VIRTUAL COMMUNITY POLICING

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Virtual Community Policing Group

- Sergeant Marko Forss started work 10.9.2008 on IRC-Galleria and Messenger
- Police profiles ^mane^ and [--jutta--] started in may 2009 on IRC-Galleria and Messenger
- Virtual Community Policing Group was established 2010
- Police profiles on Facebook started in January 2010
 - group answers to the questions in Suomen poliisi fanclubs discussion forum
- Group investigates all school related crimes in Police Districts area
- Patrols once a month outdoors doing alcohol surveillance amongst youth





Group works in social media at the national level





Visible policing in social media

- New easier way to contact the police
- Preventive work
 - · Inform, advise, communication
- Possibility to get involved with the problems and crimes immediately in social media
 - Bullying, sexual crimes, child welfare cases
- Profiles are not there to limit the freedom of speech or to moderate the site
- Work supports other police work
- Multiprofessional cooperation (Social and youth workers, schools, NGO..)



The key for succesfull work is bilateral and confidental low treshold communication



What are the benefits achieved by the police in spain alpmedia? (1) teel of security

- Reach out a lot of people easily, inexpensively and with few resources
- Tips to various crimes weekly
- Possibility to prevent victimization (sexual crimes)
- Possibility to make a report to child welfare
- Easier to start conversation with ethnic minorities





What are the benefits achieved by the police in social media? (2)

- Alternative way to get contact to "customers" (private messages)
- Easy to continue the relationship created on the Internet in real life
 - (Young people do not make a difference between the real world and virtual world)
- Opportunity to talk about personal and sensitive issues
- To help Internet users understand that the crimes on the Internet are equally punishable as in real life
- Laws are national and internet is global- can cause problems





Statistics 2010

- 😲 🕙 IRC-Galleria

IRC-Galleria

About 16 000 messages

Facebook

About 1000 messages to inbox

Messenger

Used almost every day

Email

400 answered emails





In addition 139 acts that contained (only 7 months/2010):

22 criminal reports (17 sex-related crimes)

28 "verbal warnings" (cyberbullying)

70 tips and additional information to criminal reports

9 reports to child welfare (suicidal, depressed etc)





www.poliisi.fi/nettipoliisi

2000 visitors/month. It contains links to answers for the most common questions.





Sexual crimes in social media







SEX OFFENCES ON THE INTERNET

RL 20

COERSION INTO A SEXUAL ACT

Fine - imprisonment max 3 y

SEXUAL ABUSE OF A CHILD

- age of consent is 16 years
- Imprisonment max 4 y

AGGRAVATED SEXUAL ABUSE OF A CHILD

Imprisonment 1-10 y

PURCHASE OF SEXUAL SERVICES FROM A YOUNG PERSON

Fine - imprisonment max 1y

RL

DISTRIBUTION OF SEXUALLY OBSCENE PICTURE DEPICTING CHILDREN

Fine - imprisonment max 2 y

AGGRAVATED DISTRIBUTION OF A SEXUALLY OBSCENE PICTURE DEPICTING CHILDREN

Imprisonment 4m-6y

POSESSION OF SEXUALLY OBSCENE PICTURE DEPICTING CHILDREN

Fine - imprisonment max 1y

PUBLIC OBSCENITY

Fine - imprisonment max 6m



The most common types of

- sex offences are very often hidden crimes,
- Most of the victims have been girls, but the boys are equally at risk
- The offender search consciously for potential targets
- Most often the crime is child sexual abuse or an attempt
- Age of consent is 16 years (18 years if the offender is the parent or teacher etc.)





The most common types of sexual crimes online (2)

- The most popular service is Messenger
 - ✓ no administrator and web-camera connection is possible
- Crimes that have occurred in the real world, has usually occurred even years ago
- Crimes that have happened only online, has usually happened days or few weeks ago
- About one in five girl under 15-year-old had been sexually harassed by an older person
- Only 15% of them have told about it to some adult (Save The Children Finland survey)





Best results in sexual crimes and cyberbullying

- 1100 child sexual abuse cases in whole Finland 2010
 - About 150 were internet related (only small part of the crimes are reported to the police)
 - 10-20% of those internet related child sexual abuses were reported through Virtual Community Policing Group
 - Extraordinary that young plaintiffs contact the police directly
- Possibility to act with police profiles acutely to cyberbullying with "verbal" warnings
 - Children have someone online to "protect" them

Check out Facebook fanclub Suomen poliisi! We have well over 100 000 fans there □





Finally...

Internet doesn't make you stupid, it only allows to show your own stupidity to many people

THANK YOU!

Contact me jutta.antikainen@poliisi.fi



