EUIF technical meeting on Safety-by-Design to prevent CSA online
21/10/2021

Summary

- Safety by design was recognized as a strategy seeking to minimize the threat of CSA online, and as a way to help service providers tackle CSA online;
- Companies elaborated on their safety by design initiatives and projects and shared common challenges;
- Participants reaffirmed the importance of safety by design and mentioned that it would be important to share more information between companies and to have a clearer legislation which would enable them to make technological advancements. They also emphasized the importance of the upcoming legislation, including the EU Centre which will be crucial for innovation and prevention.

Detailed report

1. Safety by Design Strategies and Best practices

Tik Tok

- Tik Tok has been looking at its default settings and has been having a strong age assurance practice (compliant with the Code);
- Tik Tok looks at default settings and privacy features, ensuring age-based protection: for example, in direct messaging there can be no attached files (images or videos). They also work closely with focus groups and parents to see what to improve.
- **Question:** Do you maintain a risk register to inform service/product development, particularly by reference to their product-by-product, and search deterrence notices?
  - "For TikTok, we not only work closely with our Product team but also our Trust & Safety team, which is a central team within TikTok.
  - Other things that we do include the ongoing focus groups that I mentioned, keeping abreast of latest research and working with our European Safety Advisory Council, which is made up of external experts who advise us on trends and new features. We are essentially continually doing risk assessments."
2. Legal and Operational Challenges
Tik Tok

- Need for legal certainty to be sure the company’s efforts do not expose them to legal action. They need space to experiment and experience new tools while always respecting privacy rights;
- Technology is not mature at the moment - it needs space and time to be tested. Noted grooming is especially a very challenging area.

3. Additional Resources
   -