

10. The right to be heard!

Society is becoming increasingly aware of the value of youth consultation in promoting democracy, yet little effort is being made to really listen to the teens who will be most impacted by the GDPR. And what of the rights of parents, who should be free to protect and guide their offspring in the way they see most fit (Articles 3, 4 and 5 of the UNCRC)?



Have your say in our teens' future!

Go to

<https://www.facebook.com/GDPRhaveyoursay/>

Your input will help convince national and EU policy makers that there are better solutions.

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ANPRI - Associação Nacional de Professores de Informática
AP2SI - Associação Portuguesa para a Promoção da Segurança da Informação
APF - Associação de Professores de Filosofia
Associação D3 - Defesa dos Direitos Digitais
Aventura Social
CIAC - Centro de Investigação em Artes e Comunicação
CIJIC - Centro de Investigação Jurídica do Ciberespaço da Faculdade de Direito de Lisboa
CNIPE - Confederação Nacional Independente de Pais e Encarregados de Educação
CNTI - Cyprus Neuroscience and Technology Institute
CONFAP - Confederação Nacional das Associações de Pais
Cyberethics
Dream Teens
EPA - European Parents' Association
EU Kids Online Portugal
Insight - Education to Empower
Instituto de Apoio à Criança
InternetSegura.pt
MiudosSegurosNa.Net
NCBI - Národní Centrum Bezpečnějšího Internetu
Ora De Net
PantallasAmigas
RadioActive101 - Portugal
Safenet.bg
SaferInternet.gr
SaferInternet.pl
Safer Internet Centre Nederland
Salvati Copiii - Save the Children Romania
Sociedade Portuguesa de Medicina do Adolescente
SoMe - Right
Suradnici u Učenju
Telefono Azzurro
The Diana Award

General Data Protection Regulation

Have your say!



Empower
our children,
safeguard
their rights!

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Educating to Empower



10 REASONS

why teens shouldn't need parental consent to access information society services

The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) will come into force in all EU member states by May 2018. Article 8 of this Regulation will require “children” under age 16 to obtain parental consent before accessing information society services. It nevertheless also states: *Member States may provide by law for a lower age for those purposes provided that such lower age is not below 13 years.*

The GDPR will have a far-reaching impact on teens across Europe, and runs the risk of depriving them of the right to integrate the information society of today and/or letting them enter it without the necessary digital skills and media literacy which are crucial to becoming active citizens in the world of tomorrow. Shouldn't we be encouraging more public debate to hear what they – and their parents and educators – have to say?

Here are **10 reasons** why we think all caring citizens should raise their voice to avoid young people (and their parents) being stripped of several of their fundamental rights. Share your thoughts with us at:

<https://www.facebook.com/GDPRhaveyoursay/>

1. Respecting Children's Rights

The United Nations Convention for the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) is generally acknowledged as the universal charter of children's rights and responsibilities. Article 13 states that children should be free to access and share information, and exercise freedom of thought, conscience and religion whilst nevertheless being protected from radical and false information (Article 14). It underlines their rights to meet and join groups, and their responsibility to respect the rights, freedoms and reputations of others (Article 15). Surely there must be more effective, teen-friendly means to safeguard these rights and responsibilities than gating internet access through parental consent, especially since young people usually have a better technical knowledge of information services than their parents. How would teens have reacted a couple of generations ago if they had needed their parents' permission to choose a library book or meet their friends?

2. Let's listen to the developmental researchers

Why keep teens reliant on their parents' consent, when research shows us that by the time they reach age 13, they are usually quite adept at reasoning. Around this age, most have reached the stage of formal operational reasoning, having been guided by parents and teachers to build up enough knowledge and action-based learning to make viable decisions.

3. Autonomy – an essential part of growing up

Being given a reasonable level of autonomy around age 13 is a predictor of both the quality of a person's future relationships and his or her ability to manage autonomy and relationship challenges across different social domains in adulthood. Autonomy is developed by empowering our children, not limiting their choices.

4. Balancing risks and opportunities

Internet offers an open window to the world and to broad-ranging opportunities. The more opportunities teens benefit from, the greater their resilience to potential risks.

5. Narrowing the digital divide

Article 8 would bring about a far-reaching effect for teens whose parents refuse to give consent, ostracizing them from classmates and putting them at greater risk if they choose to lie about their age instead. And what about young people who have (legally) been building their profiles, channels, vlogs or even product lines since age 13 – will they have to delete their work?



6. Inclusion opportunities or cultural discrimination?

Schools play an important role in guiding children and teens in the safe and responsible use of information society tools and platforms such as social media. If all parents in a school class don't provide their consent, teachers will be in a very fragile position, balancing between depriving a minority of important opportunities and depriving the majority so as not to discriminate against the few.

7. Paving the way to 21st century literacy

As society is increasingly using social media to disseminate important information, digital platforms play an integral role in helping tomorrow's citizens develop the literacy skills they need to play an active role in society.

8. “Global” citizenship bound by national borders

If one country applies a different age of consent than another country, teens subject to the higher age will fall behind simply because of where they live. This would perpetuate unequal opportunity and widen digital divides across national borders.

9. Eurocrat, bureaucrat or hypocrite?

Article 8 may require companies to collect more information on teens than they otherwise would – for example, location. This contradicts the GDPR declared objectives to protect children's private data and keep data collection to a minimum. How hypocrite is that?