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Children's experiences with cyberhate

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The EU Kids Online network is a multinational research network. It seeks to enhance knowledge of European children's online opportunities, risks and safety. It uses multiple methods to map children's and parents' experiences of the internet, in dialogue with national and European policy stakeholders. Now working in more than 30 countries, the network integrates research expertise across multiple disciplines and methods.

Teams of the EU Kids Online network collaborated between autumn 2017 and summer 2019 to conduct a major **survey of 25,101 children in 19 European countries**.

For all reports, findings and the technical report of this survey, as well as full details of national partners, please visit **www.eukidsonline.net**

Key findings

We present the findings about **cyberhate experiences among 11 to 17 year olds from 10 European countries**: Czech Republic, Finland, Flanders, France, Italy, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Romania, and Slovakia.

We investigated **cyberhate exposure**, which is the experience of encountering hateful content online but not necessarily feeling victimized by it. We revealed that:

- There are large differences in the exposure to cyberhate among countries. In France, 21% of children reported that they have been exposed to some hateful content online, but the same was reported by 59% of children in the Czech Republic.
- There are also differences in the frequency of the exposure to cyberhate. Daily or weekly exposure was reported by 5% in Italy and Slovakia and 18% in the Czech Republic.
- The differences between boys and girls in the cyberhate exposure are not consistent across countries. In Norway and Slovakia, more boys reported that they have been exposed to some hateful content online, while in Romania, slightly more girls reported the same. In other countries, the differences between boys and girls are minimal.
- In all countries, older children are more often exposed to cyberhate than younger children. The differences between the youngest and oldest children are sometimes large, such as more than 30 percentage points in the Czech Republic, Norway, Poland, and Romania.

We also focused on **cyberhate victimization**, which is when people are and feel targeted by hateful content online. We found that:

- Cyberhate victimization is much less prevalent than exposure to cyberhate content. The experience of cyberhate victimization varied between 3% in Italy and 13% in Poland. Daily or weekly victimization was reported by less than 2% of children in all countries.
- There are no gender differences in cyberhate victimization in most of countries. In Poland and Romania, only slightly more boys reported that they had been exposed to some hateful content online (the difference of 3 and 4 percentage points, respectively).

- The differences between age groups are also quite small for cyberhate victimization. There is almost no age difference in most of countries. However, in Poland, more older children experience cyberhate victimization than younger children (the difference of 7 percentage points).

Finally, we investigated **cyberhate aggression**, which is when people create, post, or disseminate hateful content online.

- Cyberhate aggression is less prevalent than cyberhate victimization: between 1% (Italy) and 8% (Poland, Romania) of children reported that they acted as cyberhate aggressors. Most aggressors reported that they had perpetrated cyberhate only a few times.
- There are only small gender differences in cyberhate aggression: in the Czech Republic and Poland, slightly more boys behaved as aggressors (the difference of 5 and 6 percentage points, respectively). In other countries the difference was negligible.
- In Norway, cyberhate aggression only very slightly increases with age. On the other hand, in Romania, slightly more younger children than older children reported that they acted as cyberhate aggressors (the difference of 3 and 4 percentage points, respectively).

Introduction

This report presents the main findings about children's experiences with cyberhate. The data were collected from **October 2017 to April 2019 as part of the EU Kids Online project in the Czech Republic, Finland, Flanders, France, Italy, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Romania, and Slovakia. The data come from 9,459 children aged 11-17** who use the internet and who were asked about experiences with cyberhate.

Cyberhate, or online hate, refers to **hate speech expressed on the internet or via information and communication technologies**. Hate speech is defined as all forms of expression which spreads, incites, promotes, or justifies hatred, discrimination, xenophobia, and other forms of hatred based on intolerance (Council of Europe, 2018). Based on the offline-hate-speech definition of Greenawalt (1992) and on the cyberhate research work of Williams et al. (2020), cyberhate can be considered hatred spread through electronic communication tools that (1) provokes a response of violence; (2) wounds those at whom the speech is directed; (3) causes offence to those who hear/view it; and (4) includes slurs and epithets that have a degrading effect on social relationships within a community. Cyberhate can involve various types of content, both textual or audio-visual, which express **antagonistic attitudes towards individuals and specific groups of people on the grounds of their ethnic or national origin, their religion, supposed race, or colour** (Council of Europe additional protocol to cybercriminality of the 28th of January 2003, art. 2-1).

Hatred online can take the form of extremist websites created by organised hate groups who use the internet as a tool to disseminate their ideas, to build collective identity, and to recruit young people. The presence of these groups has been facilitated worldwide by technology. However, individuals have become more active than organized groups and they produce hateful content that is widely disseminated

through posts, comments, and user-generated social media platforms. While the most egregious hate speech is easily identifiable, some content, in the form of jokes or more subtle comments and forms of discrimination, are much less easily quantifiable. They represent a grey zone that contributes to a sly trivialization of racism, xenophobia, and discrimination. As a consequence, a dark figure remains, despite improvements in hate reporting and recording.

Therefore, we thought it to be particularly relevant to directly ask the young people in this survey about their own experiences related to this social problem. Cyberhate is a pernicious issue because it targets not only individuals but also the communities to which they belong; therefore, it contributes to altering social cohesion as it feeds intergroup hostility.

In this report, we will deal with three types of experiences that children can have with cyberhate:

- **Cyberhate exposure**, when people see or hear hateful content online but do not have to be targeted or feel targeted by it.
- **Cyberhate victimization**, when people are targeted and they feel targeted by hateful content online.
- **Cyberhate aggression**, when people create, post, or disseminate hateful content online.

In our survey, cyberhate referred to "*online contents that target individuals or communities on identified or supposed characteristics based on religion, origin, colour of skin or culture. Discrimination is about people feeling they are treated unfairly because of their physical or personal characteristics*". In the subsequent questions, each of the countries used the most relevant examples of groups that might be targets of cyberhate or online discrimination in their national context (e.g., Muslims, Migrants, Jews, Roma).

Methodology

The questionnaire

- The full master questionnaire in English and its national translations are available at www.eukidsonline.net. In this report, we mostly utilize the optional module “Cyberhate” which was developed by Catherine Blaya.
- The translation of the questionnaire was coordinated and supervised by expert members of the EU Kids Online within each country.
- Considering the length of the questionnaire, and the complex and sensitive nature of some items, in most countries the questionnaire had a full version for older children and a shorter version for younger children (9–10). Each country had the option to decide itself which questions should not be asked of younger children. The Cyberhate module was distributed only to older children in most countries.

Sampling and procedure

- The target survey population were children aged 9–17 who use the internet.
- Two sampling methods were recommended: sampling via households and via schools. Each participating country selected the method depending on available resources and country and cultural context.
- Variants of household sampling include random walk, quota sampling and random recruitment/selection of households from a specific register. For sampling via schools, students enrolled in regular, vocational, general and academic studies were included.
- Belgium and Finland used specific sampling that also precluded the weighting options. Data from Belgium were designed to reflect only pupils from the Flanders region (thus the Belgian contribution for this survey is referred to as Flanders) while also excluding Brussels. Moreover, urban and regional profiles of surveyed schools differ from the distributions in population. In Finland, the final sample deviates from population distributions of both the age and region. Consequently, the data from these countries are not weighted and the comparability of the findings must be interpreted with regard to this limitation.

- The data collection by trained administrators was conducted by professional agencies, affiliated institute, or by national teams.

The data were collected via three base methods:

- CASI/CAWI (computer-assisted self-interviewing and computer-assisted web interviewing), in which interviewed children filled in the questionnaire on their own in the tablets/notebooks/computers while instructed by trained interviewers. The exception for this was France, where the children filled in their responses alone on their household computers.
- CAPI (computer-assisted personal interviewing), in which interviewers asked the children each question and marked the answer using an electronic tool. The children were handed the data-collecting tool in cases where the national research team deemed some questions to be too sensitive.
- PAPI (paper-assisted personal interviewing), in which the children were handed paper versions of the questionnaire to fill in during interviews, in the presence of trained administrators. This method was used mostly in countries that used school sampling for their survey.

See Table 1 for the overview of sampling and used methods.

Study sample

- This report presents findings from 10 countries which used the Cyberhate module as part of the EU Kids Online IV survey. Since the module was distributed only to older children, our sample consists of **children aged 11-17 who use the internet**.
- The data comes from **9,459 children** with the following distribution: **Czech Republic** ($n = 2,368$, 51% girls); **Finland**, ($n = 763$, 51% girls); **Flanders** ($n = 1,146$, 53% girls); **France** ($n = 759$, 44% girls); **Italy** ($n = 707$, 48% girls); **Lithuania** ($n = 551$, 46% girls); **Norway** ($n = 765$, 47% girls); **Poland** ($n = 928$, 54% girls); **Romania** ($n = 772$, 51% girls); and **Slovakia** ($n = 700$, 52% girls).

Ethical aspects

In all countries, the administration of the questionnaire followed base ethical guidelines, adhering to the national rules and conditions. Before

the questionnaire was introduced, informed consent of the legal representatives and written or oral consent from the child was obtained. Children were guaranteed anonymity and were given the opportunity to choose the option *I don't know* or *Prefer not to say* for each of the questions, and they were allowed to skip any of the questions. For this reason, the number of participants providing answers to individual questions varies. During the data collection, special effort was made to provide comfortable conditions for the participants. This included maximising the anonymity of the participants and limiting interference from other parties.

Data analysis

- The data used for analyses were weighted, with the exception of data from Flanders and Finland (see the description of sampling above). The weights were created using the criteria of gender, age and region (or other additional criteria, such as schools type, if applicable).
- The results in this report were computed from valid data only. However, the data also included several types of missing data (including the options *Don't know* and *Prefer not to say*). All types of the missing data were excluded from the analyses.
- In this report, we define the youngest category as consisting of children aged 11-12, followed by children aged 13-14, and the oldest age category comprising children aged 15-17. In cyberhate victimization and aggression, due to the low prevalence of children with respective experiences, we grouped the youngest and middle age categories, dividing children between 11-14 year olds and 15-17 year olds.

Full details of the project methodology are described in Zlamal et al. (2020). Full findings from the EU Kids Online survey are described in Smahel et al. (2020).

How to read the findings

This section helps readers to understand the findings, their presentation, and their interpretation.

How to approach comparisons

In this report, the main focus is on the findings of each individual country and less on comparison between the countries.

- As described in the 'Methodology', this varied across countries, which contributes to variations in the children's answers across the countries. Therefore, the **differences between countries must be interpreted with caution**.

If readers want to directly compare two or more different countries, **we recommend looking at the methods and sampling used in the respective countries** (see Table 1).

- While the prevalences are described by percentages (%), the differences between two percentages are described by percentage points (i.e., arithmetical difference between two percentages).
- Note that due to rounding the sum of numbers in certain graphs might add up to between 99% and 101%.

Which data are presented

- In some figures and tables, data from certain countries are omitted (such countries are denoted by an asterisk). This was done if the question was asked only of a subset of children that was different than in the other countries.
- If a sufficient amount of data was not available for younger or older children, the countries were not included in the presentation of overall findings across the countries and in the gender comparison. The available data is, however, presented in findings depicting age differences.
- Across the whole report, **due to absent data from younger or older children, Flanders, Finland and Lithuania are omitted from overall findings across countries and the gender comparison**.

Table 1: Overview of used methods

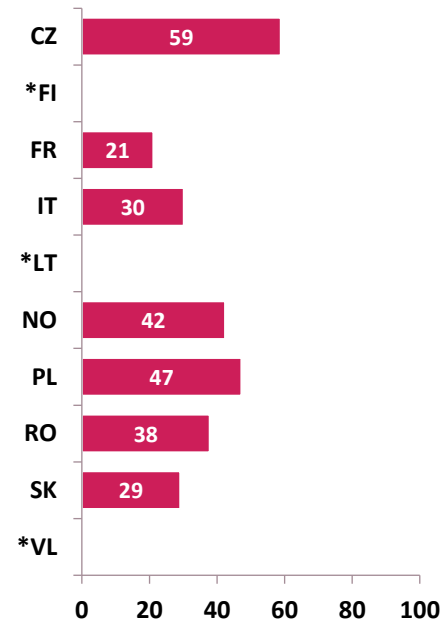
Country	Place of interview	Fieldwork	Method of interview	Survey carried out by	
CZ	Czech Republic	School	10/2017 to 02/2018	CASI/CAWI	CZ EU Kids Online team
FI	Finland	School	01/2019 to 04/2019	CASI/CAWI	FI EU Kids Online team
FR	France	Online survey	05/2018 to 06/2018	CASI/CAWI	OpinionWay agency
IT	Italy	Household	11/2017 to 12/2017	CAPI	Ipsos agency
LT	Lithuania	Household	01/2018 to 05/2018	CAPI	Spinter research agency
NO	Norway	Household	06/2018 to 10/2018	CASI/CAWI	Ipsos agency
PL	Poland	School	05/2018 to 06/2018	CASI/CAWI	Edbad agency
RO	Romania	School	04/2018 to 04/2019	CASI/CAWI	The Romanian Institute for Evaluation and Strategy (IRES)
SK	Slovakia	Household	04/2018 to 06/2018	CAPI	Kantar Slovakia agency
VL	Flanders	School	03/2018 to 11/2018	CASI/CAWI	The Institute for Media Studies at KU Leuven

Exposure to cyberhate

The first experience children can have with hateful content online is exposure. This happens when they, as part of an audience, encounter this type of content on the internet – when they see, hear, or read something hateful. However, it does not necessarily mean that they felt targeted or that they belong to the group of people that was attacked by the content. Therefore, we differentiate between exposure which is reported in this section and victimization, which will be reported in the next section. It was also important to ask children not only whether they had such an experience (Figure 1), but also how often (Figure 6).

Encountering hateful content online is quite a common experience among children, though countries varied in the prevalence. In our project, between 21% (France) and 59% (Czech Republic) of children reported that they have been exposed to some hateful content on the internet (Figure 1). Across all countries, there is a consistent pattern related to age (Figure 3): more older children than younger children reported such exposure. Specifically in countries with a higher prevalence of reported exposure, such as the Czech Republic, Poland, Romania, and Norway, the difference between the oldest and youngest children can be quite stark, reaching more than 30 percentage points. Thus, we can see that exposure to cyberhate increases with age, which is evident in all of the countries. This trend is probably related to the overall higher engagement in online usage. Younger children, who spend less time online and engage in less online activities, are less likely to see something hateful on the internet.

Figure 1: Cyberhate exposure, by country



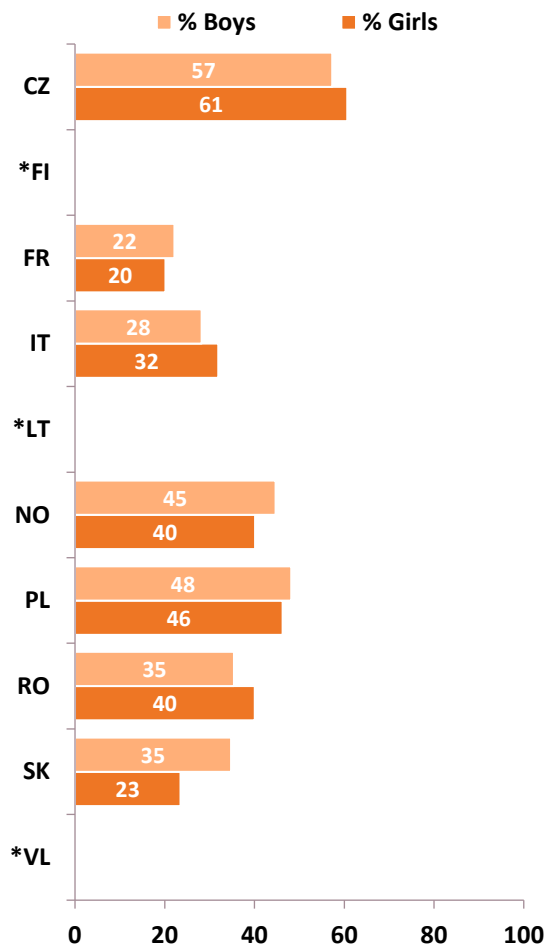
* FI/LT/VL: Data from full age range are not available

School-based sample: CZ, FI, PL, RO, VL; Household sample: IT, LT, NO, SK; Online sample: FR.

M1_2 In the PAST 12 MONTHS, have you EVER seen hateful or degrading messages or comments online, against people or certain groups of people? (This could for example be Muslims, Migrants, Jews, Roma, etc.)? Percentage of children who answered *yes*.

Base: All children aged 11-17 who use the internet.

Figure 2: Cyberhate exposure, by gender



* FI/LT/VL: Data from full age range are not available.

School-based sample: CZ, FI, PL, RO, VL; Household sample: IT, LT, NO, SK; Online sample: FR.

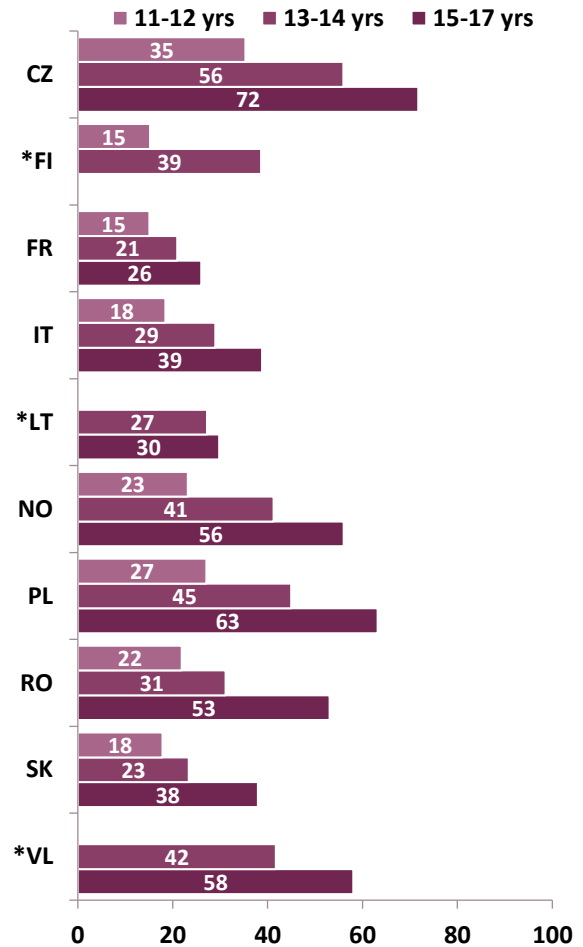
M1_2 In the PAST 12 MONTHS, have you EVER seen hateful or degrading messages or comments online, against people or certain groups of people? (This could for example be Muslims, Migrants, Jews, Roma, etc.)? Percentage of children who answered *yes*.

Base: All children aged 11-17 who use the internet.

On the other hand, on average, in the majority of the countries, experience with cyberhate exposure is not strongly related to gender (Figure 2). In most countries, the gender difference was less than 5 percentage points. Only in Norway and Slovakia, more boys than girls report cyberhate exposure in the past year (a difference of 5 and 12 percentage points, respectively), while in Romania, more girls reported cyberhate exposure (a difference of 5 percentage points).

However, gender differences are more pronounced when we take into account the age of the child (Figures 4 and 5), although these differences are not consistent across countries and they are rather small. For instance in the age group of 11 to 14 year olds

Figure 3: Cyberhate exposure, by age



* FI/LT/VL: Data from full age range are not available. FI/VL: Data not weighted.

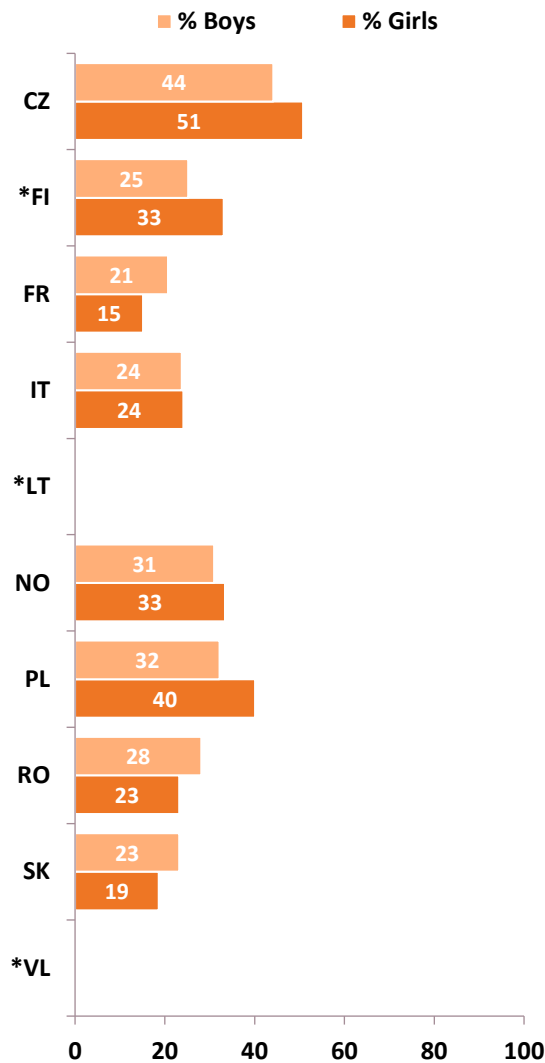
School-based sample: CZ, FI, PL, RO, VL; Household sample: IT, LT, NO, SK; Online sample: FR.

M1_2 In the PAST 12 MONTHS, have you EVER seen hateful or degrading messages or comments online, against people or certain groups of people? (This could for example be Muslims, Migrants, Jews, Roma, etc.)? Percentage of children who answered *yes*.

Base: All children aged 11-17 who use the internet.

(Figure 4), more girls than boys were exposed to cyberhate in the Czech Republic, Finland and Poland (differences between 7 and 8 percentage points, respectively), while the opposite trend is present in France and Romania (differences of 6 and 5 percentage points, respectively). Other differences were small (below 5 percentage points). In the group of 15 to 17 year olds (Figure 5) more girls than boys were exposed in Italy, Romania, and Flanders (differences between 7 and 8 percentage points). On the other hand, more older boys than girls were exposed in Norway, Poland, and Slovakia (differences between 12 and 17 percentage points).

Figure 4: Cyberhate exposure among 11 to 14 year olds, by gender



* LT/VL: Data from full age range are not available. FI: Data not weighted.

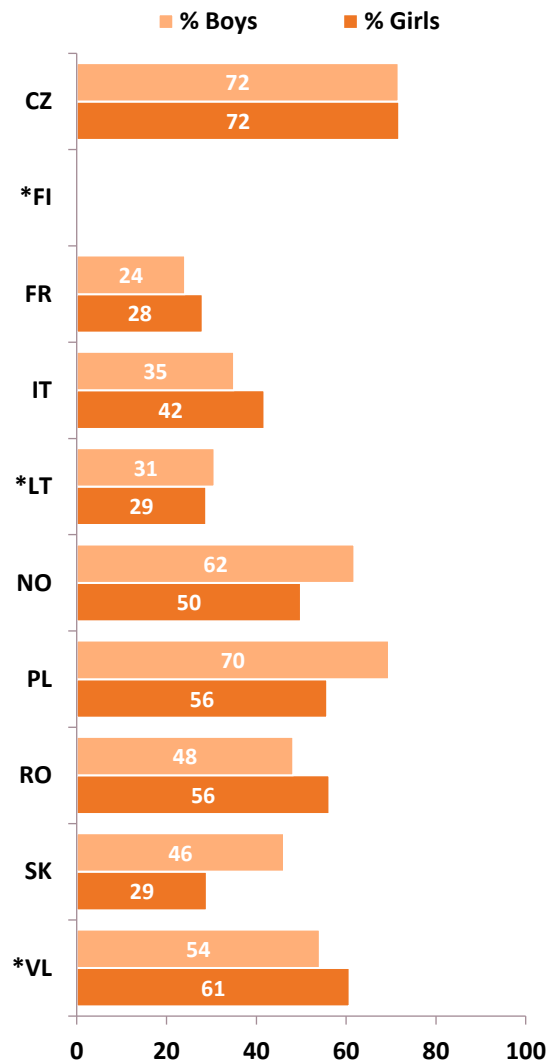
School-based sample: CZ, FI, PL, RO, VL; Household sample: IT, LT, NO, SK; Online sample: FR.

M1_2 In the PAST 12 MONTHS, have you EVER seen hateful or degrading messages or comments online, against people or certain groups of people? (This could for example be Muslims, Migrants, Jews, Roma, etc.)? Percentage of children who answered *yes*.

Base: All children aged 11-14 who use the internet.

As presented above, cyberhate exposure is not rare in the majority of the studied countries. However, if we want to better understand the scope of this potentially harmful experience, it is necessary to also consider its frequency (Figure 6). Regular exposure to cyberhate (i.e., being exposed daily or weekly) varies between 5% (in Italy and Slovakia) and 18% (in the Czech Republic).

Figure 5: Cyberhate exposure among 15 to 17 year olds, by gender



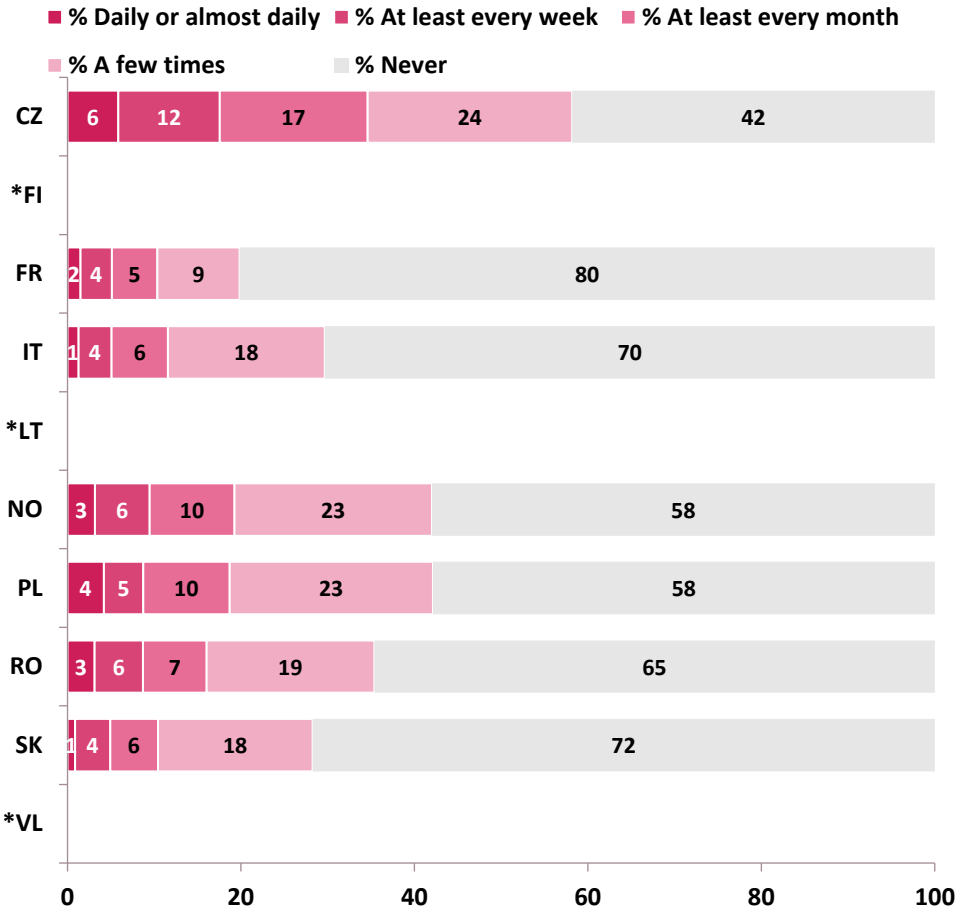
* FI: Data from full age range are not available. VL: Data not weighted.

School-based sample: CZ, FI, PL, RO, VL; Household sample: IT, LT, NO, SK; Online sample: FR.

M1_2 In the PAST 12 MONTHS, have you EVER seen hateful or degrading messages or comments online, against people or certain groups of people? (This could for example be Muslims, Migrants, Jews, Roma, etc.)? Percentage of children who answered *yes*.

Base: All children aged 15-17 who use the internet.

Figure 6: Frequency of cyberhate exposure, by country



* FI/LT/VL: Data from full age range are not available.

School-based sample: CZ, FI, PL, RO, VL; Household sample: IT, LT, NO, SK; Online sample: FR.

M1_2 In the PAST 12 MONTHS, have you EVER seen hateful or degrading messages or comments online, against people or certain groups of people? (This could for example be Muslims, Migrants, Jews, Roma, etc.)? M1_3_RT In the PAST 12 MONTHS, how often have you seen something like this?

Base: All children aged 11-17 who use the internet.

Gender differences (Table 2) were again rather small, though in Norway, Poland, and Slovakia more boys than girls reported weekly or daily exposure to cyberhate (differences between 6 and 8 percentage points). The frequency of exposure also increases with age (Table 3). Among the youngest age group, less than 3% of children reported being exposed on a daily basis and less than 4% on a weekly basis. On

the other hand, in the oldest age group, in some countries, more than a tenth of the children reported daily or weekly exposure (25% in the Czech Republic, 18% in Norway, 16% in Poland, and 13% in Romania).

Table 2: Frequency of cyberhate exposure, by gender

		% Daily or almost daily	% At least every week	% At least every month	% A few times	% Never
Boys	CZ	6.9	11.7	15.3	22.9	43.2
	*FI	-	-	-	-	-
	FR	1.2	4.2	5.7	9.0	80.0
	IT	1.6	4.1	5.9	15.7	72.7
	*LT	-	-	-	-	-
	NO	4.8	7.7	8.1	23.5	55.8
	PL	5.7	6.7	9.0	22.1	56.5
	RO	3.0	5.9	8.4	14.6	68.1
	SK	1.5	6.7	7.0	18.4	66.5
	*VL	-	-	-	-	-
Girls	CZ	4.8	11.8	19.1	24.2	40.1
	*FI	-	-	-	-	-
	FR	1.8	3.0	4.9	9.7	80.5
	IT	1.0	3.6	7.0	20.0	68.4
	*LT	-	-	-	-	-
	NO	1.6	4.7	11.5	21.5	60.7
	PL	2.6	2.2	10.7	24.7	59.8
	RO	3.3	5.0	6.3	24.0	61.4
	SK	0.3	1.4	4.0	17.3	76.9
	*VL	-	-	-	-	-

* FI/LT/VL: Data from full age range are not available.

School-based sample: CZ, FI, PL, RO, VL; Household sample: IT, LT, NO, SK; Online sample: FR.

M1_2 In the PAST 12 MONTHS, have you EVER seen hateful or degrading messages or comments online, against people or certain groups of people? (This could for example be Muslims, Migrants, Jews, Roma, etc.)? M1_3_RT In the PAST 12 MONTHS, how often have you seen something like this?

Base: All children aged 11-17 who use the internet.

Table 3: Frequency of cyberhate exposure, by age

		% Daily or almost daily	% At least every week	% At least every month	% A few times	% Never
11-12 yrs	CZ	2.8	3.5	7.3	20.6	65.8
	FI	0.0	0.9	1.8	10.9	86.4
	FR	1.0	1.9	2.9	8.7	85.6
	IT	1.8	1.8	3.7	11.0	81.7
	*LT	-	-	-	-	-
	NO	0.6	0.6	7.3	13.6	78.0
	PL	0.0	1.2	5.3	14.7	78.8
	RO	1.7	3.0	5.7	8.7	80.9
	SK	0.0	1.9	2.5	11.3	84.3
	*VL	-	-	-	-	-
	13-14 yrs	CZ	3.7	11.6	13.9	25.8
FI		2.6	6.6	9.2	17.8	63.8
FR		1.0	3.1	5.8	9.4	80.6
IT		0.0	4.2	7.6	16.5	71.7
LT		0.9	4.2	6.5	15.3	73.0
NO		1.6	3.8	9.2	25.9	59.5
PL		4.8	1.8	7.2	24.1	62.0
RO		1.1	5.8	7.4	15.9	69.8
SK		1.5	3.1	2.6	15.4	77.4
VL		4.8	5.4	7.0	22.0	60.8
15-17 yrs		CZ	8.5	15.7	23.6	23.5
	*FI	-	-	-	-	-
	FR	2.3	5.3	7.1	10.2	75.2
	IT	1.8	4.9	7.3	24.1	61.9
	LT	0.6	5.2	9.3	14.5	70.4
	NO	6.3	11.5	11.9	26.3	44.1
	PL	6.8	8.9	15.3	28.8	40.3
	RO	5.4	7.3	8.6	28.9	49.8
	SK	0.6	5.7	8.7	22.5	62.6
	VL	4.1	11.8	14.9	26.3	42.9

* FI/LT/VL: Data from full age range are not available. FI/VL: Data not weighted.

School-based sample: CZ, FI, PL, RO, VL; Household sample: IT, LT, NO, SK; Online sample: FR.

M1_2 In the PAST 12 MONTHS, have you EVER seen hateful or degrading messages or comments online, against people or certain groups of people? (This could for example be Muslims, Migrants, Jews, Roma, etc.)? M1_3_RT In the PAST 12 MONTHS, how often have you seen something like this?

Base: All children aged 11-17 who use the internet.

Cyberhate victimization

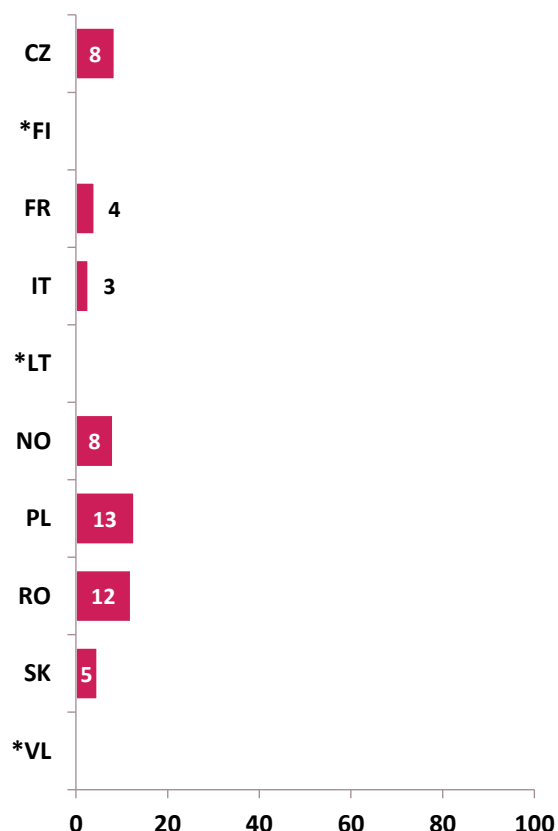
Not all children who are exposed to cyberhate are victimized or feel that they have been targeted by the attacks. Though even mere exposure can have negative consequences, the victimization often results in detrimental effects in children's well-being and mental health. Therefore, it is necessary to determine what proportion of children are victimized by cyberhate. We asked children about their particular experience of victimization by hateful messages or comments online. Specifically, whether they had *received hateful or degrading messages or comments online, against them or their community*.

The findings are displayed in Figure 7 and show that cyberhate victimization affects a substantially smaller group of children than exposure (from 3% in Italy to 13% in Poland).

Gender differences (Figure 8) are small, with boys and girls differing by less than 4 percentage points. In Poland and Romania, slightly more boys reported they had been exposed to some hateful content online (with a difference of 3 and 4 percentage points, respectively).

Due to the small number of children who reported cyberhate victimization, we do not display these results divided by three age groups (as was done for exposure), but we only use two age groups; this data is reported in Figure 9 and Table 5. In the majority of the countries, there were no large differences related to age (Figure 9). However, in Poland the difference of reported cyberhate victimization between younger and older children was 7 percentage points, with more older children reporting this experience.

Figure 7: Cyberhate victimization, by country



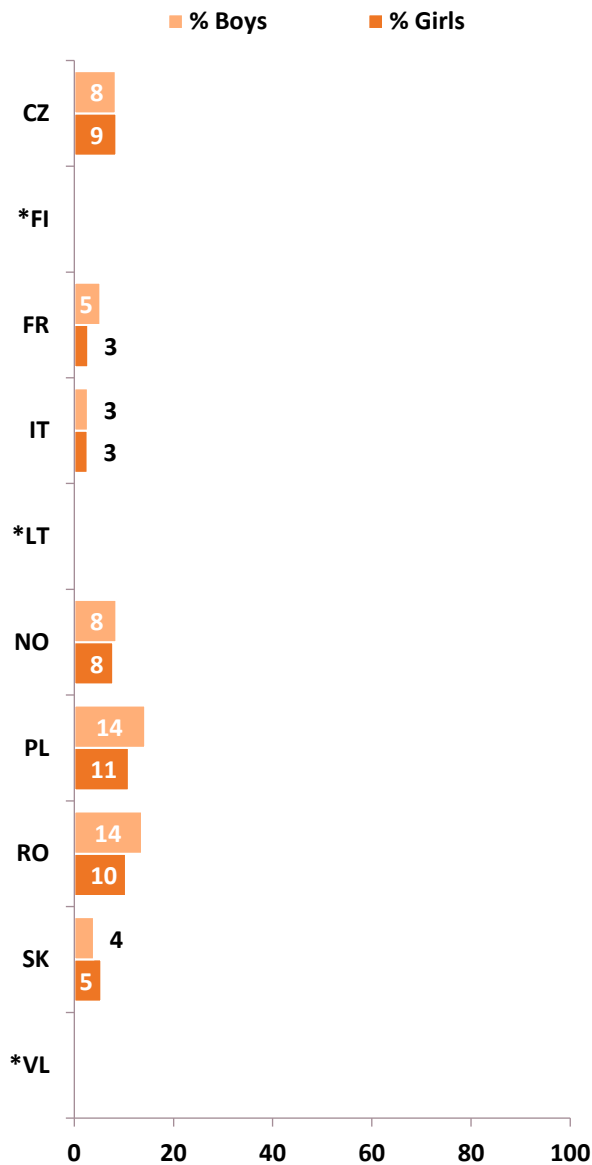
* FI/LT/VL: Data from full age range are not available.

School-based sample: CZ, FI, PL, RO, VL; Household sample: IT, LT, NO, SK; Online sample: FR.

M1_6 In the PAST 12 MONTHS, have you EVER received hateful or degrading messages or comments online, against you or your community? (This could for example be against Muslims, Migrants, Jews, etc.)? Percentage of children who answered *yes*.

Base: All children aged 11-17 who use the internet.

Figure 8: Cyberhate victimization, by gender



* FI/LT/VL: Data from full age range are not available.

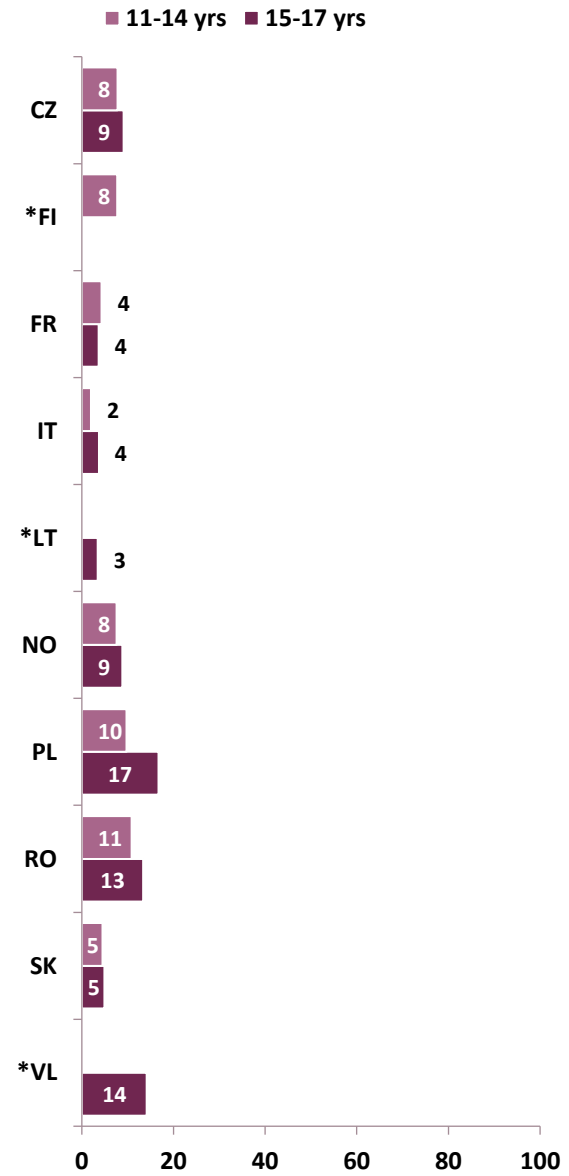
School-based sample: CZ, FI, PL, RO, VL; Household sample: IT, LT, NO, SK; Online sample: FR.

M1_6 In the PAST 12 MONTHS, have you EVER received hateful or degrading messages or comments online, against you or your community? (This could for example be against Muslims, Migrants, Jews, etc.)? Percentage of children who answered *yes*.

Base: All children aged 11-17 who use the internet.

To provide deeper insight into reported cyberhate victimization, it is important to consider whether this was a rare experience for children or something more frequent. We can see that in most cases, if cyberhate victimization occurs, it is only a few times (Table 4). Daily or weekly victimization was reported by less than 2% of children in all of the countries (Table 4).

Figure 9: Cyberhate victimization, by age



* FI/LT/VL: Data from full age range are not available. FI/VL: Data not weighted.

School-based sample: CZ, FI, PL, RO, VL; Household sample: IT, LT, NO, SK; Online sample: FR.

M1_6 In the PAST 12 MONTHS, have you EVER received hateful or degrading messages or comments online, against you or your community? (This could for example be against Muslims, Migrants, Jews, etc.)? Percentage of children who answered *yes*.

Base: All children aged 11-17 who use the internet.

Considering the low prevalence of cyberhate victimization, it is not surprising that there are not big differences related to gender or age (Table 4, Table 5).

Table 4: Frequency of cyberhate victimization, by country and gender

		% Daily or almost daily	% At least every week	% At least every month	% A few times	% Never
All children	CZ	0.3	1.0	1.4	4.9	92.4
	*FI	-	-	-	-	-
	FR	0.1	0.7	0.7	1.7	96.7
	IT	0.0	0.0	0.4	2.1	97.5
	*LT	-	-	-	-	-
	NO	0.1	0.3	1.3	5.8	92.4
	PL	0.9	0.9	1.9	7.0	89.3
	RO	0.7	1.3	2.4	5.8	89.8
	SK	0.0	0.4	0.7	3.1	95.7
	*VL	-	-	-	-	-
Boys	CZ	0.2	1.5	1.5	4.2	92.6
	*FI	-	-	-	-	-
	FR	0.0	0.9	1.4	1.7	96.0
	IT	0.0	0.0	0.3	2.1	97.6
	*LT	-	-	-	-	-
	NO	0.3	0.3	1.9	5.7	91.8
	PL	0.9	1.5	2.7	7.8	87.1
	RO	0.6	1.7	3.4	5.6	88.8
	SK	0.0	0.6	0.9	2.3	96.3
	*VL	-	-	-	-	-
Girls	CZ	0.3	0.7	1.5	5.4	92.1
	*FI	-	-	-	-	-
	FR	0.3	0.3	0.0	1.7	97.7
	IT	0.0	0.0	0.5	2.4	97.2
	*LT	-	-	-	-	-
	NO	0.0	0.3	0.6	6.0	93.1
	PL	0.6	0.3	0.6	6.1	92.2
	RO	0.8	1.0	1.5	6.0	90.7
	SK	0.0	0.3	0.6	3.9	95.2
	*VL	-	-	-	-	-

* FI/LT/VL: Data from full age range are not available.

School-based sample: CZ, FI, PL, RO, VL; Household sample: IT, LT, NO, SK; Online sample: FR.

M1_6 In the PAST 12 MONTHS, have you EVER received hateful or degrading messages or comments online, against you or your community? (This could for example be against Muslims, Migrants, Jews, etc.)? M1_7_RT In the PAST 12 MONTHS, how often did this happen?

Base: All children aged 11-17 who use the internet.

Table 5: Frequency of cyberhate victimization, by age

		% Daily or almost daily	% At least every week	% At least every month	% A few times	% Never
11-14 yrs	CZ	0.2	0.7	1.1	4.9	93.0
	FI	0.4	0.4	0.7	6.3	92.3
	FR	0.2	0.5	0.5	1.7	97.1
	IT	0.0	0.0	0.2	1.5	98.3
	*LT	-	-	-	-	-
	NO	0.0	0.0	1.3	5.5	93.2
	PL	0.5	0.5	1.9	5.0	92.0
	RO	0.2	1.2	2.2	4.6	91.7
	SK	0.0	0.5	0.3	3.2	95.9
	*VL	-	-	-	-	-
	15-17 yrs	CZ	0.3	1.4	1.8	4.8
*FI		-	-	-	-	-
FR		0.0	1.1	1.1	1.8	96.0
IT		0.0	0.0	0.6	3.0	96.4
LT		0.0	0.3	0.6	1.9	97.2
NO		0.3	0.7	1.4	6.6	91.0
PL		1.5	1.5	1.5	9.7	85.8
RO		1.2	1.5	2.6	7.0	87.7
SK		0.0	0.3	1.2	3.3	95.2
VL		1.4	1.2	2.2	7.6	87.6

* FI/LT/VL: Data from full age range are not available. FI/VL: Data not weighted.

School-based sample: CZ, FI, PL, RO, VL; Household sample: IT, LT, NO, SK; Online sample: FR.

M1_6 In the PAST 12 MONTHS, have you EVER received hateful or degrading messages or comments online, against you or your community? (This could for example be against Muslims, Migrants, Jews, etc.)? M1_7_RT In the PAST 12 MONTHS, how often did this happen?

Base: All children aged 11-17 who use the internet.

Cyberhate aggression

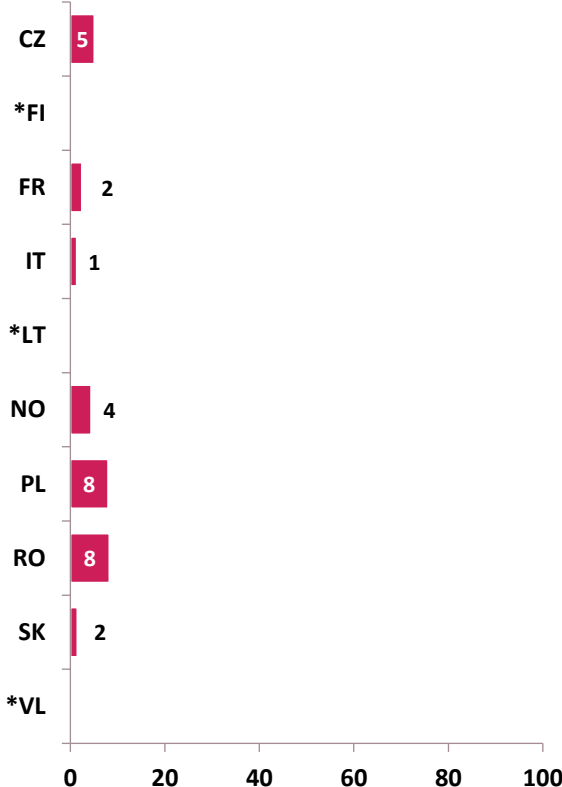
Finally, we also investigated children’s experiences with engagement in sending and spreading cyberhate. In our survey, we asked children if they had *sent hateful or degrading messages or comments online, against someone or a group of people* in the past year.

Similar to victimization, cyberhate aggression concerns a smaller percentage of children than exposure. Across all countries, 8% or less children reported sending these kinds of messages or comments (Figure 10). The pattern is similar to that of victimization, with the Czech Republic, Poland, and Romania having 5% or more (but less than 10%) reporting actions as cyberhate aggressors.

Aggression was not strongly related to age or gender in any country (Figures 11 and 12). There are no large gender differences, though in the Czech Republic and Poland slightly more boys say they have behaved as aggressors in cyberhate (differences of 5 and 6 percentage points, respectively). However, due to the low prevalence of the phenomenon, the differences should be interpreted with caution.

With regard to age, all differences between the older and younger age groups are less than 5 percentage points. With this in consideration, we can point out that in Norway, slightly more older children report being aggressors of cyberhate (difference of 3 percentage points), while the opposite applies for Romania (difference of 4 percentage points).

Figure 10: Cyberhate aggression, by country



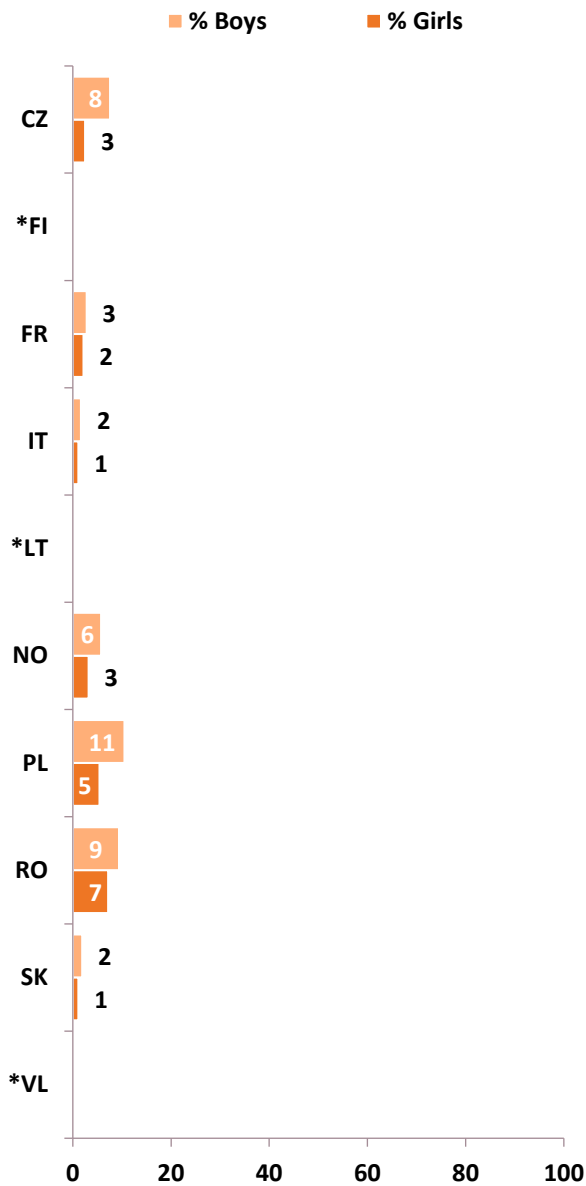
* FI/LT/VL: Data from full age range are not available.

School-based sample: CZ, FI, PL, RO, VL; Household sample: IT, LT, NO, SK; Online sample: FR.

M1_11 In the PAST 12 MONTHS, have you EVER sent hateful or degrading messages or comments online, against someone or a group of people? (This could for example be Muslims, Migrants, Jews, etc.)? Percentage of children who answered *yes*.

Base: All children aged 11-17 who use the internet.

Figure 11: Cyberhate aggression, by gender



* FI/LT/VL: Data from full age range are not available.

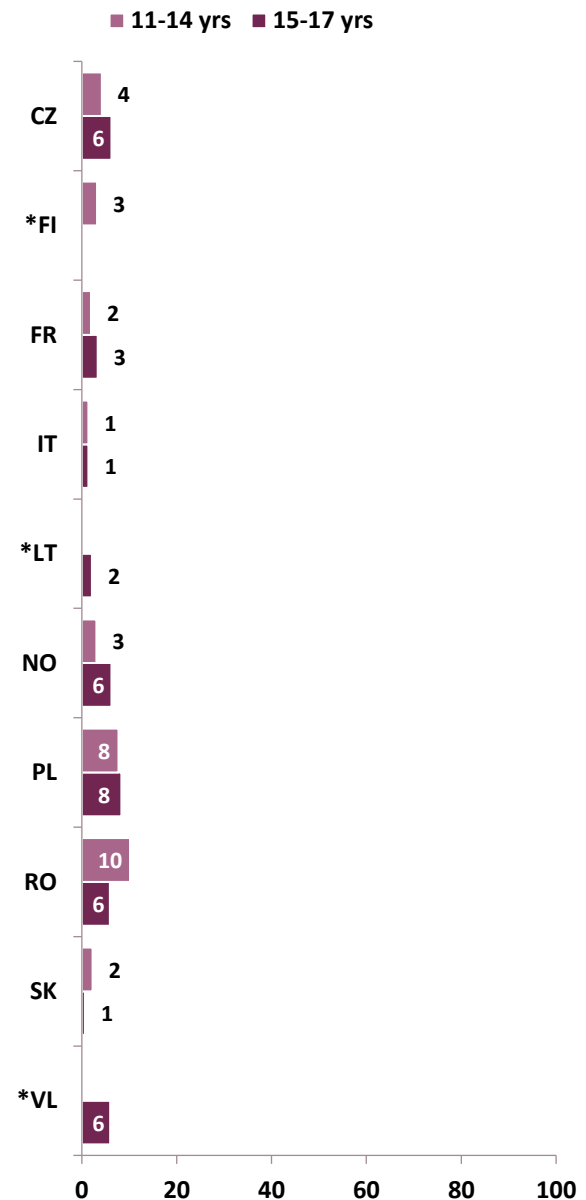
School-based sample: CZ, FI, PL, RO, VL; Household sample: IT, LT, NO, SK; Online sample: FR.

M1_11 In the PAST 12 MONTHS, have you EVER sent hateful or degrading messages or comments online, against someone or a group of people? (This could for example be Muslims, Migrants, Jews, etc.)? Percentage of children who answered *yes*.

Base: All children aged 11-17 who use the internet.

Finally, we again considered the frequency of the experience with cyberhate aggression. Analogous to victimization, being a cyberhate aggressor was not a frequent experience for children in any of the participating countries. Most aggressors reported

Figure 12: Cyberhate aggression, by age



* FI/LT/VL: Data from full age range are not available. FI/VL: Data not weighted.

School-based sample: CZ, FI, PL, RO, VL; Household sample: IT, LT, NO, SK; Online sample: FR.

M1_11 In the PAST 12 MONTHS, have you EVER sent hateful or degrading messages or comments online, against someone or a group of people? (This could for example be Muslims, Migrants, Jews, etc.)? Percentage of children who answered *yes*.

Base: All children aged 11-17 who use the internet.

that they acted in the described way only a few times. Considering that the prevalence of frequent cyberhate aggression is low, it is not surprising that the gender and age differences are very small (Tables 6 and 7).

Table 6: Frequency of cyberhate aggression, by country and gender

		% Daily or almost daily	% At least every week	% At least every month	% A few times	% Never
All children	CZ	0.4	0.3	0.8	3.2	95.3
	*FI	-	-	-	-	-
	FR	0.0	0.4	0.7	1.3	97.6
	IT	0.0	0.1	0.1	1.0	98.7
	*LT	-	-	-	-	-
	NO	0.0	0.0	0.3	3.7	96.0
	PL	0.3	0.4	1.5	4.0	93.7
	RO	0.3	0.7	1.4	5.3	92.4
	SK	0.0	0.4	0.0	1.0	98.6
	*VL	-	-	-	-	-
Boys	CZ	0.6	0.4	1.4	4.6	93.1
	*FI	-	-	-	-	-
	FR	0.0	0.3	1.4	1.1	97.2
	IT	0.0	0.3	0.3	1.1	98.4
	*LT	-	-	-	-	-
	NO	0.0	0.0	0.3	5.2	94.4
	PL	0.3	0.3	2.4	5.9	91.1
	RO	0.6	0.8	1.7	5.8	91.2
	SK	0.0	0.6	0.0	1.1	98.3
	*VL	-	-	-	-	-
Girls	CZ	0.1	0.1	0.3	1.8	97.7
	*FI	-	-	-	-	-
	FR	0.0	0.6	0.0	1.4	98.0
	IT	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.2	98.8
	*LT	-	-	-	-	-
	NO	0.0	0.0	0.3	2.3	97.5
	PL	0.3	0.6	0.6	2.1	96.4
	RO	0.0	0.8	1.1	4.8	93.3
	SK	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.8	98.9
	*VL	-	-	-	-	-

* FI/LT/VL: Data from full age range are not available.

School-based sample: CZ, FI, PL, RO, VL; Household sample: IT, LT, NO, SK; Online sample: FR.

M1_11 In the PAST 12 MONTHS, have you EVER sent hateful or degrading messages or comments online, against someone or a group of people? (This could for example be Muslims, Migrants, Jews, etc.)? M1_12_RT In the PAST 12 MONTHS, how often did this happen?

Base: All children aged 11-17 who use the internet.

Table 7: Frequency of cyberhate aggression, by age

		% Daily or almost daily	% At least every week	% At least every month	% A few times	% Never
11-14 yrs	CZ	0.2	0.2	0.3	3.2	95.9
	FI	0.4	0.0	0.0	2.8	96.8
	FR	0.0	0.2	0.7	0.7	98.4
	IT	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.1	98.9
	*LT	-	-	-	-	-
	NO	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.8	97.2
	PL	0.0	0.5	1.0	4.1	94.4
	RO	0.2	0.7	2.0	6.2	90.9
	SK	0.0	0.8	0.0	1.3	97.8
	*VL	-	-	-	-	-
15-17 yrs	CZ	0.6	0.3	1.4	3.2	94.5
	*FI	-	-	-	-	-
	FR	0.0	0.7	0.7	2.2	96.4
	IT	0.0	0.3	0.3	0.9	98.5
	LT	0.0	0.3	0.3	1.2	98.1
	NO	0.0	0.0	0.7	4.8	94.5
	PL	0.7	0.4	2.2	4.0	92.7
	RO	0.3	0.9	0.6	4.2	94.0
	SK	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.6	99.4
	VL	0.2	0.4	1.0	3.2	95.1

* FI/LT/VL: Data from full age range are not available. FI/VL: Data not weighted.

School-based sample: CZ, FI, PL, RO, VL; Household sample: IT, LT, NO, SK; Online sample: FR.

M1_11 In the PAST 12 MONTHS, have you EVER sent hateful or degrading messages or comments online, against someone or a group of people? (This could for example be Muslims, Migrants, Jews, etc.)? M1_12_RT In the PAST 12 MONTHS, how often did this happen?

Base: All children aged 11-17 who use the internet.

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