distribution by country, it could be appreciated that the simple of Romania is the youngest, with the highest peak between the 35 and 39 years old. This not only mean that it is being dealt with a younger sample of children in Romania, but there exists a

³ http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/products-datasets/-/tus_00selfstat

maternity tendency is earlier. It can be observed that in the consecutive graph, that the average age in every country rounds between 11,3 years old (Ireland) and 13,1 (Spain).

Figure 4. Parents average age distribution by country.

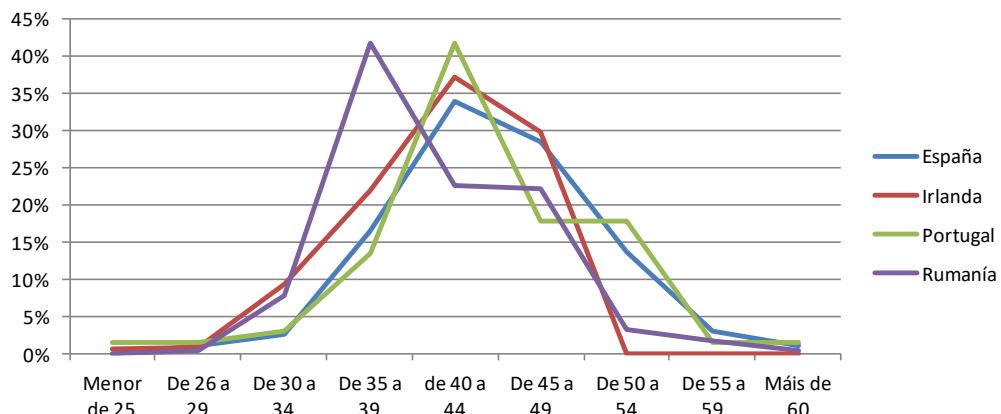


Figure 5. Average age of the children by country.

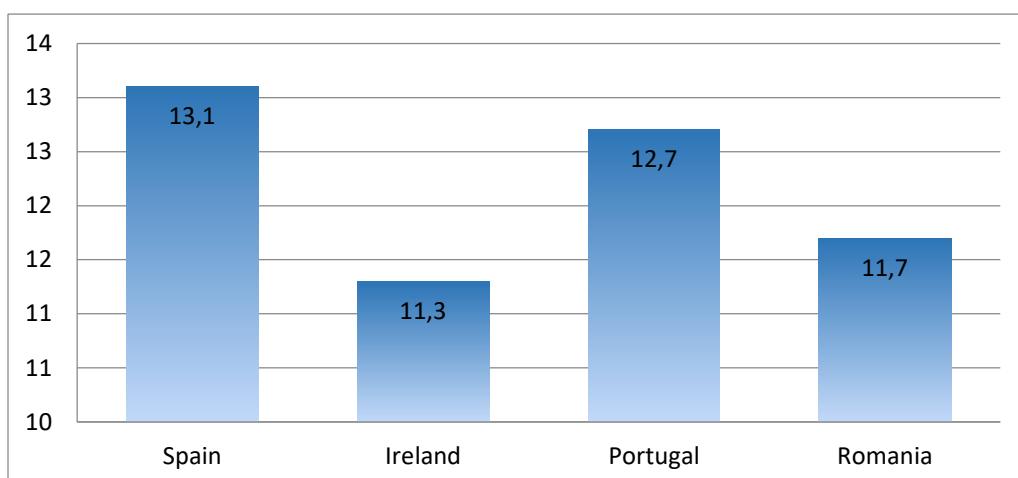
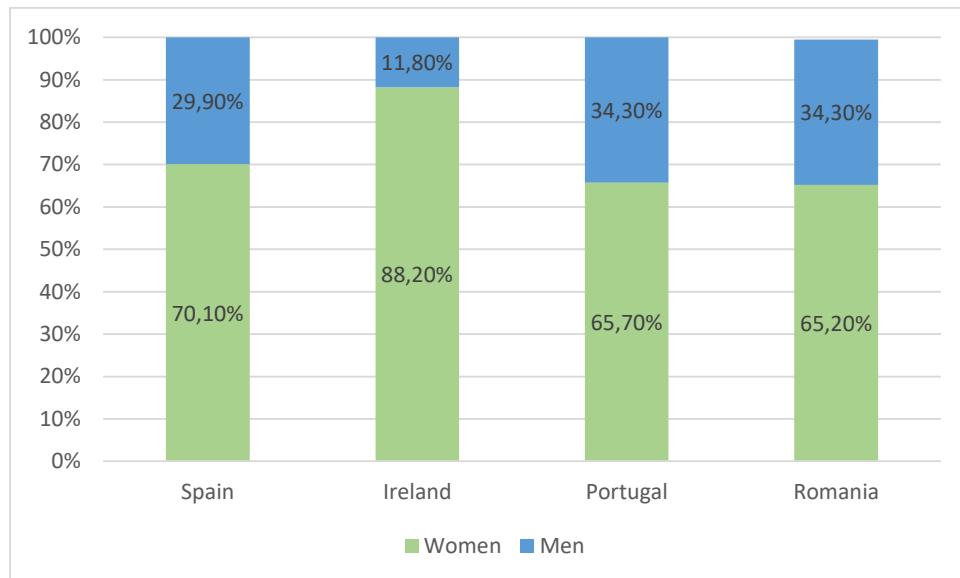


Figure 6. Distribution of parents by gender and country.



More women than men have participated, an accurate reflection of certain persistent habits in relation to the distribution of the housework and the responsibility on the children care, especially in private spheres. It might be the reason that in all the countries, women have answered most of the poll opinions.

The labour situation of the great majority of parents who have participated in the poll opinion is working, achieving almost the 74%. The 15,9% of the consulted parents are unemployed, with values with no doubt dissimilar, depending on the socioeconomic situation of each country, from the 30% of Ireland to the 2% in Romania.

Figure 7. Labour situation.

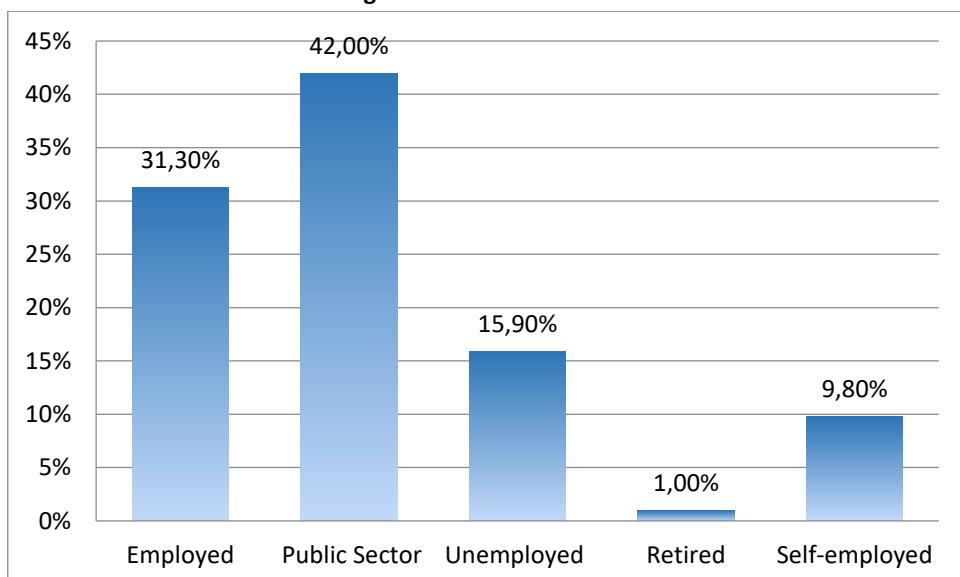
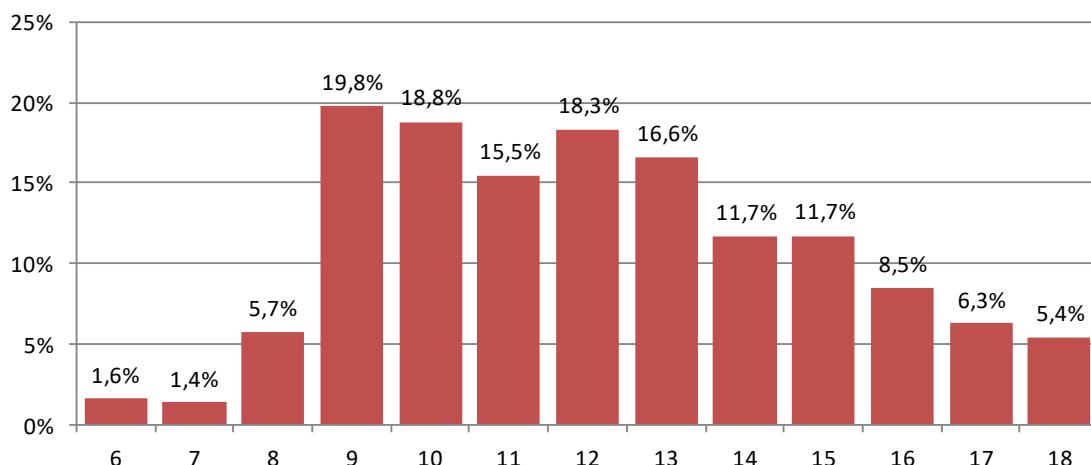


Figure 8. Distribution by ages of the children of the parents who participated in the sample.



The ages of the children of the informants who participate in the poll opinion are mainly concentrated between 9 and 16 years old. The following graph amount more tan 100% because it is a multiple choice variable. It represents the percentage of parents consulted who have a child in one of each age considered. In particular, it amounts to 141% because the consulted parents have a 1,41 children average of the ages of the survey.

With this new representative, it has been done the statistical analysis by variables and the corresponding segmentation (gender, age, etc). In this manner, the different levels of perception, knowledge or prevention by ages of the children and parents, occupation or educative level can be known.

2.2. Parents' technological habits.

In general, parents declare a pretty high level of the use of internet, they access **daily in every country**. The most typical profile is of the father with access at home, work and mobile device. In the following graph, extracted from Eurostat shows the mentioned frequency by countries, indicating that as in 2014 an average of 75% of the Europeans surf in internet at least weekly (right column).

Figure 9. Internet access of parents, by country.

	Internet users and non-users			Frequency of use (on average)	
	Used internet within the last three months	Used internet away from home or work	Never used internet	Every day or almost every day	At least once a week (including daily use)
EU-28	78	51	18	65	75
Belgium	85	59	13	71	83
Bulgaria	55	27	37	46	54
Czech Republic	80	37	16	60	76
Denmark	96	75	3	85	92
Germany	86	56	11	72	82
Estonia	84	58	12	73	82
Ireland	80	65	16	65	76
Greece	63	37	33	49	59
Spain	76	62	21	60	71
France	84	58	12	68	80
Croatia	69	41	28	56	65
Italy	62	24	32	58	59
Cyprus	69	43	28	56	65
Latvia	76	35	21	61	72
Lithuania	72	32	25	57	69
Luxembourg	95	70	4	87	93
Hungary	76	44	22	66	75
Malta	73	51	25	63	70
Netherlands	93	70	5	84	91
Austria	81	57	15	64	77
Poland	67	36	28	51	63
Portugal	65	37	30	51	61
Romania	54	25	39	32	48
Slovenia	72	42	24	58	68
Slovakia	80	50	15	62	76
Finland	92	69	6	81	90
Sweden	93	76	6	83	91
United Kingdom	92	73	6	81	89
Iceland	98	68	1	94	97
Norway	96	79	3	89	95
Switzerland	90	60	8	76	86

Note: Romania, break in series in 2014 due to 2011 population census results.

Entering to analyse the data of the poll opinion made, the most typical profile is the parent with access to internet at home, work and mobile device (66,3%). The second more habitual profile has access at home and cell phone but not at work. Overall, the 81,3% of the parents have access to internet at home and in cell phones.

Figure 10. Parents access to internet by access place and country.

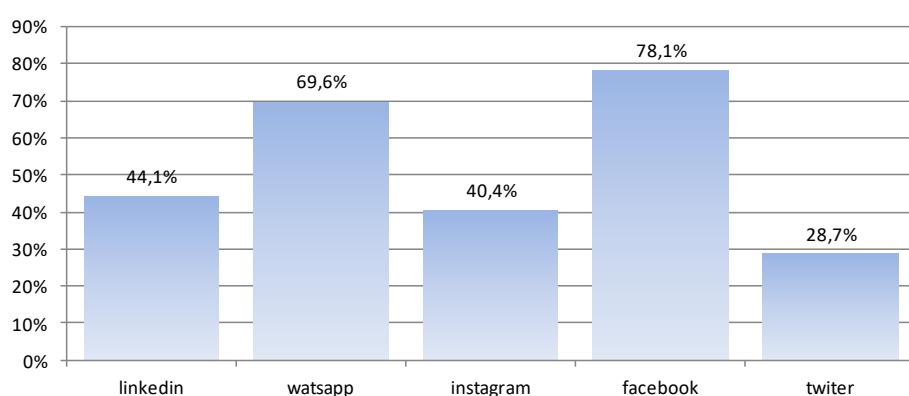
	Spain	Ireland	Portugal	Romania
Home	87,5%	98,1%	100,0%	96,5%
Work	64,2%	89,3%	94,0%	86,3%
Mobile devices	90,9%	89,9%	80,6%	84,2%

Figure 11. Combined access by the different devices

Home	Work	Cell Phone	%
No	No	No	2,2%
		Yes	2,3%
	Yes	No	0,2%
		Yes	0,7%
Yes	No	No	5,3%
		Yes	15,0%
	Yes	No	8,0%
		Yes	66,3%

The insertion rate in social networks detected is very relevant too. The 92,5% of parents use some social network or messaging system of the exposed. More than the 78% of parents have Facebook profile and until the 69,6% uses online mobile messaging (such as whatsapp). As we know, this messaging works frequently as a social network, because it is a platform where groups are created, they share videos, photos, locations, files or events. Occasionally, created groups in this mobile messaging are so wide and its information so easy to share that they escape from the control from who is publishing them and its scope is exponentially multiplied and without control. This kind of messaging can be considered as another social network. Online messaging 'Whatsapp' types are one of the key elements in the access to social network due to its multiplicity of functions, early accessibility and fast diffusion.

The system is still in an initial phase of its development, providing continuously new functions, channels and options. The various applications have been incorporating the possibility to make calls and video calls, share files of the most different formats, share locations, contacts or profile information. It can be said that it is not known yet the definitive role that these applications will play: if they will merge with the 'classic' social networks or if they will follow completely different ways. Anyway, they are a kind of social network prototype that has been introduced in our lives in a subtle manner, passing off a classic messaging.

Figure 12. Parents use of social network level

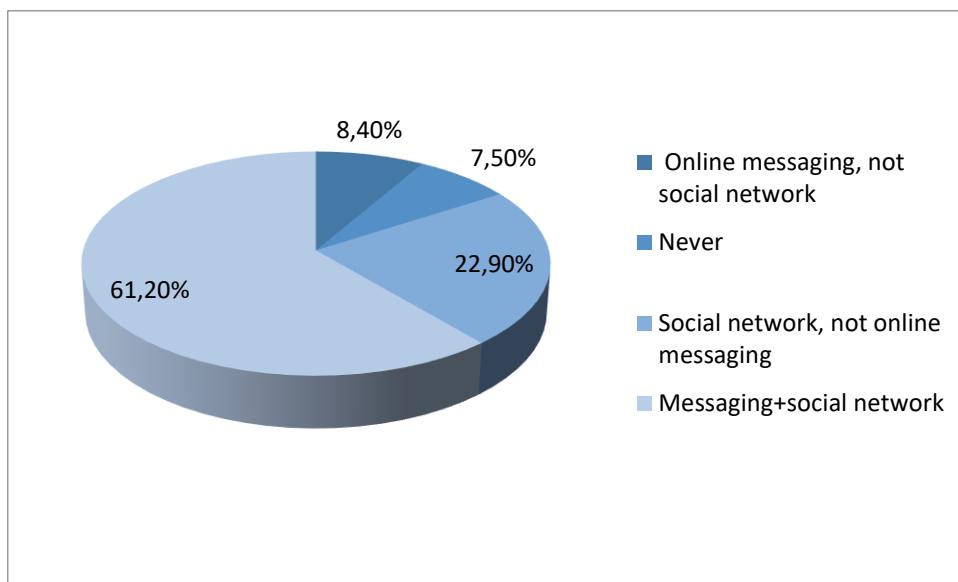
At the chart below, the most typical users profiles can be appreciated according to the combination of the use of Twiter, Facebook, online mobile messaging, Linkedin and Instagram. The most outstanding profiles are:

- Uses the 5 typologies of the proposed social networks (20,3%).
- Uses just internet messaging and Facebook (16,5%).
- Just has Facebook (7,7%).
- Does not use **any** of the proposed social networks (7,5%).

Figure 13. Combined use of social networks level

Linkedin	Mensajería móvil por internet	Instagram	Facebook	Twiter	%
No	No	No	No	No	7,5%
			Yes	Yes	0,1%
		Yes	No	No	7,7%
			Yes	Yes	0,3%
			No	No	0,0%
	Yes	No	Yes	No	5,3%
			Yes	Yes	0,3%
		Yes	No	No	8,4%
			Yes	Yes	0,1%
			No	No	16,5%
Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	2,1%
			No	No	0,4%
		Yes	Yes	Yes	0,0%
			No	No	5,9%
			Yes	Yes	1,4%
	Yes	No	No	No	1,7%
			Yes	Si	0,2%
		Yes	No	No	3,6%
			Yes	Yes	0,6%
			No	No	0,0%

At the following graph, it is summarized the combination of use of social networks, differencing if they are 'classic' social networks or mobile messaging. The most typical user profile combines the Access to social networks and online messaging.

Figure 14. Use of social networks and online mobile messaging

It has been analysed as well the frequency of the use of social networks. If answers of all social networks are combined, it can be concluded that the total use of social networks and therefore the familiarity with them, it is distributed as follows: The results are disparaged by country because in Romania, up to the 26% of parents does not have access, nor monthly, to social networks. In the rest of the countries, the level of disconnection is below 10%.

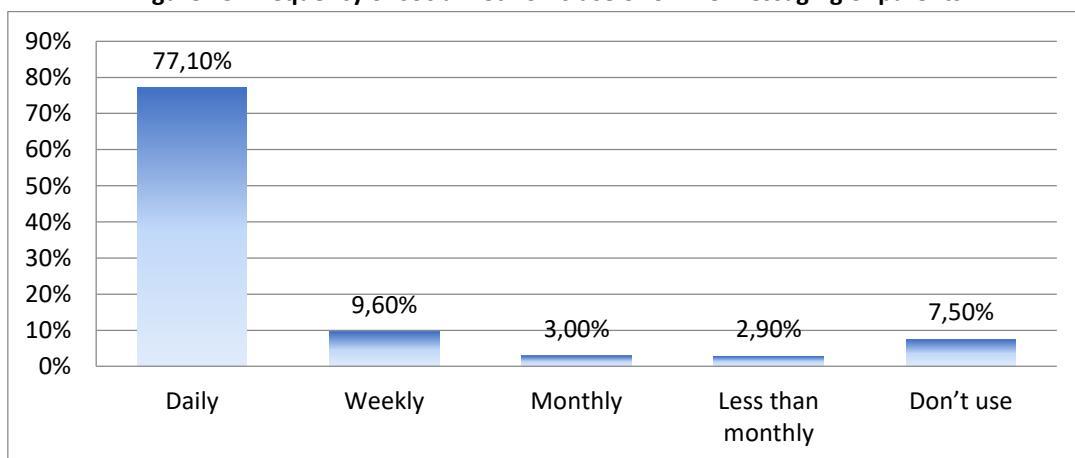
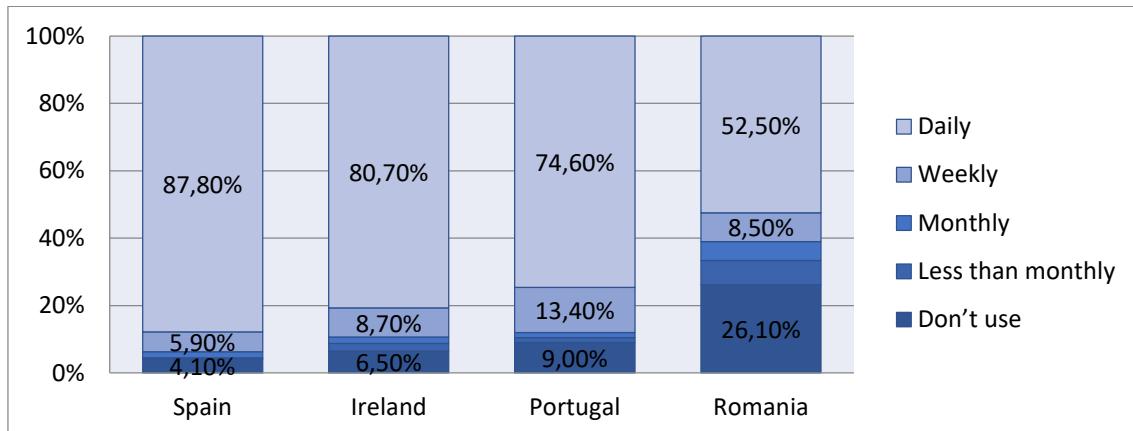
Figure 15. Frequency of social networks use or online messaging of parents

Figura 16. Frecuencia de uso de redes sociales o mensajería online de los padres por país

It can be possible that the above graph make to suppose that social networks are much more extended in Spain than in the rest of countries that have participated in the survey. However, is the online messaging for cell phones that makes the difference. If this format is included, proportions are almost to the inverse. And that is that in Spain Whatsapp or similar applications have a quote of 89%, in Ireland 76%, Romania 63% and Portugal 49%.

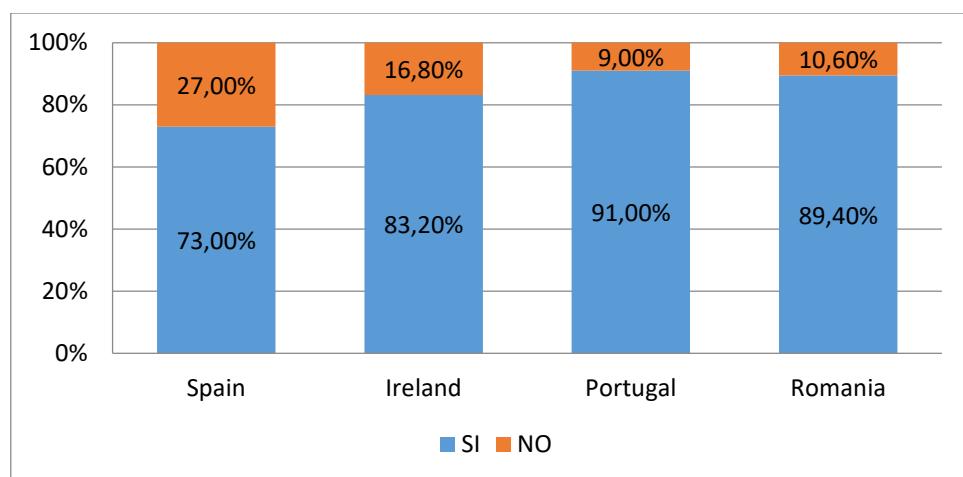
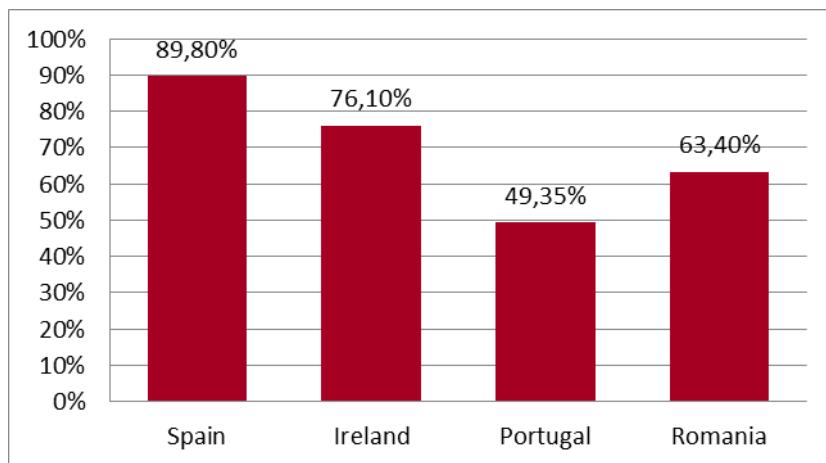
Figure 17. Frequency of parents social networks use by country (excluding Whatsapp).

Figure 18. Use of online mobile messaging by country

2.3. Knowledge of internet risks and social networks.

It keeps going in depth in parents preparation level, asking them directly about their level of knowledge of some of the most important hazards of internet for their children.

Dangers that stalk our children in internet in general and social networks in particular are mainly known by parents. Even the less identified of the mentioned dangers, it is recognised by almost the 80%: “bullying at network”.

Possible dangers that have been dealt in the questionnaire of the poll opinion are the following:

- Cyber bullying:** or bullying at network. Is the use of telematic media (internet, mobile phones, online games) to exercise psychological harassment between equals. It is a situation in which both are minors. One of them torments, threatens, humiliates or bothers the other.
- Grooming:** sexual harassment. It involves actions exercised by an adult with the aim to generate confidence in a child to be able to sexually abuse from him.
- Sexting:** to spread images, texts, videos, statements with sexual contents through telematic media and without the consent of some of the implicated,, with the objective of harassing humiliating, bothering or extorting.
- Access to adults contents,** such as sexual, violent, bid contents and online games or others.
- Toxic contents:** that can bring to information that promotes contents against health or security of children.
- Identity theft:** pose by another person with the objective of harming him or using his access or trust with illicit purposes.
- Addictions:** contents that promote addictions related with drugs or whatever behaviour ir substance.
- Eating disorders:** pages and contents that encourage or promote behaviours related with anorexia or bulimia.
- Jihadism:** contents for the promotion and recruitment of jihadist terrorists.

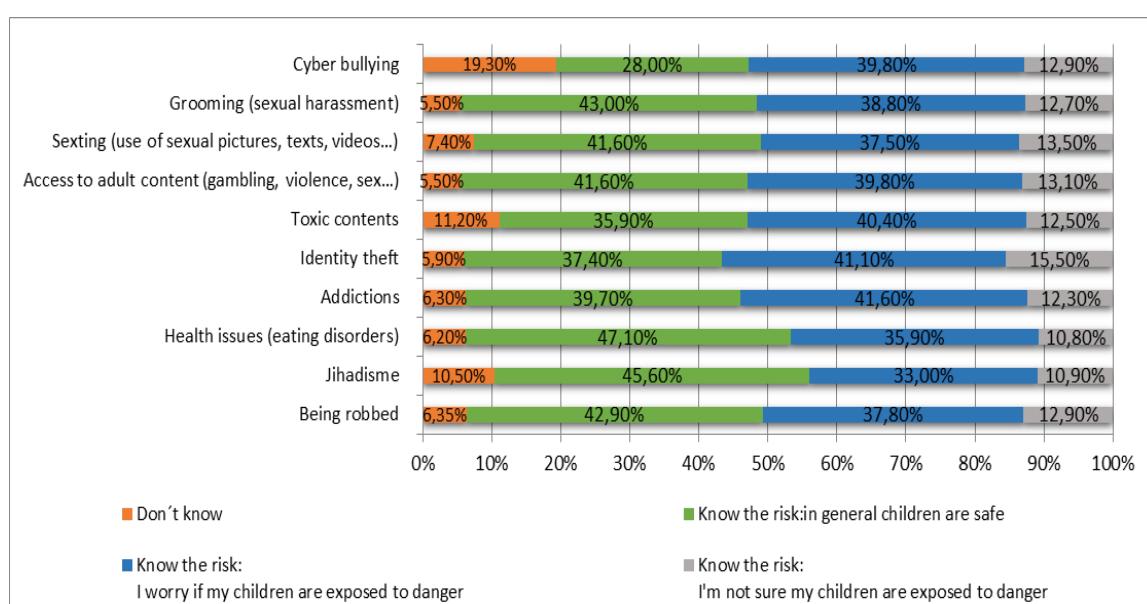
- Thefts:** behaviours that provoke risk of online or onsite theft when gathering personal information about devices, passwords or payment data.

The level of knowledge of every of these risks by parents is shown in the graph at the following page. It must be clear that in the questionnaire, the just described definition is not given, it was only given the name of the risk.

Despite the wide content of the hazards exposed to the parents, it takes the attention the feeling of insecurity that they transfer. The percentage of parents that feel that their children are safe (Green bar of the chart) is always less than the half.

Ciberbullying is not just the most unknown danger, but also is the one with the less parents percentage thinking that their children are safe (just 28%).

Figura 19. Dangers in internet: knowledge and security perception



These levels of risks perception differ according to the age of parents and their level of technological literacy. Most veteran parents perceive more dangers in more classical problems that existed before internet such as eating disorders, thefts, jihadism or adult contents.

In the most novel dangers such as social networks, the level of danger feeling, does not differ with the age of the parents.

Figure 20. I think that my child is protected against this risk, by parents age

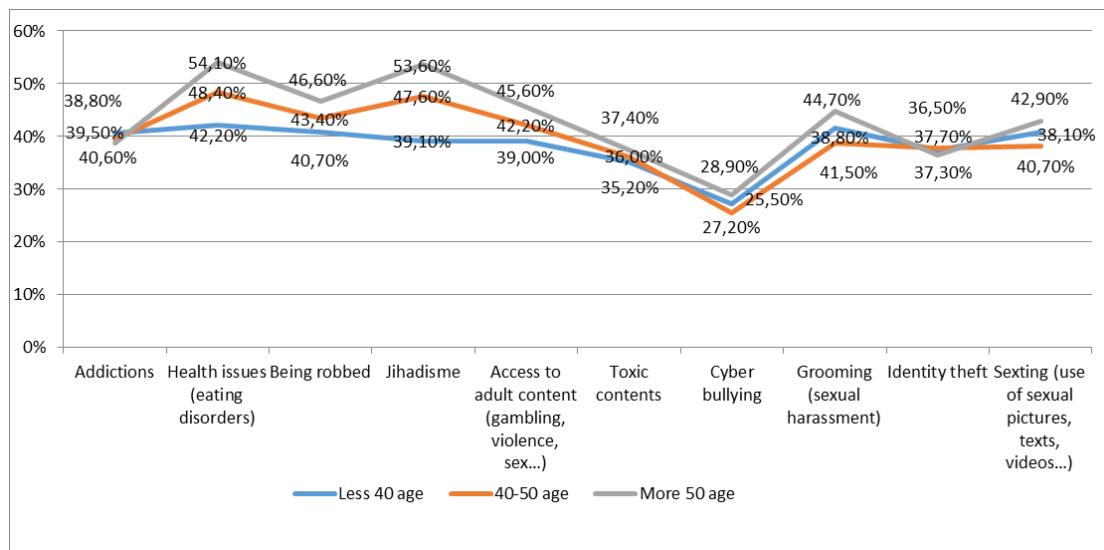
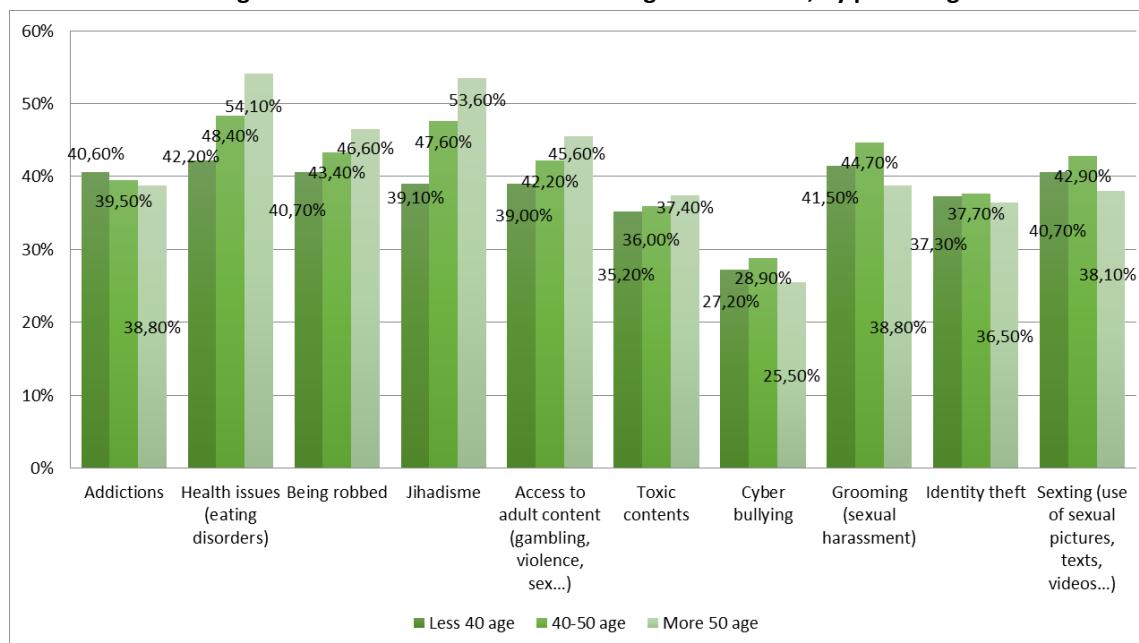
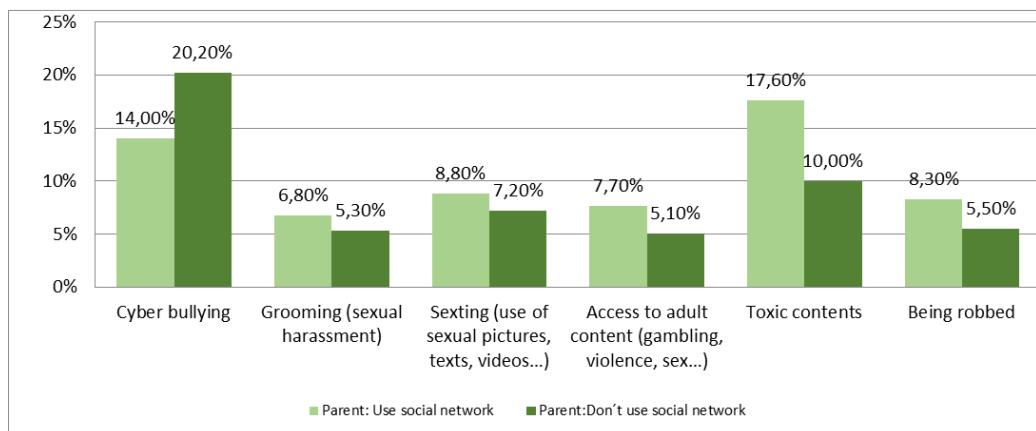
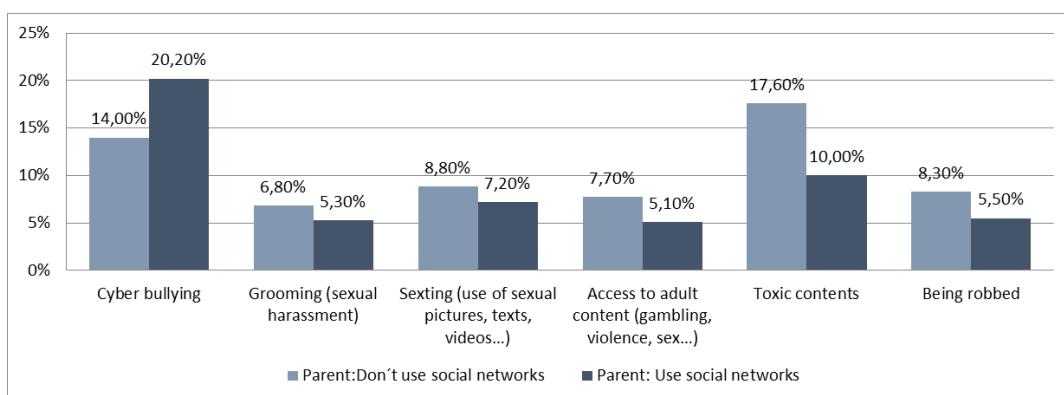


Figure 21. I do not know what this danger consists on, by parent age



At the graphs above, it can be observed that parents of an older age show less knowledge of the main principle dangers for their children in Internet and social networks, however, in general it does not imply that older parents think that their children are more unprotected.

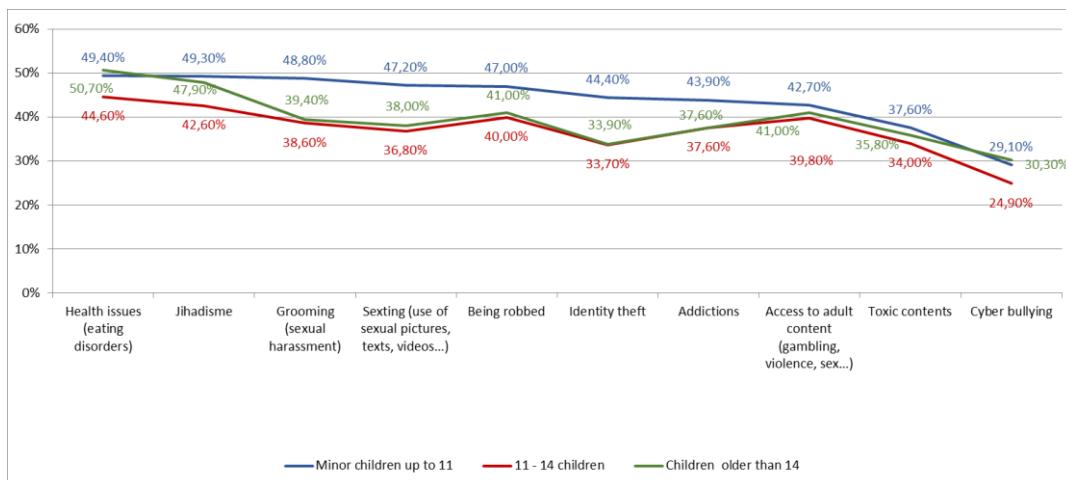
Figure 22. I do not know what this danger consists on, depending on parent use of social networks**Figure 23. I think that my children is protected, by age**

The above graphs are illustrative. Parents that use social networks (darker green bars) are less sure that their children are protected. In other words, safety of some parents is probably based in the lack of knowledge, because they do not manage these means. **The knowledge of social networks implies more perception of unprotecting.**

In the following graph it is also observed a significant tendency, and it is that the major safety feeling of their children among parents of children younger than 11 years old (blue line) is bigger than of the oldest.

The explanation will be also be related to the less access to internet and freedom in the use of these social networks. Cyber bullying is the phenomenon faced by parents in which they are less sure that their children are protected. However, this lack of security is not so due that they feel their children are unprotected, but there is a high lack of knowledge of the phenomenon, like it was seen above.

Figure 24. Parents who think that their children are protected, by children age.



2.4. Knowledge of children prevention habits

It will be appreciated that direct onsite control is the parents control system most used, but we can presume that it is almost impossible to exercise it at all times. 15% of parents say to be always onsite when their children use internet, even if they have children over 14 years old, in the case of social networks it hardly overcomes the 6% of onsite control.

Figure 25. Onsite frequency when their children do several activities

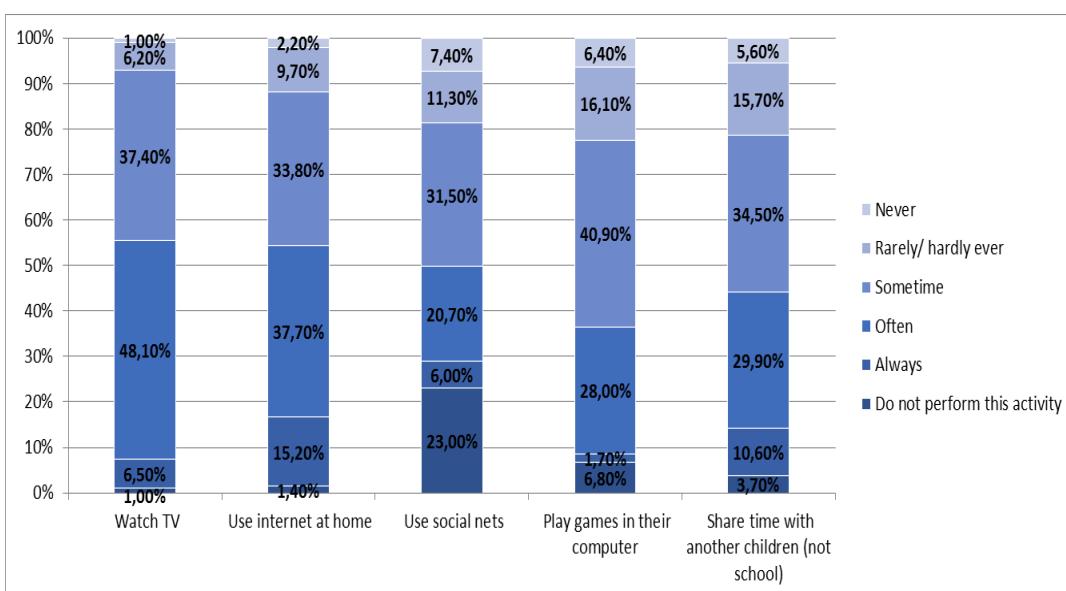
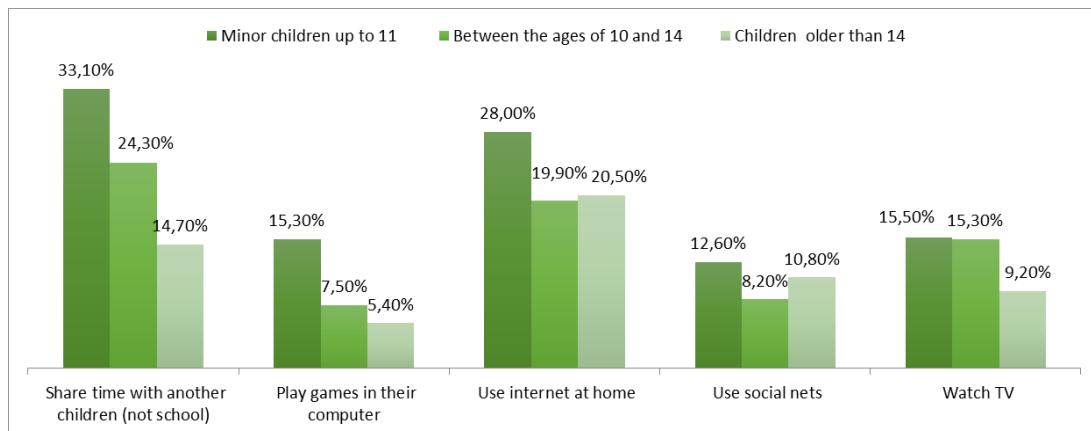


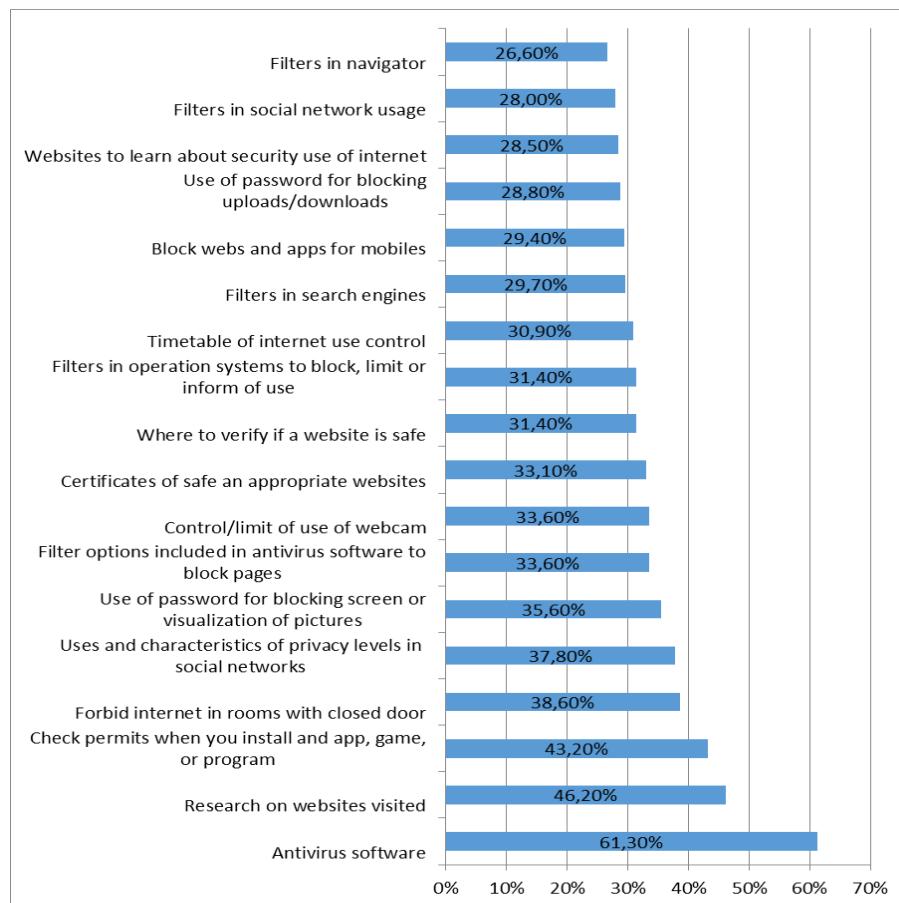
Figure 26. He/she is always onsite when their children use ..., (by child age)

Technological tools are more used for the internet use control are pretty classic, not social network specific, but more general of internet.

Only the use of the antivirus software is spread out between more tan 50% of parents. Its followed by the browser's history control and the review of the permits requested in the installation of an application or programme.

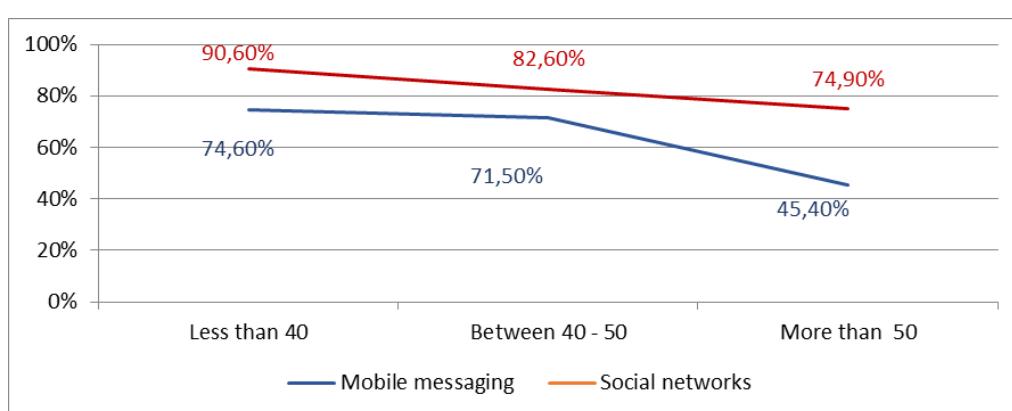
Only the 37% of parents have taken any control measure of the privacy level in social networks to restrict the public data Access of their children.

Figure 27. Level of access to internet, mobile phones and social network control tools use



The main prevention measure that a parent can offer to their children will probably be the proper education for prevention. However, it has been showed at section 2.2 that 84% of parents access to social networks, so their knowledge and ability to train their children will be conditioned by this factor.

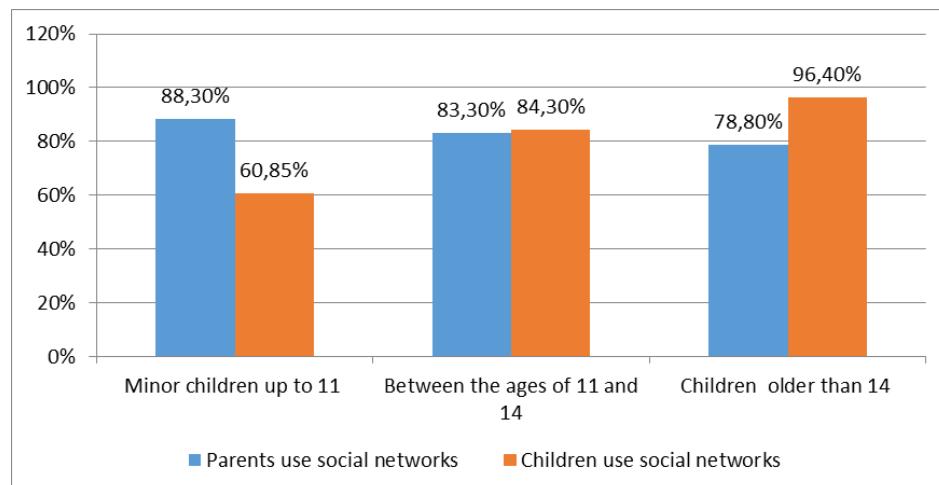
Figure 28. Use of social networks and age of parents



If children social networks use is compared with parents' by age, it can be observed that children older than 14 years old use social networks in more than the 95% of the cases,

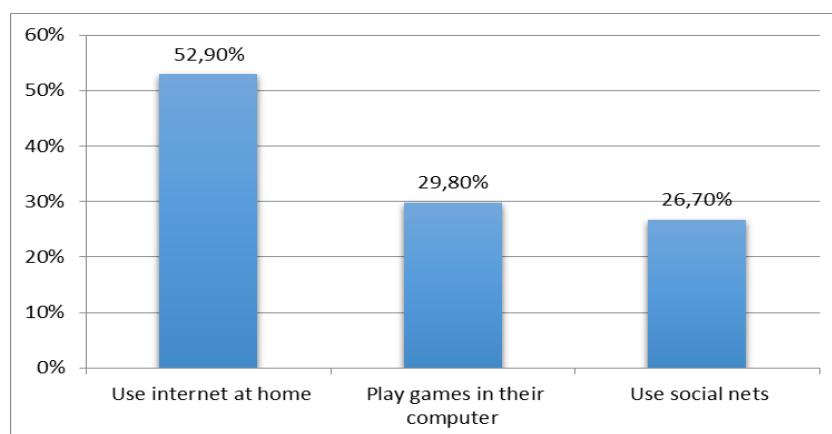
and their parents only the 78,8%. For the younger of 14, parents are who as more habit of using social networks.

Figure 29. Use of social networks and age of parents



Onsite control could be the most difficult control system to apply but the only one to resort to if the parent does not have the virtual control tools, very common if we take into account that children have more presence in social networks than parents from 14 years old.

Figure 30. He is onsite when his children use the computer



It can be observed that onsite control of the use of internet in general is more applied than in social networks in particular. This is due to social networks are only permitted for older children, therefore with a lower general control of all their activities.

It is showed the same information taking into account the age of the children, it can be observed that onsite vigilance habits do not significantly differ by age except in the case of computer games, in which this is reduced with the increase of children age.

Figure 31. He is onsite in the use of computer by child age

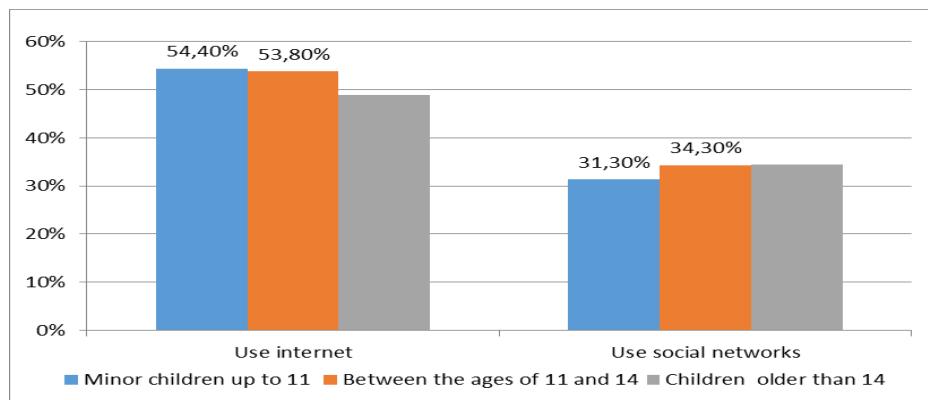
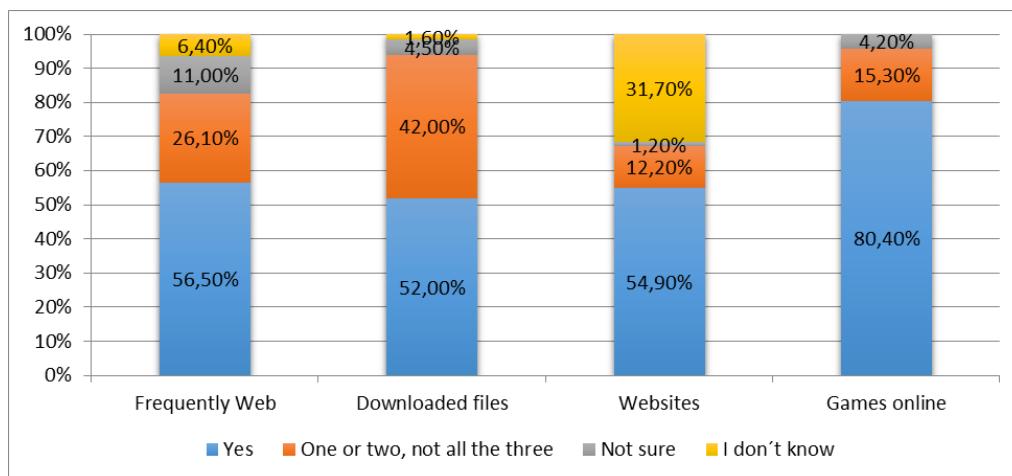
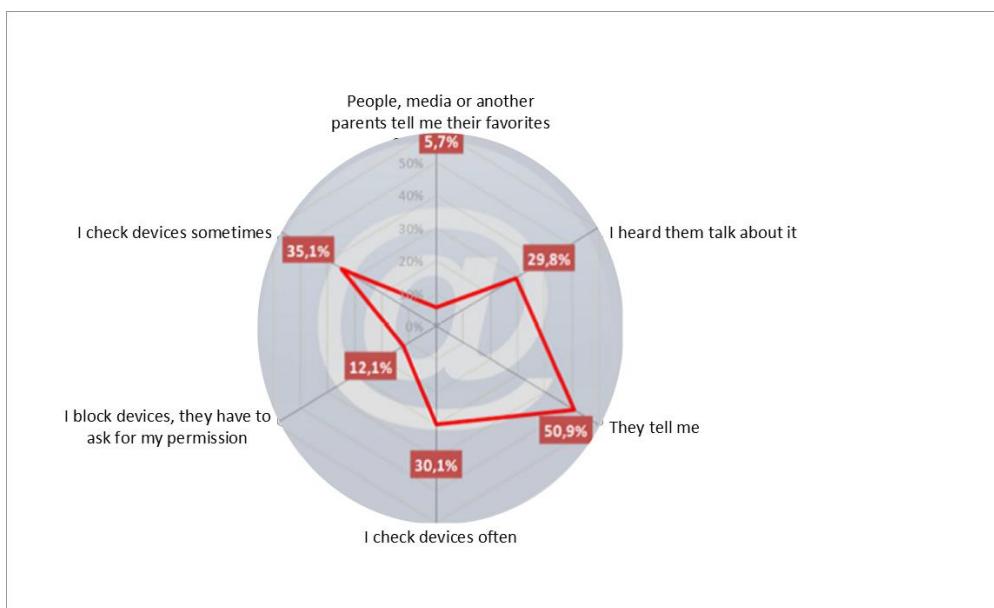


Figure 32. Knowledge of the use of internet that their children do



It can be observed that most of parents believe that they know that their children do, at least in part. Their main resource is trust, because more than 50,9% declare that their principal information resource is “they say to me”. At the following graph, it is showed the weight of the different information sources. If those who use technological means are counted (review the devices or block them) we find that **only 39% of parents apply these control measures**.

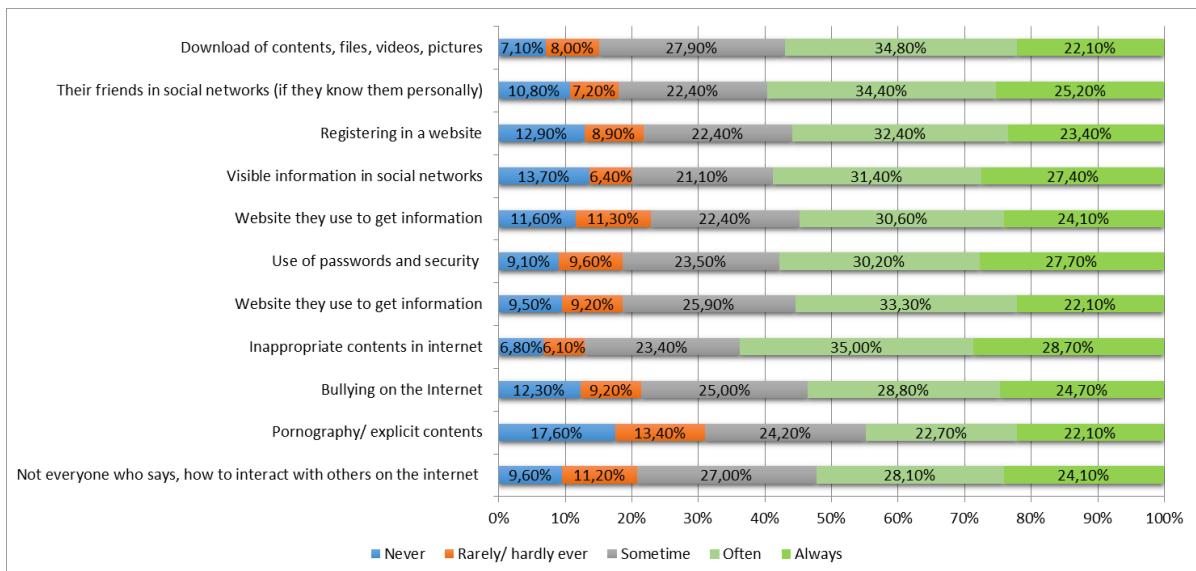
Figure 33. Means to know children use of internet.

Parents generally trust in what their children tell them regarding to their habits in internet, they are given a significant autonomy margin. This influence in the need of prevention and training be the principal means for these children to be self-sufficient. The problem is in how to train children if parents are the main unawares of the risks.

It can be seen next in which measure these parents are assuming these training works speaking with children about hazards and prevention measures.

If we sum those who declare that they always, often or hardly ever speak with their children, we can find the following topics:

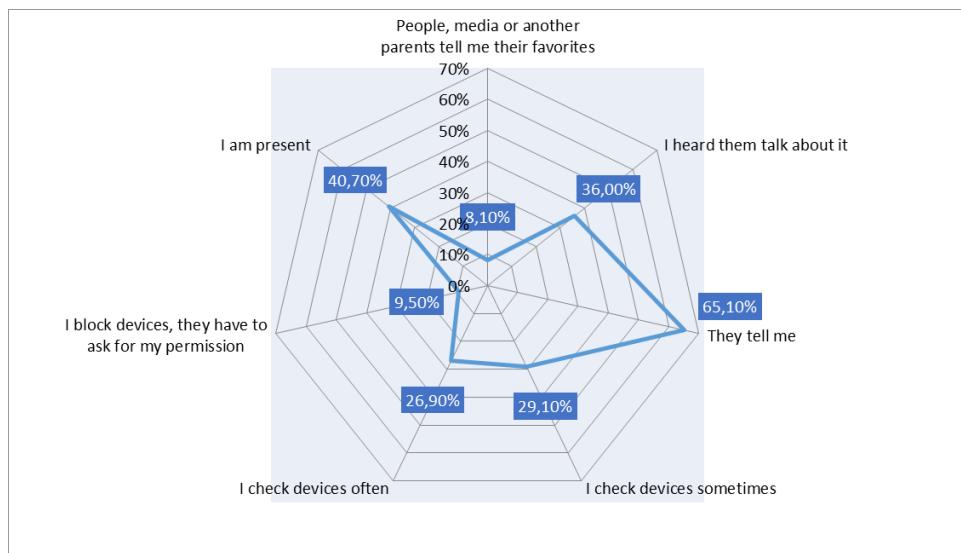
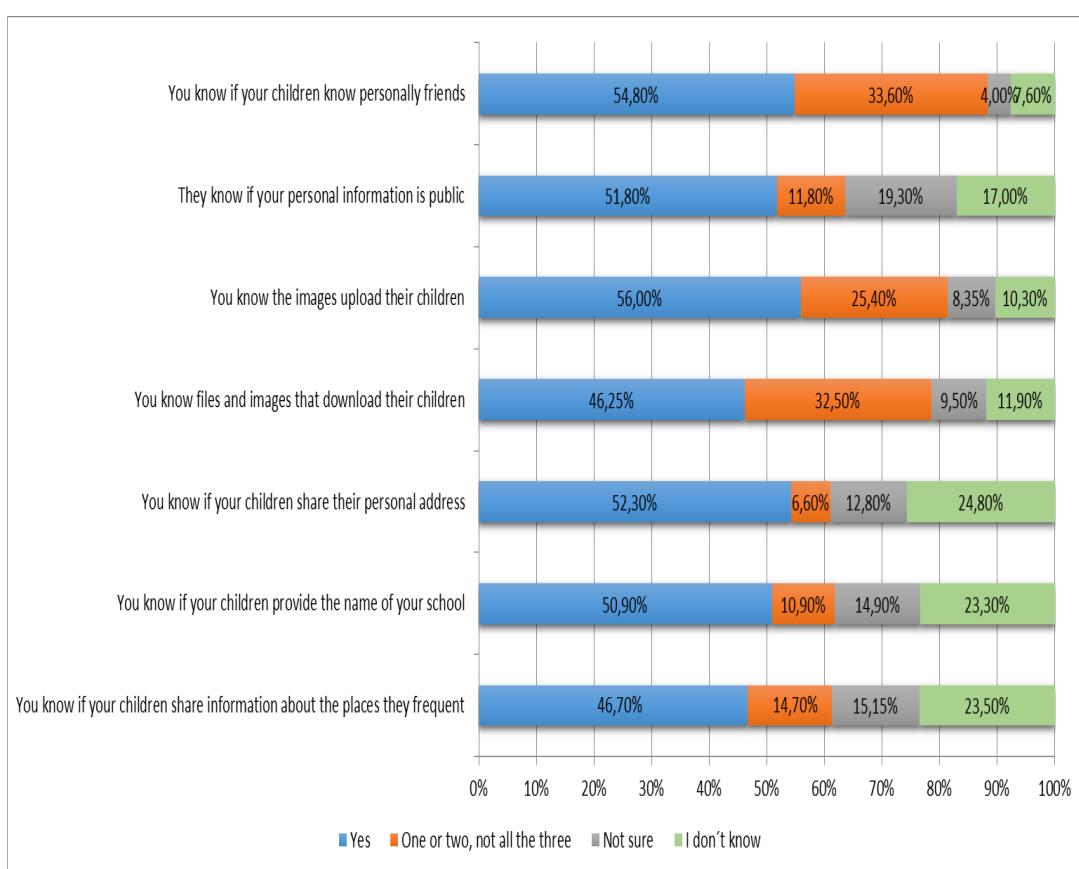
- More than 80% have spoken about files and images downloads and that there are some contents that are not appropriate.
- In the rest of contents that are evaluated, they have only been usually dealt between parents and children (sometimes, often or always) in approximately 80% of the cases.
- The less dealt of the list is pornography, because more than 30% of parents declare that they never or hardly ever have spoken of this topic with their children.

Figure 34. He has spoken with their children about

Analysis is now focused in a more particular manner in the use of social networks that children make and the knowledge degree of them parents say to have. At the following graphs, it can be observed that a significant percentage does not know in detail the use of these networks or he is only informed through their own children tell him.

Above, we have already indicated that 67% of parents believe to know the social networks that their children use (at least one or two). Sources of this information are showed next.

The percentage of parents who use technological media to exercise that control is minority because they review the devices or block them. The rest use other more manners such as the child word, what they hear or they are just onsite. It seems insufficient.

Figure 35. Used means to know their children social networks.**Figure 36. Knowledge of their children protection measures in social networks.**

Some significant differences between the knowledge of the different risk habits of children can be appreciated, because the majority of parents do not know if their children are providing different kind of personal information through social networks.

PREVENTION OF RISKS FOR THE MINORS IN SOCIAL NETWORKS AND INTERNET

A significant percentage of parents are concerned if their virtual friendships are also onsite, so as to more general preventive habits, that are more spread to internet, as files downloading (more than 50% in all cases).

It can be concluded from the graph above that parents know more regarding classical aspects of the relationships and internet as the personal knowledge of friendships or safe files downloading. However, **the most exclusive activities of social networks, those that are a concern since there are people sharing personal information in places with different privacy options, are not so controlled by parents nor probably known.**

It is therefore evident a clear volition in the attempt of controlling the use of internet but it will also probably be a lack of resources or knowledge to do it by digital or technological means and to dominate the aspects related to privacy in social networks despite the fact of being often users of them. It can be observed as well at the following graph how oldest children are less controlled by technological means than youngest.

Figure 37. Knowledge of protection measures of their children in social networks by child age.

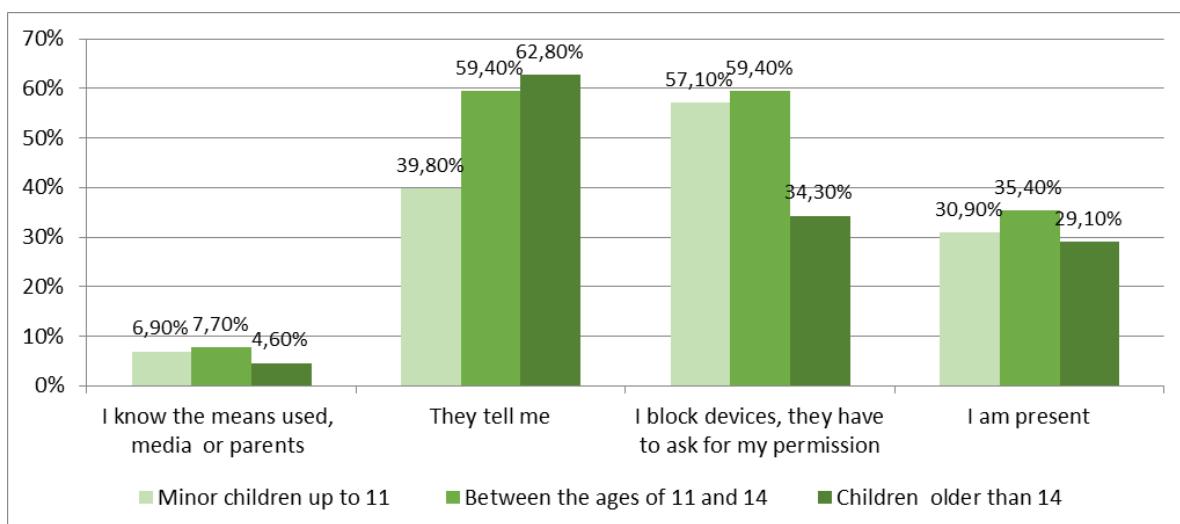
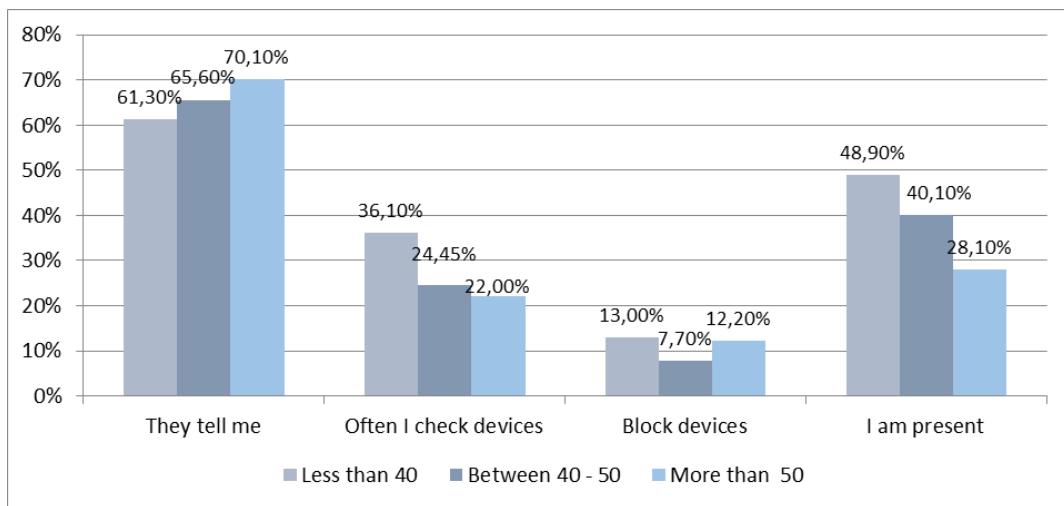


Figure 38. Knowledge of protection measures of their children by parent age.



The kind and intensity of the vigilance of social networks uses depend on the children age but also on parents age.

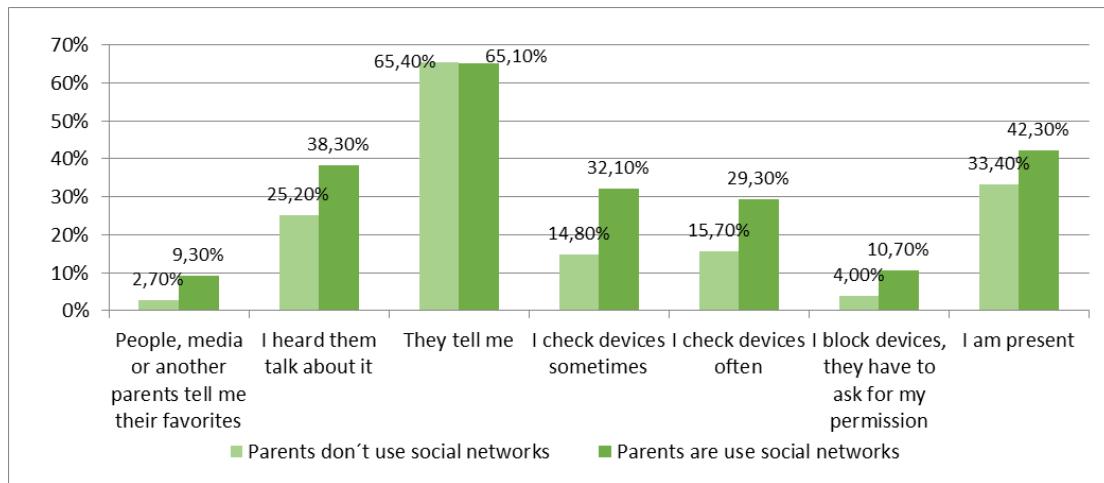
At the following graph it can be observed that different strategies vary according to the age. Youngers are more observed, both through technological and onsite means. The graph shows the parents proportion that trust of every of the strategies by age. The differences are evident, to more age, less command of the technological means for the control of the use of social networks.

The principal conclusion obtained from this set of graphs is that there is a significant concern for the use of social networks that children do but technological tools are hardly used. The control is based in the trust on the children, specially as parents and children age increases.

Knowledge and use of control technological methods of the use of internet and social networks is dissimilar among parents. The level of use of social networks shows as well a relation with the level of control technological means. From the following graph, it can be deducted that the improvement of the control of the use of social networks of the children, should commence by a encouragement of the use of social networks by parents.

Figure 39. Knowledge of protection measures of their children in social networks by parents age.

PREVENTION OF RISKS FOR THE MINORS IN SOCIAL NETWORKS AND INTERNET



2.5. Parents attitudes and opinions.

There have been a series of statements to parents on self-assessment of their attitude to the risks of their children on the Internet and on the level of security enjoyed by their children

Each parent said their level of agreement with each statement. The phrases included in the questionnaire were:

SELF-ASSESSMENT

- I must get more involved in preventing risk from the internet to my children.
- I know where to find information on prevention tools.
- I know the risks of the internet and how to prevent my children to be exposed to them.
- I know what my children do on the internet.
- Teaches and authorities should be responsible of preventing internet risks for children.
- I am ready to use security tools on the internet.

SECURITY LEVEL FOR CHILDREN

- My children have got information and knowledge to detect when they are in danger.
- The security level of my children when they are using internet is low and I would like to learn how to improve it.
- My children know better than me how to protect themselves on the internet. (this could be in both lists)
- My children would inform me quickly of any issue derived from their internet activity.

Parents show a high level of confidence on their own skills and knowledge about prevention on the internet., even though we have seen in previous chapters a low use of available technological tools and a lot of confidence on their children.

Just over 30% is the proportion of parents who agrees to be “more involved in prevention”. Most of them disagree about somebody alien of the own family (teachers or authorities) should be involved and take responsibility of prevention.

Despite the low use of devices and technological tools for the control and supervision of internet, the 58,7% of parents indicate that they quite or very agree with that ‘they are ready to use security and prevention tools in internet’. **It results surprisingly a so high level of confidence, when it is actually detected a practical application relatively low.**

The asserts that count with a major level of agreement are that ‘they know the use of internet of their children’ (66%) and ‘they know the hazards and know how to prevent them’ (56%).

Opinions from parents with respect to the abilities and precautions of their children using internet are shown at the following graph. It is worth stressing that the high level of confidence they have in what their children do, being the risk perception low. Only the 32.2% agree with they should improve their abilities to increase the security level of their children.

Figure 40. Parents attitude regarding their capacity to protect their children.

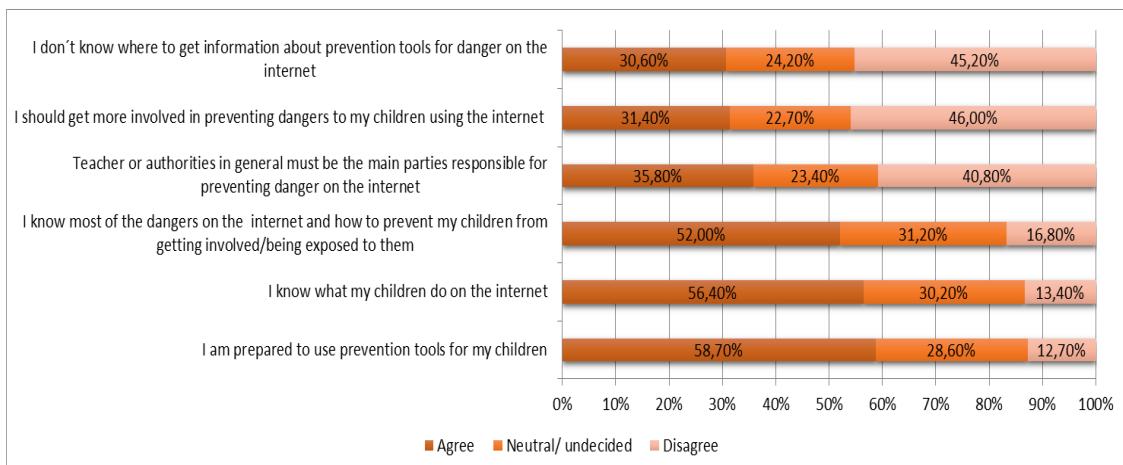
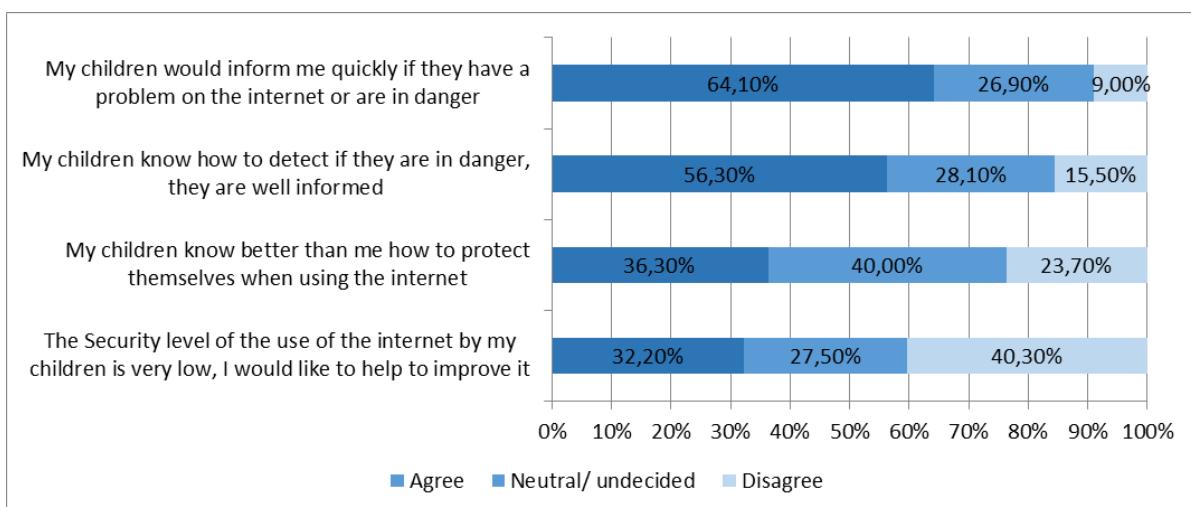


Figure 41. Parents attitude regarding their children capacity for self-protection.



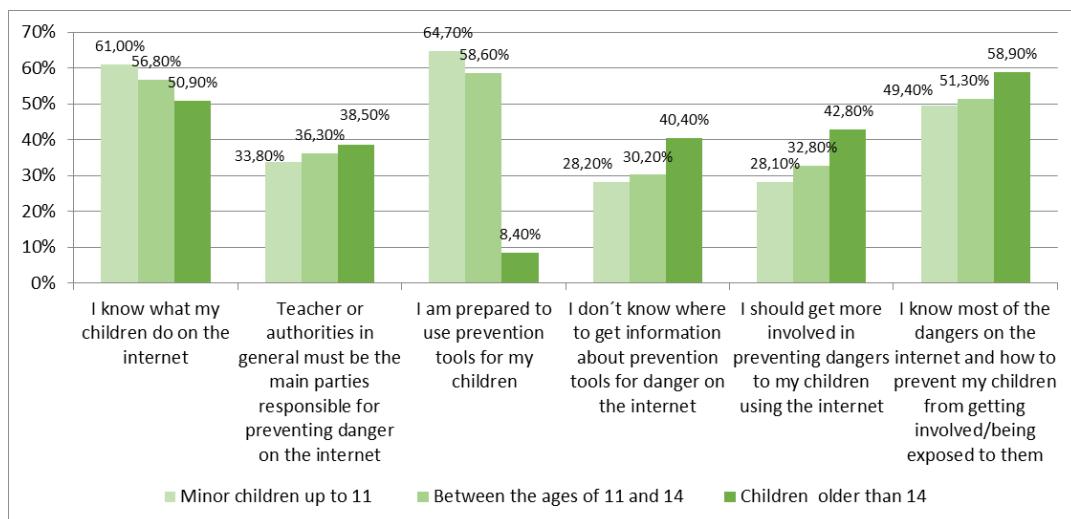
Parents are generally little critical regarding their capacities and limitations protecting their children in internet. They express much confidence in their own children, counting with they will know to self-protect, detect hazards and inform them.

Parents often do not seem to be conscious that children could be in danger without they know. A child without appropriate security configurations could be sharing images with people they do not know, be providing personal data in public or being attracted to toxic networks that he consider harmless.

The major problem is in that parents think that the own children are always capable to know if they are or not in danger. Parents manifest a lot of confidence. Beyond they can believe in the sincerity of their children, they can wonder if the own child has the capacity to detect hazards on time. The major part of parents apparently think that yes.

In the following graphs the same information, with reference to attitudes and opinion about their children danger and their preparation segmented by children age is introduced. At the first graph it is observed how parents of older children, and therefore more access to social networks and internet, do not have more knowledge and control of them. Even so, more than half quite or very agree with that ‘they know the use of internet of their children’.

Figure 42. Parents attitudes through their protection capacity by children age.



At the second graph it can be observed how the majority of parents are quite or very agree with that children know to detect threats and protect by themselves; even in those cases whose children are less than 11 years old.

Figure 43. Attitudes regarding self-protection capacity of their children by children age.

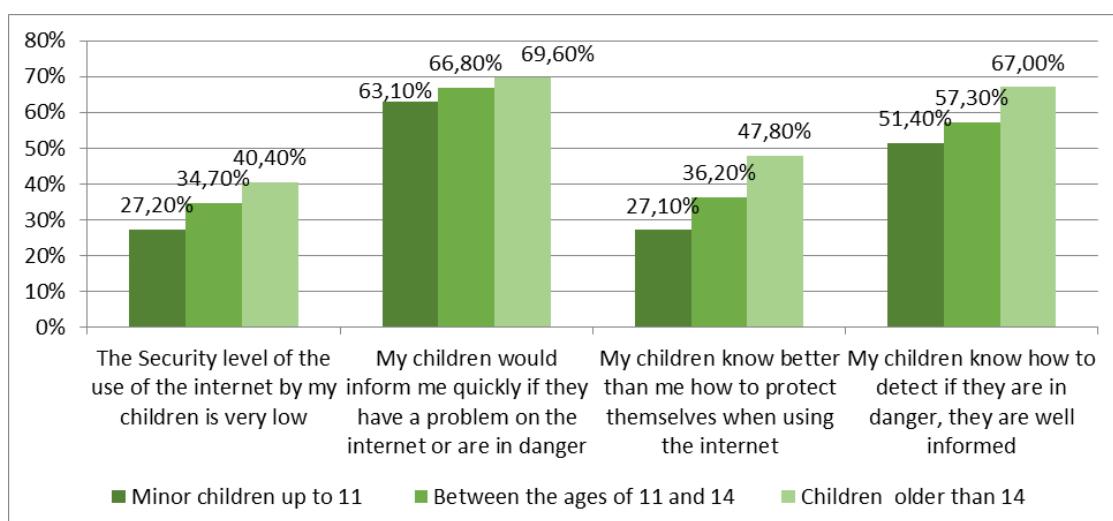
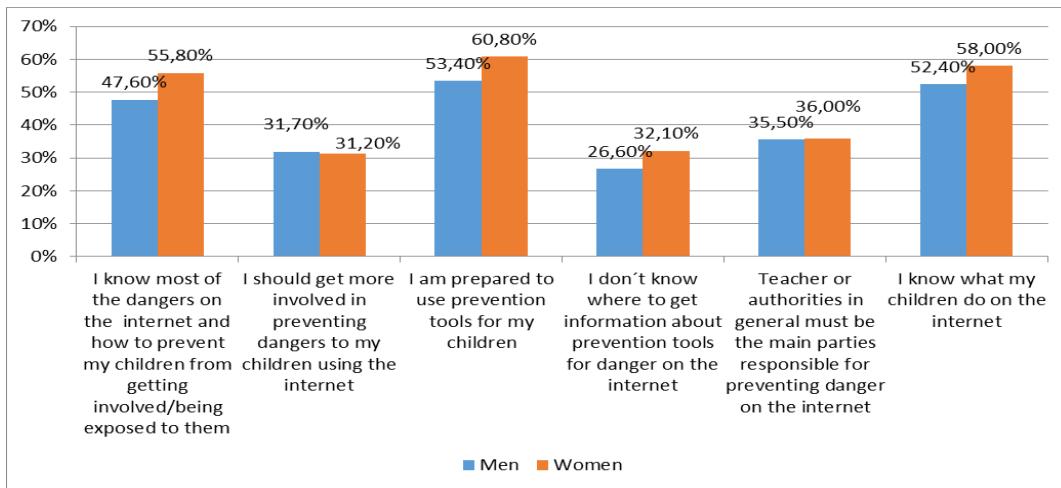


Figure 44. Parents attitudes for their protection capabilities by parents gender.

PREVENTION OF RISKS FOR THE MINORS IN SOCIAL NETWORKS AND INTERNET

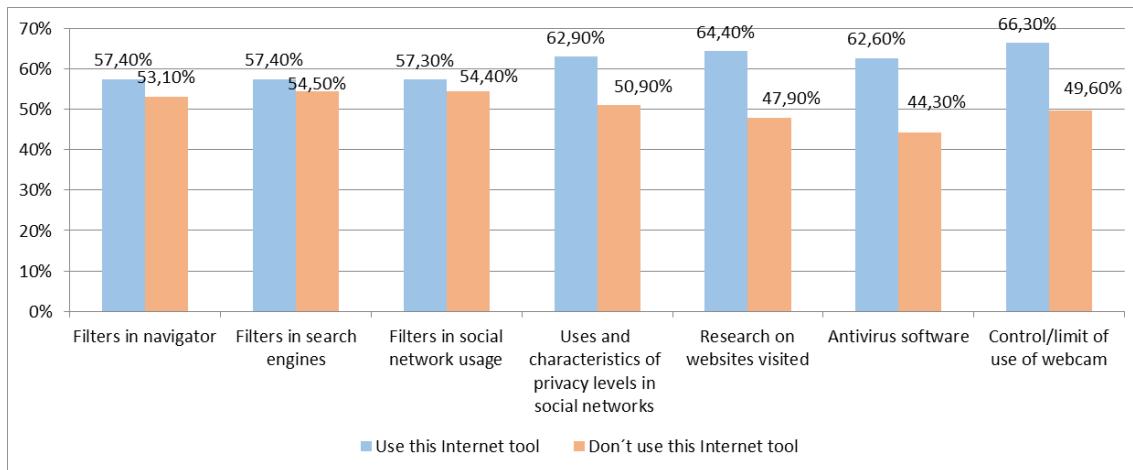
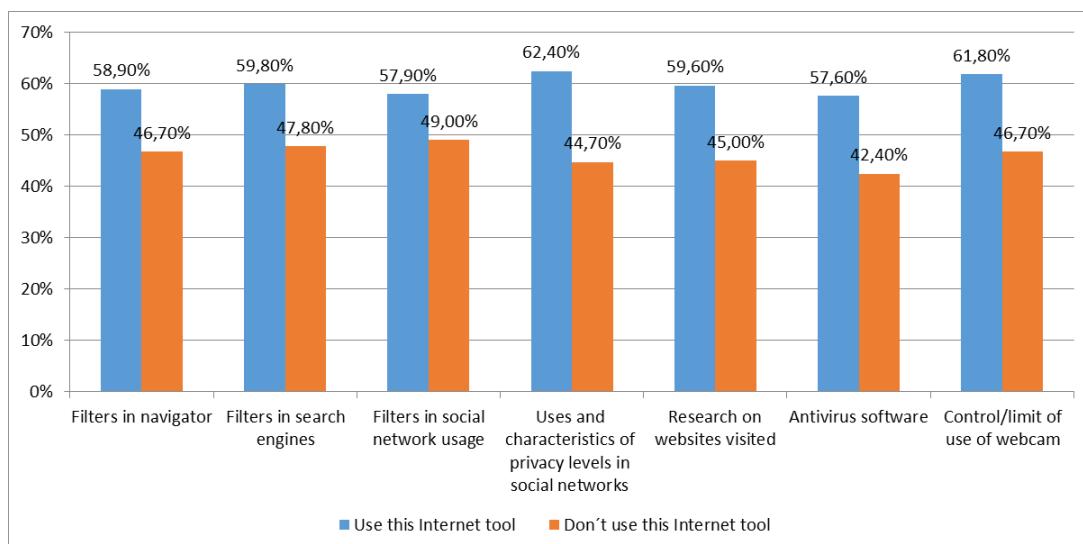
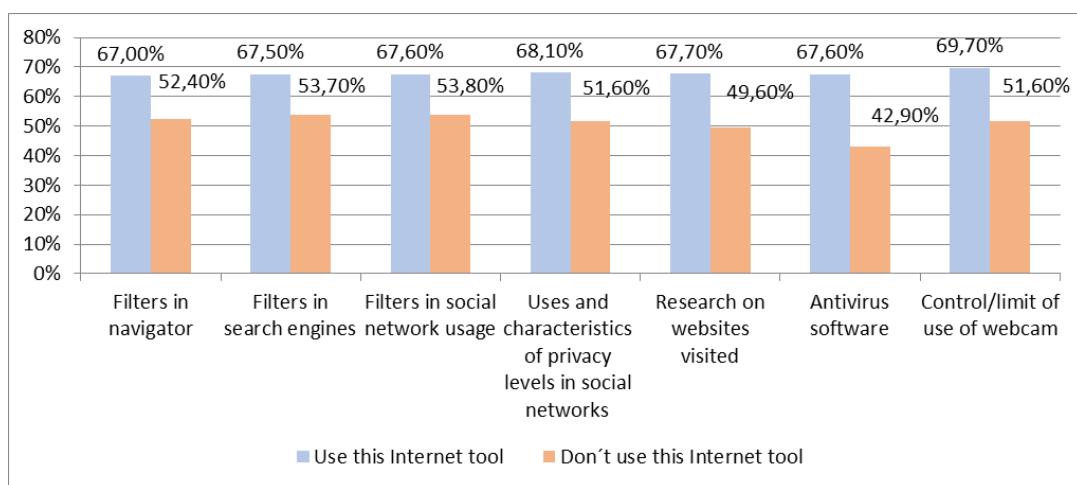


By observing answers according to parents gender, it is detected an important tendency: men are in a large extent more sure than women of their own abilities to know dangers and tools to prevent hazards in internet.

Answers of this group, that it is quite or very agree with the assert of 'I know the use of internet of my children' and 'I know the hazards and I know how to prevent them' are analysed next in detail. The level of use and knowledge that such groups have to make those statements is going to be described. The following graph compares the use that they have done of 7 internet control tools between those who 'know the use of internet of their children' and the total. Next, it is made the same comparison between those who declare that 'know the hazards and know to prevent them'

The results allow detecting that the most trusting have used more the control and prevention tools, but the difference is small. Only the 62% of those who declare that 'know the hazards and know to prevent them' have managed privacy levels at social networks and only the 58% have put some filter in the navigation. It is therefore observed that a 40% of parents consider that their children are safe without being capable of managing basic control and supervision tools.

Parents lack of certain abilities but also are very confident, they do not seem to ask an improvement of them. Let remember, from above graphs, that hardly the 31,4% think that 'they should be more involved in the prevention'.

Figure 45. Control tools use of parents who ‘know their children use of internet’.**Figure 46. Tools use of parents that ‘know the hazards and know to prevent them’.****Figure 47. Parents use of control tools that “are ready to use security tools”**

PREVENTION OF RISKS FOR THE MINORS IN SOCIAL NETWORKS AND INTERNET

At the last graph, it has been compared the level of knowledge of the internet threats from 'who know hazards and know how to prevent them', to those 'who know what their children do in internet' and general population.

Many from those who assert that know what their children do, do not use any kind of technological tool. Furthermore, there is a significant percentage that do not dare to assert that their children are safe from specific hazards.

There is a general security sensation, but when more specific themes are dealt, parents realize that they are not as prepared as they think. The more accurate knowledge of these hazards would be the first step for parents to assume that they need to improve in the prevention and protection of their children in the use of social networks and internet.

CONCLUSIONS |

3. CONCLUSIONES



ACCESS

At 6-8 years old most of children already have access to computers connected to internet, although parents declare that they use to be controlled through some filter and, above all, through in-person control. Given the low knowledge of the parents in relation to that tool, it can be deducted that when they say that their children use internet with filters they usually refer to computers in the educational centre.

Internet access levels and social networks are quickly being transformed, mainly due to the irruption of cell phone with data access and online messaging. Spain, as an example, has a low internet access level at home but it is above the average in these devices.

The capacity that offers online mobile messaging for relationships and sharing files makes necessary that this must be evaluated as another social network.



CONTROL

The direct in-person control is the preferred system by parents, but the reality is that they cannot practice all the time. The 15% of parents say to be always present when their children use internet, even with children older than 14 years old. In the case of access to social networks it hardly is above 6%. It might be due to the majority incorporation to social networks is produced at 10-11 years old, at the same time that a relaxation in the in-person supervision.

Majority of parents consider that they know what their children do when they use internet, at least in part. However, their main resource to obtain that information is the trust they have in the children, because the 50,9% of parents declare that their main information source is 'they tell it to me'.

If it accounts parents that use technological media as a control measure (review devices, filter or block them) the results reflect that only 42% of parents often apply this measure.



HAZARDS

Hardly all risks that have been exposed in the poll opinion are known by more than half of the parents. Just in the case of "ciberbullying" it can be observed that more than a 19,3% of parents does not know absolutely in what it is consisting. In the rest of the cases, the acknowledgement rounds the 10% or less.

The percentage of parents who think that their children are protected from the specified risks in the questionnaire never reach the 50%. In case of ciberbullying, it is detected that only the 28% of parents consider that their child is protected.



COMUNICATION AND INFORMATION

More than the 80 % of parents have talked with their children several times in relation to the principal hazards that there are in internet.

Under that value, there are parents that talk about pornography and explicit contents (69%) and those who have talked about bullying, virus protection and rules for registering in a website (between 77 and 78%).

In conclusion, it can be observed that there is a range, which fluctuates between 20 and 30% of parents, that have never or hardly ever dealt with themes of essential importance with their children, they are themes that make reference to basic self-protection habits using internet and social networks.

Along the survey, it can be observed and special weakness in the visibility control of personal data at the website, social networks or mobile devices registry.

A lo largo del estudio se observa una especial debilidad en el control de la visibilidad de datos personales en registro de webs, redes sociales o dispositivos móviles.



USE OF SOCIAL NETWORKS

Parents are mainly knowledgeable about classic aspects of Internet relationships such as the personal knowledge of the friendship or the safe files download. However, most exclusive habits of social networks, those that are a concern since there are people sharing personal information at places with different privacy options, are not one of the main concerns for parents. Between 45 and 55% of parents say that he/she knows aspects of their children use of social networks such as: "know personally their friendships in social networks", "the type of personal data that they facilitate" or "the images and files that they share".

There is a significant concern for the use of social networks that children make but protective technological tools are hardly used. Control is based on children confidence, especially when parents age increases. If 39% of parents with children under 11 years old have their children as their own information source, between the older than 24 achieve the 62%. By contrast, they control or limit technologically the use of devices to 57% of minors than 11 years old but at least the 35% in the case of older than 14.

It is shown a high level of confidence in the own abilities and knowledge of children for the prevention of internet risks, despite the fact that it has been confirmed a low use of the available technological tools and too much confidence in their children.



ATTITUDES

Quite more than 31% of parents agree that he/she must “get more involved in the prevention”, in other words, it can be deducted that 70% of parents are satisfied with their capacities and current control level.

Despite that under the use of devices and control technological tools and internet supervision, 58% of parents indicate that agree with that “they are prepared to use the security tools and internet protection”. Such a high level of confidence is very surprising.

Just 57,4% of parents that think that “they know their children use of internet”, have reviewed something so basic as the surfing history of the used devices. It seems a low percentage for making such an affirmation.

It is detected that between parents there is a general security, but for more specific themes, parents realize that they are not ready as they think. They trust a lot in their children, as if they were completely capable for detecting and protecting themselves before any hazard or threat in internet.

Un conocimiento más preciso de esos peligros sería el primer paso para que los padres asumiesen que necesitan mejorar en la prevención y protección de sus hijos en el uso de redes sociales e internet



Se puede afirmar que los padres no temen algunos riesgos importantes porque ni siquiera los saben reconocer.



Se tienden a conocer más peligros típicos de otros ámbitos aplicados a internet como acoso, robo o contenidos inapropiados.



Se tienden a conocer menos los problemas específicos de redes sociales como robos de identidad, privacidad de la información personal y limitación al compartir archivos.

ANNEXS |

4. ANNEXS

4.1. Questionnaire.

QUESTIONNAIRE PARENT NETS:

Characteristics of the interviewed/ household:

PRESENTATION: This questionnaire is part of an European project named parent&nets, training parents for detecting and preventing risks on social networks an internet. It is designed to measure parent's knowledge of how to prevent risks to children when using the internet. Please, answer all questions as honestly and precisely as you can. The information will be used only to calculate statistical trends. Your answers will be anonymous and confidential.

I declare that I was provided with all the necessary information I deemed important to decide on my participation. I was informed, specifically, of the objective, expected duration, research proceedings, confidentiality and anonymity of the data, and that I had the right to withdraw at any time without incurring in any consequences.

Thus, I agree to participate in the questionnaire above mentioned

Please, answer all questions as honestly and precisely as you can.

1. Parents:

- 1.1. Age (completed years): _____
- 1.2. Gender: male female
- 1.3. Occupation: _____
- 1.4. Highest level of education:

1	Primary or less
2	Secondary/basic education
3	Post-secondary (non university)
4	Tertiary education (university)

2. Do you have access/use of internet in these places daily?

		Internet access		Do you use social networks at	
		Yes	No	Yes	No
1	Home				
2	Your job				
3	Your mobile phone/tablet				

3. Social Networks Used by you:

		FREQUENCY OF USE			
		DON'T USE		USE	
		Daily	Weekly	Monthly	Less than monthly
1	Twitter				
2	Facebook				
3	Instagram				
4	Linkedin				
5	Other:_____				
6	Other_____				
7	Other_____				

PREVENTION OF RISKS FOR THE MINORS IN SOCIAL NETWORKS AND INTERNET

4. Children

4.1. How many children live in your household between 6 and 18 years old: _____

4.2. What ages are they? (Please, write their ages in the boxes below, if there are several with same ages, repeat number).

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

5. Access to technology for your children by age: (fill the boxes with a X)

Ages:	Mobile phone	Access to computer with internet access	Access to internet and webcam (same device)	Access to internet without parental filters	Internet in their own portable device (phone, tablet, portable computer)	Access to computer with internet access in private place	Social net user	Install program games, a
6-9								
9-10								
11-12								
13-14								
15-16								
17-18								

6. Are you with the children when they...?

	Never	Rarely/hardly ever	Sometime	Often	Always
1 Watch TV					
2 Use internet at home					
3 Use social nets					
4 Play games in their computer					
5 Share time with another children (not school)					

7. Do you talk with your children about?

	Never	Once/rarely/hardly ever	Sometimes	Often	Always
1 Download of contents, files, videos, pictures					
2 Their friends in social networks (if they know them personally)					
3 Registering in a website					
4 Websites you can and cannot trust(not everyone on the internet is truthful)					
5 Their own profiles in social networks (information available)					
6 Viruses(protection against them)					
7 Use of passwords and security					
8 Website they use to get information					
9 Appropriate/ inappropriate contents in internet					
10 Bullying on the Internet					
11 Pornography/ explicit contents					
12 How to interact with others on the internet					

Knowledge of Children's web usage and dangers

7.1. Do you know which three **main websites (that are not social networks)** are frequented by your children? (Tick only one answer)

1	Yes
2	One or two, not all the three
3	Not sure
4	I don't know

7.1.1. How do you know (You can tick several answers)

1	People, media or another parents tell me their favorites
2	I heard them talk about it
3	They tell me
4	I check devices sometimes
5	I check devices often
6	I block devices, they have to ask for my permission
7	Other (specify):

7.2. Do you know what **kind of files, games, pictures or videos they download?** (Tick only one answer)

1	Yes
2	I know about some, not sure if there are more than I don't know
3	Not sure
4	I don't know

7.2.1. How do you know? (You can tick several answers)

1	People, media or other parents tell me their favorites
2	I heard them talk about it
3	They tell me
4	I check devices sometimes
5	I check devices often
6	I block devices, they have to ask for my permission
7	Other sources (specify):

7.3. Do you know what **social networks are used by your children?** (Tick only one answer)

1	Yes
2	I know about some, not sure if there are more than I don't know
3	Not sure
4	I don't know

7.3.1. Do you know the following information in regards to their usage of Social Networks?

		Yes	Some, not all	I guess, not sure	I don't know
1	Do they know their online friends personally?				
2	Privacy settings (if their information is public)				
3	About pictures, videos they upload				
4	About pictures, videos they download				
5	If they give information about their address				
6	If they give information about the phone number				
7	If they give information about the name of school				
8	They give information about places they use to visit, spend their time				

7.3.2. How do you know? (You can tick several answers)

1	People, media or another parents tell me
2	I heard them talk about it
3	They tell me
4	I check devices sometimes
5	I check devices often
6	I block devices, they have to ask for my permission
7	Other sources (specify):

7.4. Your children, do they use games online? (Tick only one answer)

1	Yes
2	Yes, but I don't know which ones

PREVENTION OF RISKS FOR THE MINORS IN SOCIAL NETWORKS AND INTERNET

3	I don't know if they use games online
4	No, they don't use games online

7.4.1. Which are the main games online that they use?

1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	

8. Dangers do you know that your children are exposed during using of internet.

	Do you know how your children can be in danger when using internet in the following issues?			Do you think that your children are currently exposed to those dangers?		
	YES	NO	Don't know	YES	NO	Don't know
Cyber bullying						
Grooming (sexual harassment)						
Sexting (use of sexual pictures, texts, videos...)						
Access to adult content (gambling, violence, sex...)						
Toxic contents						
Identity theft						
Addictions						
Health issues (eating disorders)						
Jihadism						
Being robbed						
Others:						

9. Do you know what tools are used to prevent threats on websites and social networks? (explain in your own words any tools, systems or habits to prevent dangers for children when using internet, and whether you have used any of them:

9.1. Do you know and have you used/done some of the following ? Which ones you would like to know how to use?

	Know it?		Ever used it?		Fill with X if you would like to learn about it
	Yes	No	Yes	No	
Filters in navigator					
Filters in search engines					
Filters in social network usage					
Filter options included in antivirus software to block pages					
Filters in operation systems to block, limit or inform of use					
Uses and characteristics of privacy levels in social networks					
Timetable of internet use control					
Websites to learn about security use of internet					
Research on websites visited					
Where to verify if a website is safe					
Forbid internet in rooms with closed door					n/a
Certificates of safe an appropriate websites					
Block webs and apps for mobiles					

Antivirus software					
Check permits when you install an app, game, or program					
Control/limit of use of webcam					
Use of password for blocking screen or visualization of pictures					
Use of password for blocking uploads/downloads					

Opinions

10. Please, tick the box that best reflects your opinion about these sentences

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral/undecided	Disagree	Strongly disagree
I should get more involved in preventing dangers to my children using the internet					
I don't know where to get information about prevention tools for danger on the internet					
My children know how to detect if they are in danger, they are well informed					
I know most of the dangers on the internet and how to prevent my children from getting involved/being exposed to them					
The Security level of the use of the internet by my children is very low, I would like to help to improve it					
I know what my children do on the internet					
Teacher or authorities in general must be the main parties responsible for preventing danger on the internet					
My children know better than me how to protect themselves when using the internet					
My children would inform me quickly if they have a problem on the internet or are in danger					
I am prepared to use prevention tools for my children					

11. What do you think that you should improve/ learn to better protect your children using social networks on the internet? You can make any comment you wish about this issue.

THANKS FOR YOUR COOPERATION. Your answers will be anonymous, only used for statistical information and will help to know and prevent dangers for children when using internet.



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