RISE

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3rd NEWSLETTER
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Action-based approach in
addressing and mitigating
risks of young people in online
social networks

RISE – Action-based approach in addressing and mitigating risks of young people in online social networks – is an Erasmus+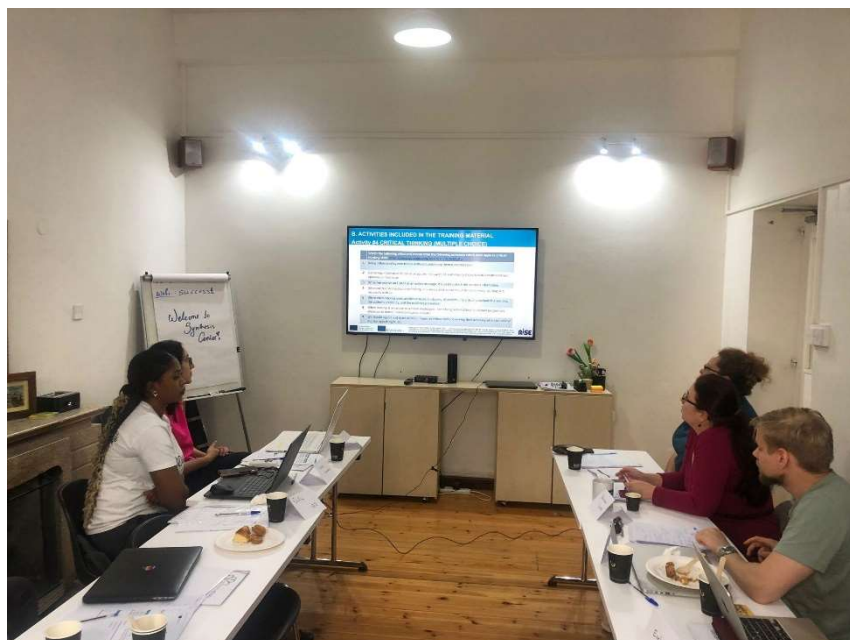 project, co-funded by the European Union, whose primary objective is to create a framework where young people can feel safe in online communities through developing methodologies and services to **prevent and combat risks of digitalization**, and especially of social media exposure.

The main challenge involves the increased proliferation of **misinformation** and various hazardous threats like **cyberbullying**, **identity theft**, **phishing**, and **image-based abuse**. Worsened by the COVID-19 pandemic, these dangers are prevalent on social media and diverse digital platforms, posing a significant threat to the well-being of young individuals, who are the primary users of social media.

THE TRAINING ACTIVITY IN CYPRUS

A training mobility for staff members was organized at Synthesis Center, in Cyprus between 14th and 16th of November 2023. The training sought to provide an in-depth presentation of the project results for enhancing their skills and competencies in delivering youth programs about the promotion of online vigilance as well as identification, prevention, and mitigation of online risks for young people. Moreover, the training aimed to enhance professional development opportunities for youth trainers and staff members of partner organizations taking part in the training through skills acquisition. Partners had the opportunity to evaluate and assess the project results of the projects to enable further improvements prior to finalization.

Toward meeting these objectives, evaluation questionnaires were handed out to participants of the training mobility to assess project results designed by the consortium such as training material for the modules, digital tools e.g., online game and online platform as well as a General Evaluation questionnaire of the Training Mobility in Cyprus to evaluate effectiveness and lessons learned. Notwithstanding, based on the evaluation questionnaires, the majority of the participants expressed strong agreement for the content and activities presented regarding the Training Material and the Online Game designed. Whereas the platform indicated high ratings for overall experience, graphic layout, course navigation, and user-friendly elements such as links and the search function.
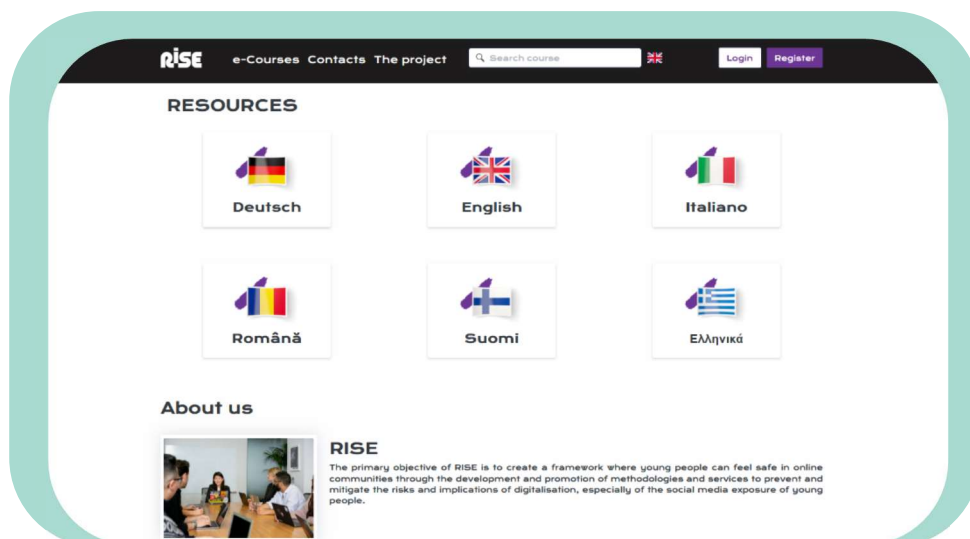
All participants strongly agreed that the covered topics were highly relevant to addressing online risks for young people during the training mobility in Cyprus. They also unanimously agreed that the training effectively addressed diverse challenges faced in the online space. The training methods were praised among participants while they all reported that they have acquired new knowledge about online skills to enhance mitigating them among young people. The training facilitated recognition of learning outcomes through the Certificate provided to the participants as well as promoted networking opportunities with other professionals.

THE OER PLATFORM

The Open Educational Resource is a web platform in which youth workers and trainers can register and create a personal profile for free, to deal with risks on online social networks for young people together to develop their competences to improve the effectiveness of youth work. The OER consists of 6 modules:

1 - Knowing about the social platforms and online risks;
2 - Identifying Risky Online Behaviours;
3 - Creating a safe online environment;
4 - Tackling youth vulnerability and disinformation;
5 - Soft Skills;
6 - Establishing the Trainer-Trainee Relationship.

All modules are in English and soon they will be available in Finnish, Italian, German, Greek and Romanian. For each completed course, users will receive a certificate of attendance!

UPCOMING...

With the development of the OER platform in all languages, a pilot activity will test the educational material and will provide feedback to the partners for the finalization.

A final meeting of the partnership will take place along with multiplier events in each partner country and a final conference in Romania, to showcase the results of the RISE project to stakeholders, youth and interested parties.

Stay tuned for our final newsletter!

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