

NEWSLETTER

BE-AWARE COMBATS OSEA THROUGH AWARENESS AND PREVENTION STRATEGIES



KICK-OFF MEETING & PEER-TO-PEER TRAINING ON CYBERSECURITY & GROOMING

Athens, 4-7 November 2024

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our esteemed experts for their invaluable insights and knowledge-sharing during the specialist-led sessions.

Katerina Georgakopoulou from **KEMEA** offered valuable insights into data protection, while **Christos Toumpanos** from the **Hellenic Police** provided an in-depth perspective on the intersection of police work and data protection in combating online threats.

Theresa Ryan Rouger from **Missing Children Europe** enriched discussions with her expertise on grooming, signs of OSEA, barriers to disclosure, role of social media, digital parenting, the metaverse, and the role of caregivers; and **Ioanna Gkika** from **The Smile of the Child** offered a psychological viewpoint, particularly on the role of hotlines in addressing these challenges.

Their contributions were instrumental in deepening our understanding and shaping the collaborative efforts of this initiative.

We are thrilled to share the successful launch of the Kick-Off Meeting and Peer-to-Peer Training on Cybersecurity and Grooming, hosted by KEMEA in Athens from 4th to 7th November 2024. This pivotal event brought together experts, partners, and stakeholders, united in their commitment to addressing online security, grooming, and creating innovative tools to raise awareness and prevent online threats.

Monday, 4 November 2024

The event began with a warm welcome coffee and participant registration, fostering a collaborative atmosphere from the start. The day featured a specialist-led session on online crime and cybersecurity, followed by a coordination meeting focused on recapping project activities, setting deadlines, and outlining key next steps for seamless collaboration.

Tuesday, 5 November 2024

Day two offered in-depth specialist-led sessions on understanding the dynamics of online grooming, alongside strategies for addressing online sexual exploitation and abuse (OSEA) through a cybersecurity lens. Afternoon coordination sessions provided crucial updates on various project elements, including:

- Peer-to-peer training (Da&Da)
- Toolkit development progress (CESIE)
- Comic presentation (STORYTELLME)
- Card game development (STORYTELLME)
- Video content updates (IED)

Wednesday, 6 November 2024

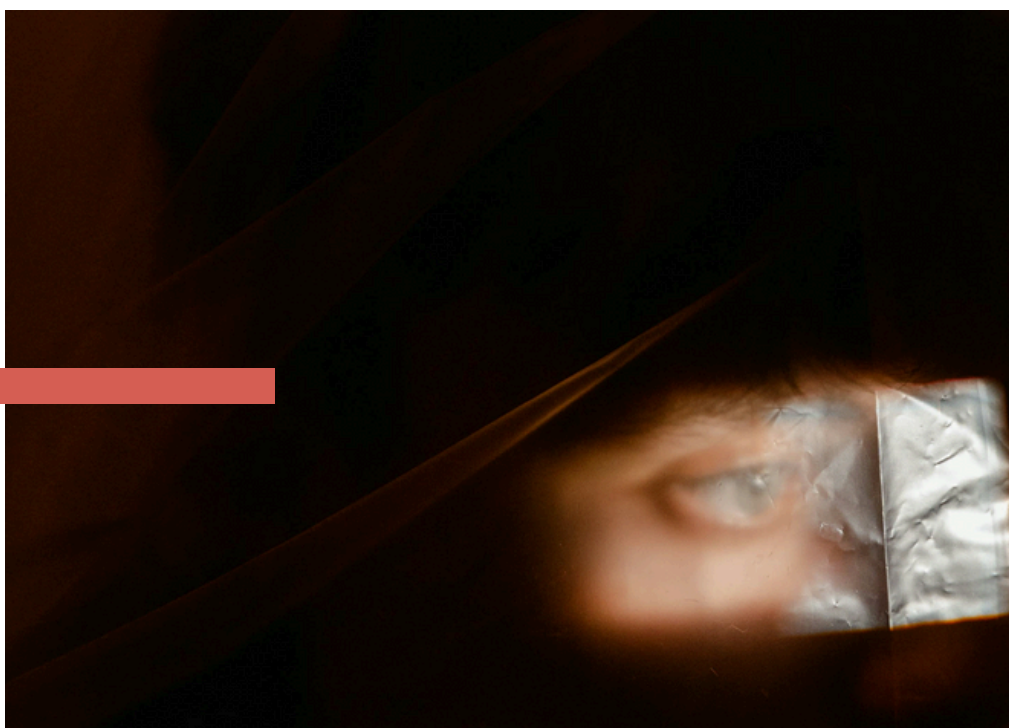
Participants engaged in specialist-led discussions on the barriers to disclosing OSEA cases and strategies to overcome these challenges. Coordination meetings covered key communication activities, awareness campaigns, and the ongoing development of an App and Website by IED. Afternoon sessions explored the critical roles of social media and digital parenting in enhancing cybersecurity and child safety.

Thursday, 7 November 2024

The final day delved into the evolving threat landscape, with insights into the metaverse of grooming, and showcased the RealLifeStories methodology for effective prevention and awareness-raising. The concluding coordination meeting addressed financial aspects, monitoring, and the interim report, culminating in a reflective self-evaluation and closing session that left attendees motivated and inspired.

This meeting underscored our collective commitment to protecting children and vulnerable groups online. Together, we are developing practical tools, educational resources, and targeted awareness campaigns to create a safer online environment.

Thank you to all participants for their dedication and active engagement throughout this milestone event.



We look forward to continuing this impactful journey together! Stay connected for more updates and insights as we work to advance cybersecurity and combat online grooming.



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