

Citizen 3.0

Teachers' newsletter



Issue 1

November 2017



ERASMUS+

(Do not) Use the Internet

Internet has a lot of advantages and disadvantages, which limit its use in education. We will not argue whether a teacher should use the Internet in classes or not. Each school system and each school has its own particularities so we will only deal with factors that we consider to be common for all schools and school systems.



In the first part we will deal with advantages of using of the Internet directly in the classroom during lessons.

The internet contains an enormous amount of didactic material and scientific content, which can be used as teaching material after smaller or bigger adjustment. The content of some didactic material is, in some cases, concentrated to special web seats. In Slovakia there are special portals www.zborovna.sk and www.planetavedomosti.sk which are devoted to issues of collecting didactic material and distributing it to teachers.



There is another very important integral part of the Internet – **on-line dictionaries**. Their indisputable advantage is their compactness and extensiveness. The offer of on-line dictionaries is varied and except foreign language dictionaries it is possible to use special ones, too. The well-known and worldwide used is the dictionary of Google, which even to certain extent, manages to translate various texts.

Each school establishment and each teacher has to communicate with parents, students and the public.

Except communication face to face a teacher can use communication via the Internet. Emails, e-learning or announcements at school websites have become a tried form of communication. Except direct communication and giving homework the teacher has to evaluate student's work that is also possible via on-line student's record book. A student can see his actual results and teacher's evaluation after logging with his unique data. The mentioned information can be seen by student's parent, who can watch their child's progress, stagnation or decline.



In the next part we will deal with the most burning reasons why not to use the Internet in education and we will try to offer some possibilities how to solve the problem. These do not have to be effective in all conditions and we do not claim they are universal and maximally effective. We offer solution as a certain form of motivation for teachers and parents.

One of the most discussed problems in present time connected with education, the Internet and social networks is **cyber-bullying**. Cyber-bullying is a phenomenon which was developed together with creation of social networks and other communication means of the Internet.



It is not possible to prevent cyber-bullying completely but it is possible to reduce the risk of its origine by education among parents and students. Discussions with people who encountered cyber-bullying or with policemen who investigated cases of cyber-bullying are the most used ways of such education.

Except a large number of useful information, the Internet has a **content which is not suitable for young users**. This content can have a form of a video or a text containing hateful and xenophobic opinions, violence, pornography, dangerous „games“ and instructions. As an example of a dangerous „game“ we can state „Blue while“. The principle of the game is to guide a player to damage or in extreme cases to kill himself.



As prevention it is possible to use already mentioned education. However, more convenient and effective way is filtration of the content that a child has at his disposal on the Internet. It is possible to install a filter on school computer network or to buy special devices, that is not extremely difficult. Filtration of the Internet content in private mobile devices that children usually use at school as well, is harder work. The stated problem would only be solved by a close cooperation between parents and a mobile operator. The operator would filter the content of the Internet in childrens' devices if a parent asks to do it. As we do not know the legal regulations in individual countries, please, consider our suggestions to be only one of possible solutions.

Inattention and indiscipline of some students while using the Internet during lessons is another topic for discussion. We mean watching the content that does not relate to the content of the lesson. The stated problem is possible to eliminate by clearly given rules at lessons, by setting filtration or technically ensure the possibility to turn off the access to the Internet. It is necessary to consult the way of solving the problem with school management.



The Internet is full of temptations for children. One of them is **cheating while solving tasks** or using the Internet and mobile devices during exams and tests. The teacher has to be very vigilant and if he finds out cheating, he has to use relevant reprimand to prevent it.



As there is an enormous amount of information on the Internet we encounter a new problem - **how to verify truth**. It is important to teach students to distinguish between relevant and irrelevant information and check it in different sources and not to consider the first one, that they found, to be definitely true. There is an interesting exercise. Students have to disprove information which is spread as HOAX. The teacher distributes a piece of news (hoax) to students and asks them to check its truth on the Internet.

There are a lot of more reasons why to use or not to use the Internet in education. The aim of this article is not to describe all of them but offer view of using the Internet at lessons. It depends on the teacher if the topic of the lesson will be taught by means of the Internet. In general we **more than recommend using the Internet in classes**.

Wikipedia

Wikipedia is the biggest freely accessible encyclopedia, which has its advantages and disadvantages.

It has quantity of language versions and mostly compact, exact and shorts texts. But we want to point out its biggest disadvantage thanks to which it is so extensive. The content of wikipedia can be adapted or removed by anybody!

How to use wikipedia properly?

1. Always verify information in other credible sources.
2. Point out students' attention to the fact that not everything that is on wikipedia is 100% true.
3. When students have to look for information on wikipedia to solve the task, check information in advance. Somebody could have changed or removed it.

Wikipedia is very extensive and shows high percentage of truth of information but as a scientific source it is not trustworthy.



ovce.sk

A Slovak project cofunded by European Union with the name www.ovce.sk

The project represents series of animated cartoons devoted to problems of using of the Internet, safe behaviour on the Internet, cyber-bullying and lots of other topics. Cartoons are translated into 32 languages including Spanish, French, Hungarian and others. Each cartoon is devoted to one special topic and ends by advice.

Cartoons are suitable for younger and older students. They can be used as motivation at the beginning of the lesson.



Some advice how to protect yourself while working on the Internet

Use antivirus program: High-quality antivirus programme protects you against nearly all viral danger. It is important that antivirus programme is always updated and has update database.



Create a strong password: It means the password which has at least eight marks and uses numbers, lower and capital letters. It is recommended not to use one password everywhere.

Be wary of emails you get: A lot of deceptive messages are distributed via emails, which can look as they were sent by a service you use or by your bank.



Update your software: Update your software that you use and your operating system regularly.

Back up data: If you have important data on your hard disk, back up them regularly to cloud, on optical medium or on an external USB disc.



Attention to illegal software: We do not moralize, but you mostly catch virus while looking for illegal software, films, music and when you visit websites with unclear content.

Protect your identity: It is important while using social networks and sharing status, photographs and videos. Always think out what and with whom you want to share.





Use Anti-spyware softwer: New danger has appeared on the Internet in the last few years – spyware and adware. These are programmes which watch your activity on your computer and they sent your Internet communication and data to the author of software or they directly display not asked advertisement.

Use Firewall: Firewal is a special device or software, that can be placed between your computer and the net of the Internet. It blocks access to your computer from outside. One from the most spreaded firewalls is Kerio Personal Firewall.



Think what you do and have your eyes open – phishing, social engineering: A lot of attackers and Internet cheaters abuse inattention of a user to their benefit

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Co-funden by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union

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