



Europe concerned about cyber bullying and increasing teenage suicide rates

According to Eurostat ⁽¹⁾, the average suicide rate of adolescents aged 15-19 years of age in 2016 was 4.22 per 100,000. Moreover, US based studies from CDC ⁽²⁾ report an increase in this rate from 8 per 100,000 in 2000 to 12 per 100,000 in 2017. This is an increase of 50% in the last 17 years!

“Nowadays, when our youths are spending most of their lives online, it’s critical that they learn how to protect themselves in this environment. We are hearing way too often about online harassment and aggression on youths and the serious consequences coming out of it like youth depression or even suicide. It’s time to step up and empower them!” said AcrossLimits Project Manager, Juanita Muscat.

AcrossLimits together with partners from another 3 EU countries have embarked on an EU funded Project called “Beware!”. The project started in August 2018 and aims to raise awareness among young people and teach them how to protect their personal data in an online environment as well as protecting themselves against cyberbullying. The project is producing a comprehensive online guide and a digital interactive game with the target to reach an audience of 1000 European youths from 4 countries.

The online BEWARE! Game is due for release in November 2019, while the online guide is already available for download from the project website (<https://www.bewareproject.eu/toolkit/>). These resources are free to access by all and available in English, French, Italian and Romanian.

AcrossLimits is currently planning a workshop for 15 youths aged between 15 and 20 years to train them on the online guide and game and on hosting “World Café” sessions. World Café sessions will be held in November and December in various locations in Malta for groups of 40-50 youths at a time, aged 13 years upwards. Watch out our events page for more details <https://www.bewareproject.eu/events/> Participation is free and anyone interested may contact beware@acrosslimits.com for details and registration.

(1) - <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/tps00202/default/table?lang=en>

(2) - <https://wonder.cdc.gov/controller/datarequest/D76>