



Erasmus+

# **A handbook on how to use the Internet safely**

(From the Erasmus Plus project: *"The words we  
choose must be our eyes"* )





In 2015, three schools started a project which officially finished in August 2017. However, the philosophy and the goals of that project are still alive. The three schools will try to keep the contact and design strategies to work on the issue that united them all: **THE SAFE USE OF INTERNET**. It is clear that, after two years of intense work, the focus has been amplified and now the interest is not just in a correct use of social networks and its educational implications, but in the concepts of **DIGITAL IDENTITY** and **DIGITAL EDUCATION**.

In the 21<sup>st</sup> century, it seems obvious that no school or educator should manage their classes without taking the DIGITAL WORLD as a key factor in the projects they undertake. *AL. I Cuza* (Podu Iloaiei, Romania), *Liceo Omnicomprensivo Leonardo Da Vinci* (Acquapendente, Italy) and *IES Isaac Albéniz* (Leganés, Spain) are the three schools involved in this project.

The following is a handbook on how to use safely the Internet and about the steps to become an informed and formed digital citizen. It has a threefold perspective: families, students and teachers. These are the necessary agents. It will not be possible to cope with any works on digital education if just one of these actors is not taken into account.

## **TEACHERS: non-digital natives**

Most of the current teachers (the future ones is a different matter) were born in an analogical world. However, the reality gives no other alternative: their students are used to living in a digital context and we, teachers, also do it. Therefore, avoiding the use of apps, mobiles and other electronic devices in class is something which will inevitably not last much longer. The sooner we know about the uses and customs of children and teenagers respect for the Internet, the better for us as professionals and members of a society which advances so fast.

The following are some strategies teachers can incorporate to their day by day in order to become familiar with the digital language their students speak and, more important, in order to be good helpers. Students were born in a digital context, but this does not mean they know how to live it. Let's accompany them!



- + We must know about the privacy settings of most common apps so as to be able to teach our students in case they have not received that information at home.
- + When setting assignments, it is important to emphasise that students look for the information in the correct places on the Internet. Source reliability is essential for a good final project and in order to avoid plagiarism. Some good websites to check that the source or author are reliable are: [www.majestic.com](http://www.majestic.com), [www.who.is](http://www.who.is)
- + The author must be mentioned. It is essential that our students know about the importance of attributing the authorship. Taking this into consideration, let's keep in mind that there are some reliable places to look for pictures whose authors give permission to use them. Just using the settings of Google Images so as to choose among those pictures with a Creative Common licence for non-commercial use is a practical solution. Besides, there are sites like [www.flickr.com](http://www.flickr.com) where they can find pictures available.
- + It is also essential that students know that not all pictures can be published. In schools, it is very common that parents sign a written permission so that the school may use pictures from their children with educational purposes. It seems relevant to insist the students on the necessity to ask anyone before publishing a picture of them, even if that anyone is their best friend.
- + The rules of NETIQUETTE are
- + The impact on health

