FIRST EUROPEAN
POLICY, RESEARCH,
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FORUM

29–30 November, 2021
Trento, Italy + online

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Project Description

KID_ACTIONS (**K**ick-off prevent**I**ng and respon**D**ing to children and **A**doles**C**en**T** cyberbully**I**ng through innovative m**O**nitoring and educatio**N**al technologie**S**) funded under the European Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme (REC) is a two-year project that aims to **address cyberbullying among children and adolescents through interactive education and gamification** within formal and non-formal learning settings at the EU level.

The project **supports teachers, educators, and youth workers** in fostering effectiveness and efficiency in education about risks and effects of cyberbullying, raising awareness among secondary school students and youth centres, and encouraging reporting by victims and bystanders.

Moreover, KID_ACTIONS will empower **11-19 years old young people** and **key educational stakeholders** from the public and private sector and **civil society**, through innovative digital and non-digital educational tools aimed to prevent and combat cyberbullying.

This goal will be achieved through the **KID_ACTIONS Digital Education Platform** and **Educational Toolkits** which combine and advance the social media monitoring and virtual coaching systems developed under CREEP project (EIT Digital 2018-2019) with narrative-based learning and gameful education, as well as tailored educational toolkits.

The Platform and toolkits will be **co-created** and **experimented** by **above 1,000 children and adolescents** with their **educators** across **10 European countries**.

The project foresees an **Italian pilot** (involving 5 secondary schools in the Autonomous Province of Trento, and 3 secondary schools in Brescia, Bari, and Pescara from the Amnesty network of schools), as well as a **European pilot** (involving young people from 20 schools and/or youth centres of the YEU network in Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Estonia, Germany, Greece, Serbia, Slovakia and Slovenia).

Consortium

Fondazione Bruno Kessler (FBK) – Italy (Coordinator)

Provincia Autonoma di Trento (PAT) - Italy

Amnesty International Sezione Italiana Onlus (AMN) - Italy

Youth for Exchange and Understanding (YEU) - Belgium

European Schoolnet (EUN) - Belgium

Event Description

December 2021 marks the mid-term point of the KID_ACTIONS project and the time for the first of two **KID_ACTIONS EU Policy, Research and Practitioners Forums.**

The first Forum will take place on **29-30 November 2021 in a hybrid format.** The Forum will aim at accommodating the participation of stakeholders present onsite in Trento (IT) or participating online.

The event will bring together key **policy makers, researchers, industry partners and practitioners** working on securing a safer and more empowering digital environment for children and young people. The Forum will take a dialogic form in which provisional findings and tools of the project will be presented. Participants will have the opportunity to engage in interactive sessions during which they will be able to **provide input and share best practices** that will feed the further development of the KID_ACTIONS solutions and policy recommendations focusing on the multifaceted dimension of cyberbullying among children and adolescents.

For a successful first KID_ACTIONS Forum, we managed to engage with **youth representatives, policy makers from the European, national and local level, civil society, education experts, and industry representatives**. The Forum will thus serve also to better understand the needs of this variety of stakeholders in order to fully reach the potential of the tools and resources developed by the KID_ACTIONS project.

Practical information:

For onsite participation

The event will take place at the premises of Fondazione Bruno Kessler, Via Sommarive 18 – Povo (TN) – Italy.
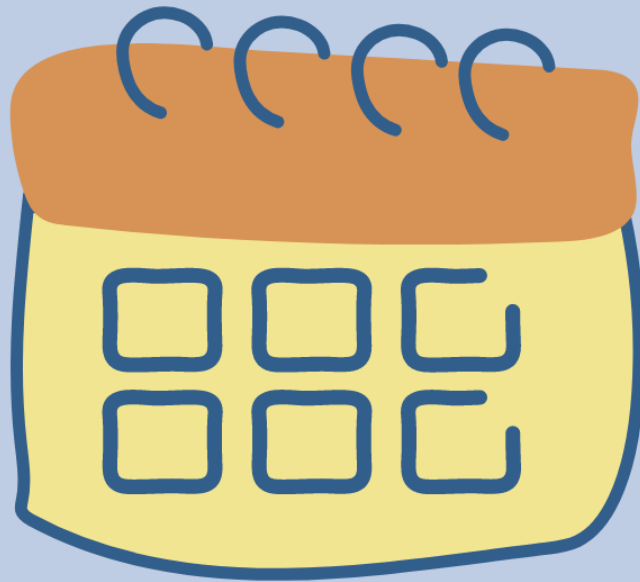
Participants will need Covid-19 Green Pass to attend.

For online participation

The link to join the virtual room will be shared through the email address inserted during registration.

English will be the working language for the event.

Agenda

14:00-14:15   ## Welcome

14:15-14:45   ## Opening session
Opening of the Forum and welcome speech from:
- *Marco Pistore – Digital Society Center Director, Fondazione Bruno Kessler (FBK)*
- *Viviana Sbardella, School Superintendent, Autonomous Province of Trento (PAT)*
- *Sara Tonelli, KID_ACTIONS Project Coordinator, Fondazione Bruno Kessler (FBK)*

14:45-15:15   ## Cyberbullying – what does the research say?
An overview of the research conducted in the field of cyberbullying
- *Speaker: Veronica Donoso, European Schoolnet (EUN)*
- *Moderator: Sabrina Vorbau, European Schoolnet (EUN)*

15:15-16:45   ## Panel in response to research findings
Following the more research-based presentation this panel aims to discuss the practice/"reality" by giving the floor to various experts sharing their research/experiences/work in their respective areas.

Speakers:

- *Prof. Valerio Basile, IT expert, University of Turin, Italy*
- *Prof. Anita Lavorgna, Expert in Sociology, Social Policy & Criminology, University of Southampton, United Kingdom*
- *Prof. Federico Faloppa, Linguistic expert, University of Reiding, United Kingdom*
- *Dr. Michelle O'Reilly, Expert in Communication in Mental Health, University of Leicester, United Kingdom*
- *Dr. Davide Cino - Adjunct Professor, Expert in Media Analysis and Human Development, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Italy*
- *Prof. Heidi Vandebosch, Communication expert, University of Antwerp, Belgium*

Chair: Sara Tonelli, Fondazione Bruno Kessler (FBK)

16:45-17:15   ## Coffee break

17:15-17:45   ## Bullying – a never ending battle?
Keynote address
- *Speaker: Alex Holmes, Deputy CEO Diana Award, United Kingdom*

17:45-18:15   ## Closing

9:00-9:30   ## Welcome

9:30-10:30   ## Deep dive session: The KID_ACTIONS Digital Education Platform and Educational Toolkit
This hands-on session will present the current status of the design and development of the KID_ACTIONS Digital Education Platform and Training and Educational Toolkits.

Speakers:
- *Alessio Palmero Aprosio & Enrico Maria Piras, Fondazione Bruno Kessler (FBK), Demo Digital Education Platform*
- *Gareth Cort, European Schoolnet (EUN), Demo Educational Toolkit*

10:30-10:50   ## Coffee break

10:50-12:20   ## Stakeholder Roundtable – how can KID_ACTIONS outputs meet stakeholders' needs?
During this session, we will ask stakeholders from various sectors about their needs and how they could use KID_ACTIONS digital and non-digital tools and resources to support their efforts, including a special focus on good practices.

Participants to the Roundtable:

- *Dorotea Riccobono, Teacher, Autonomous Province of Trento*
- *Claudia Matera, Project Manager at ALL DIGITAL*
- *Lydia El-Khouri, Project Manager at Textgain*
- *Laura Higgins, Director of Community Safety & Digital Civility at Roblox*
- *Debora Barletta, National Coordinator at No Hate Speech Movement Italy*
- *Sara Cerretelli, Project Manager at COSPE*
- *Caridad Alarcón Sanchéz, Organising Bureau of European School Student Unions (OBESSU)*
- *Angie Wright & Bill Howe, Education Development Lead at StopHate UK*

Chair: Tamara Gojkovic, Youth for Exchange and Understanding (YEU)

12:20-13:00   ## Discussion and exchange in plenary
All participants will meet each other back in the plenary to discuss the main messages and key takeaways of the two-day Forum, in order to inspire the further development of the KID_ACTIONS solutions and a set of policy recommendations.

Chair: Francesca Cesarotti, Amnesty Italy (AMN)

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Meet the Forum Speakers

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Keynote speaker

Alex Holmes

Deputy CEO at The Diana Award, Founder of Anti-Bullying Ambassadors programme.

Alex is Deputy CEO at non-profit The Diana Award, which is a legacy to Princess Diana's belief that young people have the power to change the world. He is founder of peer-to-peer support programme Anti-Bullying Ambassadors, a network of trained young people dedicated to preventing peer on peer violence and bullying particularly in schools. This is a programme Alex founded when aged 16, after experiencing bullying himself. The programme has trained over 35,000 young people across UK, Ireland, Greece, Miami (United States) empowering young people to keep themselves and their peers safe and happy, in 4,000 schools.

Alex sits on the global safety advisory boards of several of the major social media and tech companies advising them on their approach to safety and online harms. He's a regular expert on ITV This Morning, CBBC Newsround and a trusted government advisor.

Alex was named on the Independent on Sunday's Happy List as one of the '100 people who make Britain a happier place to live' and has a keen interest on barriers to children's happiness and wellbeing.

Speakers

Caridad Alarcón Sanchéz

Board member of OBESSU (Organisation Bureau of European Students Schools Union)

Currently, Caridad is a board member of OBESSU (Organisation Bureau of European Students Schools Union). She has just finished her last year of high school and will be studying for a Social Education degree at the University of Murcia. Caridad concerns about achieving a fair and equal education for every student. She believed in cooperation and open-minded education.

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Debora Barletta

National Coordinator at No Hate Speech Movement Italy.

Debora has completed the Training of Trainers in Human Rights Education of the Council of Europe and has been acting in contrasting hate speech since 2015, thanks to her involvement with the No Hate Speech Movement Campaign in the UK and now in Italy, where she's the national Coordinator since 2019. With the organisation of which she's VicePresident, APICE, she's now working at the "WeCAN 4 Human Rights Speech" project, coordinated by the Inclusion and Antidiscrimination Unit of the Council of Europe and designed to follow the work of the WeCAN! Manual, in order to provide activists, youth workers and practitioners with tools to create human rights based counternarratives to hate speech. Debora is also working on the topic of internet governance since 2016, especially in relation with inclusion and media literacy, participating to the European Dialogue on Internet Governance (EuroDIG) in several occasions and being a Program Committee Member in the last two editions of YouthDIG. She also participated in the World IGF (Internet Governance Forum) of the UN in 2019 representing the CoE Youth Department Delegation and contributing to the 2020 edition of the Italian chapter, IGF Italy, actively cooperating and supporting the work of YouthIGF Italy in the last two editions.

Valerio Basile

Assistant Professor in the Content-centered Computing group at University of Turin, member of the Hate Speech Monitoring group.

Valerio received his PhD in 2015 from the University of Groningen with a thesis on natural language generation. His work spans across several areas such as: formal representations of meaning, linguistic annotation, natural language generation, common sense knowledge, semantic parsing, sentiment analysis, and hate speech detection. More recently, his attention focuses on perspectives and bias in supervised machine learning, from data creation to system evaluation.

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Sara Cerretelli

Project Manager within the Department for Programmes and Cooperation for the Development of Emerging Countries (COSPE).

Graduated in Political Sciences, Sara has been working for twenty years on research about discrimination and equal opportunities. She is project manager within the Department for Programmes in Italy and Europe of COSPE (Cooperation for the Development of Emerging Countries), NGO based in Florence working on sustainable development and promotion of human rights. She is currently working on projects about equal opportunities, anti-discrimination and human rights in Italy and Europe. She has coordinated three projects about online hate speech: BRICkS - Building Respect on the Internet by Combating hate Speech, Silence Hate - Changing words changes the world and Play your role! Gamification against hate speech.

Davide Cino

Postdoctoral Researcher and Adjunct Professor in Media Analysis at the Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Milan.

Davide is currently working on the Horizon 2020 ySKILLS and CO:RE projects and collaborates on the KiDiCoTi (Kids' Digital lives in Corona times) project with the Joint Research Center. He is a member of national and international research centers where he served as researcher and/or visiting scholar, such as: OssCom (Research Center on Media and Communication) @Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, CREIF (Center for Educational Studies on Children and Families) @University of Bologna, the Center on Media and Human Development @Northwestern University in Chicago, and the Children's Digital Media Center @UCLA/CalStateLA, Los Angeles. His main research interests concern children's online presence, digital skills, and digital parenting, which he studies employing different methodologies and through an interdisciplinary lens.

Gareth Cort

In-house online safety consultant for European Schoolnet (EUN).

Gareth works on a number of projects as part of the Digital Citizenship team, including the development of the KID_ACTIONS educational toolkit. He also provides consultancy for the UK Safer Internet Centre, as well as delivering education and awareness sessions to youth and adults on safe, healthy and positive internet use. Gareth holds a Bachelor's degree in Psychology and is a qualified primary school teacher.

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Verónica Donoso

PhD in Social Sciences, Research Associate at the Institute for Media Studies (IMS), University of Leuven (KU Leuven), independent consultant specialised in digital literacy, online safety and education.

Verónica is PhD in Social Sciences [KU Leuven, Belgium], MA in education and BA in linguistics [Universidad de Chile]). Verónica has more than 18 years of experience on research and policy work and has written several pieces which have served to inform practitioners, researchers, and policymakers both in the EU and worldwide. She provides advice and works with organisations committed to empowering and protecting children and young people so that they can navigate the digital world knowledgably, safely and creatively. Through her career Verónica has advised several organisations including the United Nations, the European Commission, The European Advertising Standards Alliance, The World Federation of Advertisers, London School of Economics, University of Leicester and European Schoolnet, among others., Before becoming an independent consultant, Verónica was INHOPE's Executive Director. INHOPE is the leading global network combatting online Child Sexual Abuse Material.

Lydia El-Khouri

Programme Manager at Textgain - AI for good, London.

Textgain is a language technology spin-off company from the University of Antwerp, that develops AI for addressing societal challenges, such as online hate speech, disinformation, radicalization and extremism. Lydia is currently coordinating the EC funded projects, Detect Then Act and the European Observatory on Online Hate. Lydia has over 20 years' experience in field of Diversity, Advocacy and Freedom of Expression. Working previously at the Media Diversity Institute (MDI), The Freedom Forum, the Irish Mission to the OSCE and The International Press Institute. She has developed and implemented large scale diversity programmes in the Balkans, South Caucasus, the Middle East and Europe, including Get The Trolls Out! project which is designed to combat anti-religious hate in the media and online. Lydia is also the founder of Keystone Workshops and Talks – a parental engagement initiative in St Albans which provides evidence-based advice by practitioners to parents on issues related to children and young people's mental health and well-being.

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Federico Faloppa

Professor of Italian Studies and Linguistics at the University of Reading (UK), Director of the MA in Migration and Intercultural Studies.

Federico has worked on the construction of otherness through language, language policies and migration, the representation of minorities and migrants in the media, racism in language and hate speech. He has published several studies on these topics, including *"Parole contro. La rappresentazione del diverso in italiano e nei dialetti"* (2004), *"Razzisti a parole (per tacer dei fatti)"* (2011), *"#Odio. Manuale di resistenza alla violenza delle parole*" (2020). He is also coordinator of the National Network for Combating Hate Speech and Hate Phenomena, and a member of the Committee of Experts for Combating Hate Speech of the Council of Europe.
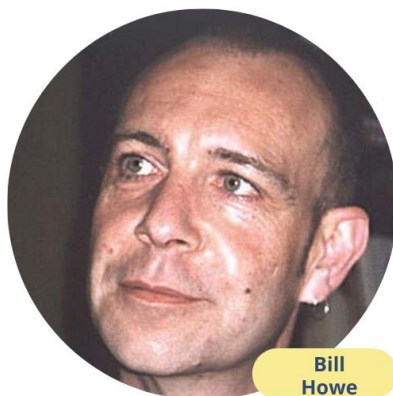
Laura Higgins

Director of Community Safety and Digital Civility at Roblox, UK.

Laura has more than two decades of experience building proven safeguarding, online safety and civility programs. Roblox's ground-breaking digital civility initiative is focused on providing the community with the skills needed to create positive online experiences in partnership with the world's leading safety and industry organizations. In her previous role with the UK Safer Internet Centre (part of the "Better Internet for Kids" project funded by the European Commission), Laura founded several award-winning services including the Professionals Online Safety Helpline and the world's first helpline dedicated to supporting victims of image-based abuse. Laura has worked with the biggest names in tech sitting on Twitter and Snapchat's advisory boards.
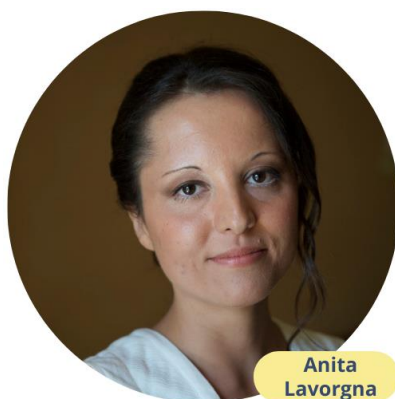
Bill Howe

Helpline Operator, Stop Hate UK

Bill has spent a large part of his career involved in the delivery and management of specialist advice services in a variety of statutory and third sector settings, including four yeas as Welfare Right officer with Bradford Council, twenty years as Student Advice Centre manager, and then Non-Commercial services manager with a large Higher Education Students' Union. Since joining Stop Hate UK in 2015, Bill has worked extensively both as Helpline Operator, engaged in the delivery of a number of projects aimed at responses to manifestations of hate speech' online.

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Anita Lavorgna

Associate Professor of Criminology at the Department of Sociology, Social Policy & Criminology, University of Southampton

Anita has an international research track record on and expertise in interdisciplinary research drawing together criminology, socio-legal studies, and web science. She has worked extensively on cybercrime, serious and organised crime, and online social harms.

Claudia Matera

Project and Fundraising Officer at ALL DIGITAL, Brussels.

Claudia's background is within the contemporary arts carrying out research in the fields of Creative and Cultural Industries, Entrepreneurship, Education and E-learning, Digital Competencies and Gaming. For longer than a decade, she managed and coordinated international EU funded projects fostering creative entrepreneurship and innovative technologies within the Creative and Cultural Sector. She had been one of the pioneers of mobile gaming development running an indie game company focused on educational games to raise awareness on topics with a social impact for youngsters or adults. She holds a PhD in Contemporary History of Art investigating the economical and cultural relationships between the Arts and the Economy over the last four decades looking for interdisciplinary relationships.

Enrico Maria Piras

Adjunct professor at University of Verona and Senior Researcher at Fondazione Bruno Kessler, Trento.

Enrico obtained his Ph. D. in Information Systems and Organization at University of Trento. He is His research focuses on the design and evaluation of remote monitoring technologies and applications. His main research interests are related to the organizational and interpersonal adjustment related to the adoption of ICTs in the medical practice, with particular regard to patient-provider interactions. His research spans over a decade resulting in over 60 publications in international journals and conferences. He has coordinated the requirement gathering phase in European projects aiming at exploiting AI tools to support prevention 1) for elderly people with mild frailty (WellCo, H2020) 2) negative effects of cyberbullying among teenagers (CREEP, EIT Digital).

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Michelle O'Reilly

PhD, Associate Professor of Communication in Mental Health, Chartered Psychologist in Health at the University of Leicester.

At the university Michelle works in the School of Psychology and the School of Media, Communication and Sociology. Dr. O'Reilly is also a Research Consultant with Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust where she supports clinical practitioners in undertaking research, service evaluation and audit. Dr O'Reilly's research interests are broadly in the areas of child mental health, family therapy, and the sociology of health and illness. She has undertaken a range of work in different areas, including neurodevelopmental conditions, social media and mental health, and self-harm and suicide prevention.

Michelle O'Reilly

Alessio Palmero Aprosio

Adjunct professor of Advanced Web Programming at the Department of Cognitive Science, University of Trento.

Alessio works on the text simplification and hate speech recognition. Previously he used to work as a freelance programmer, when he learnt to program in big web projects. After the PhD dissertation, Alessio worked for Machine Linking, an innovative startup in Trento. His research focuses on Semantic Web and Big Data.

Alessio Palmero Aprosio

Marco Pistore

Director of the Digital Society Center at Fondazione Bruno Kessler, Trento.

A theoretical computer scientist by training (He earned a degree from the Scuola Normale Superiore of Pisa in 1996 and a PhD in Computer Science from the University of Pisa in 1998). in his career, Marco Pistore has pursued the objective of bringing together and contaminating the theory and the applications of computer science. In 25 years of activity, first as a researcher and then as a research manager, the eclectic approach he adopted has allowed him to range over various fields of research as demonstrated by the strong heterogeneity of his over 140 scientific publications. He has teaching experience in academia and was co-founder and director of two innovative ICT start-ups.

Marco Pistore

KidActions

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Dorotea Riccobono

Secondary school teacher in Trento.

Dorotea has been working as a secondary school teacher in Trento and previously in Genova where, among other things, she organized meetings with the police officers in charge of fighting online bullyng in schools. Earlier she worked as an archaeologist at the Universities of Genova and Trieste, earning a PhD in this field. Having worked for 15 years in school environments, she developed extensive experience in dealing with children's expectations and individual behaviours. She is currently in charge of the anti-Cyberbullying initiative at her school in Trento.

Viviana Sbardella

School Superintendent, member of the Council of the Provincial Educational System and of the Scientific Committee of IPRASE, Trento.

School Superintendent of the Autonomous Province of Trento with the task of providing support for functions related to teaching and innovation; member of the Council of the Provincial Educational System and of the Scientific Committee of IPRASE (Provincial Institute for Educational Research and Experimentation). She has been school director in Lombardy and Trentino after teaching languages in secondary school for several years.

Sara Tonelli

Senior Researcher, Head of the Digital Humanities research group at Fondazione Bruno Kessler, Trento.

Sara holds a PhD in Language Sciences from Università Ca' Foscari in Venice. She has been involved in several national and European projects dealing with historical archives, event and temporal information extraction and political stance detection and, more recently, with social media monitoring and hate speech detection. Her research interests are highly interdisciplinary, trying to apply and adapt advanced text analysis approaches to social sciences and historical investigation.

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Heidi Vandebosch

Professor at the Department of Communication Studies at University of Antwerp.

Heidi has conducted studies on the cyberbullying problem (prevalence rates, profiles of bullies, victims and bystanders, determinants of cyberbullying-related behaviors, impact of cyberbullying) and the role of different types of actors (young people, parents, teachers, the police, Social Networking Sites). She has also developed and tested (technological) interventions to tackle cyberbullying, such as serious games and reflective interfaces. Heidi Vandebosch has published extensively about cyberbullying in peer-reviewed, scientific journals. Her research has also inspired policymakers and media literacy organizations to develop evidence-based strategies to address cyberbullying.

Angie Wright

Stop Hate UK's Education Development Lead

Angie joined Stop Hate UK organisation after 11 years teaching Music at secondary level in a comprehensive school in Leeds. She has four adult children and her experience in education has enabled her to develop workshops for PHSE days and individual lessons at schools in the north of England. Angie has worked with a number of partner organisations while at Stop Hate UK, including the National Holocaust Centre and Museum in Nottinghamshire where she developed and presented workshops about counter-extremism and the effects of prejudice. Angie has been working with universities and other organisations to support their staff development in Hate Crime support and intervention. She authored an online course about tackling harassment discrimination for university students, and another about responding to disclosures of harassment, both commissioned and published by OUP's online department, Epigeum. Current work is focused on classroom teaching and teacher training on a wide range of topics, including race awareness, critical thinking, diversity, inclusion and responding to hate both on- and off-line.

Stay tuned on KID_ACTIONS Forum updates!

Follow #KidActions and #KidActionsForum and #TogetherAgainstCyberbullyng.

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