ME, MYSELF, AND THE INTERNET

AIM:

Our main goal is to talk with young people about the topics of authenticity and self-presentation on the Internet through creative activities and a follow-up discussion about profile creation. The activity also opens up the issue of perceiving, accepting, and respecting others, and strengthens empathy towards the needs and boundaries that other people express.

TYPE OF ACTIVITY:

main activity

TARGET GROUP:

group size: 5 to 25 participants
age: 15–25 years
gender: not relevant

DURATION:

▸ The recommended duration of the entire activity is 90 minutes.

ACCESSIBILITY:

▸ No specific requirements.

MATERIALS:

▸ profile templates
▸ printed and cut out photos
▸ pens, markers, scotch tapes (or washi tapes)
▸ printed and cut out biographies (in appendix)

PROCESS:

Choose an activity variant appropriate for the group you are working with. In the beginning, arrange the chairs in a circle. During the activity, students will work individually or in small groups. Distribute profile templates, prepare materials for creating profiles, and place printed and cut out photos from the template in a common area.

Each person or group draws one of the prepared fictional biographies. The students' task is to create a profile of the person whose bio they have drawn. After completing the individual/group work, the students present their profiles. Everyone briefly presents their profile (in 2–3 minutes). Put presented profiles on a table in the center of the room.

Ask students to go back (to their groups or seats) and distribute the profiles to them again so that each (group or individual) has a different profile (different than the one they created). Their new task is to write a short biography of a person from their (new) profile based on the model biographies.

After completing the second task, everyone returns to the circle and present the created biographies. Next, the "actual" biographies of the persons from the profiles are one by one revealed and students discuss and compare the created biographies (based on the profiles) with the "actual" ones.

REFLECTION:

In the end, open up a final discussion using questions such as:
▸ Did you experience any "aha" moment when creating the profile; did you think about something you have not thought of before?
▸ The next time you create a profile, will you do something differently?
▸ How do you feel after this activity? Is anyone leaving with any unpleasant emotions?