IO2 – Toolbox of Integration Resources

Handbook – Virtual New Communities

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Young Migrant Integration Leaders

Integration Leader Handbook

The aim of this short handbook is to support you, as a young leader of integration, to use the digital resources provided in the Toolbox of Integration Resources with young migrants in your community. Through this short handbook, we will provide you with some background information on the topic being discussed in the digital resource and then we will provide some guidance on a follow-up activity that you can complete with young people in your local network. The activity included in this handbook will work to further develop their understanding of the topic outlined in the digital resource. In some cases, where group discussions are more appropriate, we will guide you in how to set up a group discussion, and will provide some discussion points and questions for you to introduce to young people in your local group.

The topic of this handbook relates to the digital resource – **Virtual New Communities**

Introduction to the Topic

The aim of this digital resource is to encourage young people to use social media and online networks to support and enhance their integration into their host community. When networking and collaborating with others in these online environments, it is important that young people maintain 'good netiquette' when networking with their peers and stakeholders.

Through this handbook, you will be introduced to some basic rules to follow to ensure effective and polite communication is maintained among all users of social media sites. We will reflect on these basic rules of netiquette here, and then you are encouraged to share these rules with young people in your group through a short group discussion.

The Basic Rules of 'Netiquette':

1. Be polite and show respect – remember that the people using social media and other online chat forums are people too. Be respectful of their opinions, their beliefs and their culture.

2. Refrain from using abusive or derogatory language - you may express robust disagreement with what someone says, but don't call them names or threaten them with personal violence.

3. Remember that your posts are public - they can be read by your peers, parents, teachers, online mediators and even potential future employers! A general rule to follow is that you shouldn't share something online that you wouldn't feel comfortable saying to someone's face.

4. Stay on-topic and make sure that what you are posting is accurate and relevant – especially when you are using online sites to promote a cause that affects young people in your community or when you are representing your local youth group.

5. Don't spam others - don't repeatedly post the same message to a forum or group without reply. Wait for a response from other users first, they may not check the forum daily, but they will respond to you when they have the time.

6. If you are visiting a chat forum for the first time, or if you have not visited the forum for a while, it can be helpful to spend a few minutes reading the posts on a site before you decide to join in.

7. As with everything else on the internet, be careful how much personal information you share online! Always protect your personal information and your identity especially on public sites.

Using this Resource with a Group

To use this resource with young people in your local group, we recommend that you begin by introducing the topic to people in your group. To prepare what you will say, you should first watch the digital resource yourself and then you can recap on some of the key points mentioned in this handbook.

You should then invite all young people in your group to watch the digital resource. As you won't have access to a projector and a screen, you can invite your peers to log on to the EXEMPLAR project website: www.exemplars.eu and watch the digital resource on their smartphone, tablet or other device.

Once all peers in your network have watched the video resource, you should begin by asking them:

1. What did you think of the video resource?

2. What did you learn from it? Did you learn something new?

3. How did you find this resource useful and why?

Follow-up Activity

When you have made sure that all young people in your group have watched the digital resource and have engaged in this short discussion, we would encourage you to lead a more in-depth group discussion on the topic of how to act responsibly online.

Activity Name: Group Discussion – Being a Responsible Digital Citizen.
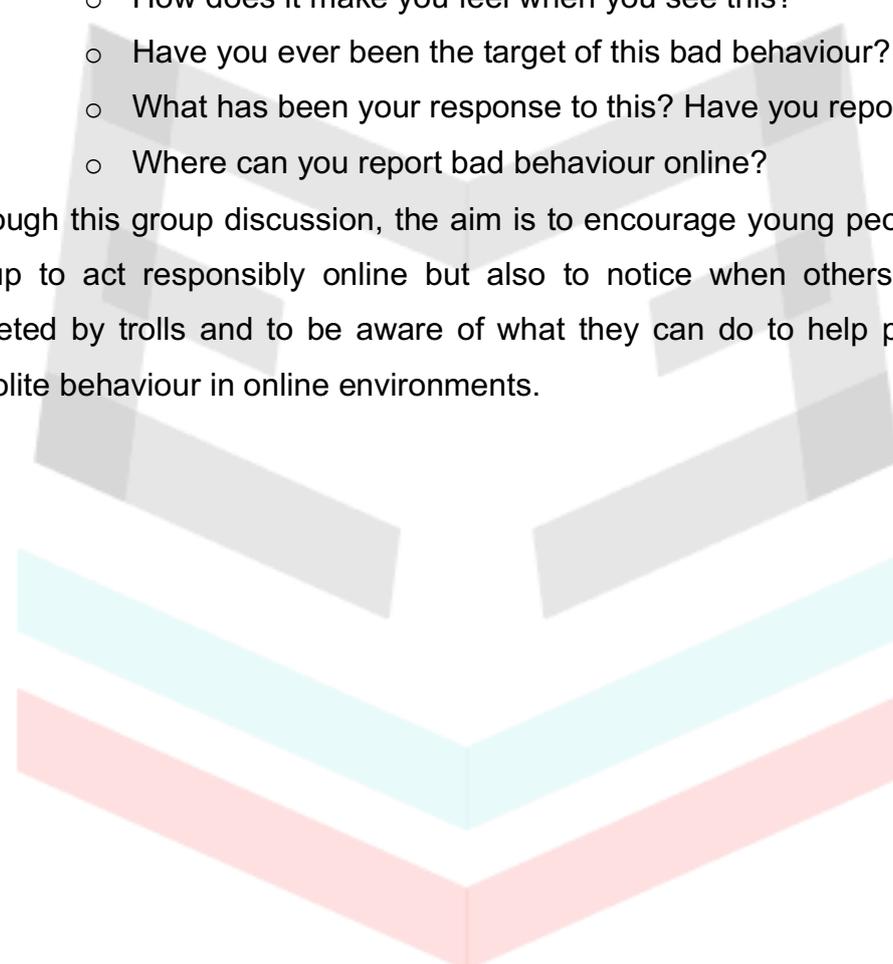
Timing: We recommend that you should hold this discussion with your group for 15-20 minutes - depending on how much they are willing to engage in the discussion and share with the group.

Materials: You do not need any materials for this activity, just to have a space to sit around and discuss this issue with young people in your group – try a local community centre or a youth café, if there is one in your town or city.

Setting up a Group Discussion:
- Before you start a group discussion, it is important that the atmosphere is right – so consider where you will hold your local meeting. As previously mentioned, a youth café or community centre can be a good place to start.
- To create a nice atmosphere, agree with young people in your group that you should all respect the opinions of others, listen when others are speaking and don't interrupt each other – all opinions should be considered as valid and respected in your group.
- Ensure that all young people have watched the digital resource, and then begin by addressing some of the key questions that were posed at the end of the video:

  o What is your favourite social media site or website?

- - Is there a function on it to chat to other people or set up groups?
  - Can you think of a way to improve your favourite site?
- When you have discussed these questions, you can then invite young people to go deeper into the topic by discussing the following questions:
  - Have you noticed bad behaviour of others online?
  - How does it make you feel when you see this?
  - Have you ever been the target of this bad behaviour?
  - What has been your response to this? Have you reported it?
  - Where can you report bad behaviour online?
- Through this group discussion, the aim is to encourage young people in your group to act responsibly online but also to notice when others are being targeted by trolls and to be aware of what they can do to help prevent this impolite behaviour in online environments.

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