

The TWG was proposed in February 2012 and approved by ECREA in May 2012. Its formal objectives and modus operandi are available on the ECREA website. See also:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ZSgCRWOPgxDkOLP8N6hjDaZY59O2Uu4Zc3LYJ15r7EY/edit>

Activities and achievements to date:

- October 2012. We held a kick-off meeting at the ECREA conference in Istanbul. In addition to a welcome by the Chair and one of the Vice Chairs, two speakers (Cynthia Carter and Michel Walrave) were invited to initiate discussion of mutual research interests. Some 40 scholars and research students were in attendance. A register of interests and email addresses was taken.
- We established a listserv for regular communication among members: LISTSERV@listserv.heanet.ie. The purpose of the list is to exchange news of ongoing projects and upcoming conferences and events, to identify emerging research interests and identify possible research collaborators. Currently, the list has 158 members, from most European countries, plus members from the US, Japan, Australia, Brazil and others. The listserv is lively, with members debating mutual interests and the wider research and policy agenda. This continues to grow.
- Jane Fleischer, a Ph.D. student at Augsburg University, Germany, was originally elected as the YECREA representative to the TWG. She has worked with research students to stimulate and support their participation in the TWG activities and host student-focused social events to accompany TWG events. This year she has been joined by Philip Sinner, University of Salzburg, to collaborate on student activities. They continue to coordinate the YECREA members of the TWG and to arrange social and intellectual events at each of our events.
- Additional meetings have been arranged at international conferences wherever practical. This includes meetings arranged at the Youth 2.0 conference organised by Michel Walrave at the University of Antwerp, March 2013; at The Children, Adolescents and Media section of the ICA conference, London, June 2013; at a preconference at the 2014 Lisbon ECREA conference; at EU Kids Online events in 2014, 2015 and 2016, and more.
- At IAMCR, Dublin, July 2013. At IAMCR, we co-organised a panel on youth and online safety with the Audience Section. Additionally, Brian O'Neill organised a networking reception for the TWG, followed by a dinner in Dublin. We also organised a trip to Facebook (their European headquarters are in Dublin) which was very successful and for which extensive notes were circulated, to inform those working on public policy and social networking issues.
- At the ECREA biannual conference in Lisbon, November 2014, the TWG panel session celebrated 25 years of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. The result was a lively discussion with excellent speakers.
- Cristina Ponte organised a very well-attended pre-conference in Lisbon, the day before the 2014 ECREA conference, at the New University of Lisbon. The pre-conference was entitled "Researching children, youth and media - Lessons from the field." Presentations are posted here: <http://www.lse.ac.uk/media@lse/research/EUKidsOnline/Presentations/PreECREA/ECREAprConference.aspx>
- Jeannette Steemers and others, together with the TWG management group organised a pre-conference (our off-year conference) at the University of Westminster, on 4th September 2015, as a pre-conference to this event: <http://www.westminster.ac.uk/camri/events/comparing-childrens-media-around-the-world-policies,-texts-and-audiences>. The conference, entitled

“Accessing, Capturing and Interpreting Young People’s Voices,” was well attended with over 60 delegates , and the presentations are posted here:

<http://www.lse.ac.uk/media@lse/research/EUKidsOnline/Presentations/ECREA2015/Pre-conference.aspx>

- November 2015. On behalf of the TWG and the Advertising Research TWG, Patricia Núñez organised a workshop on “Teens and Ads”, attracting some 50 participants from 12 countries. See <https://teensandads.wordpress.com/>
- The TWG continues to work in close cooperation with the EU Kids Online Network (www.eukidsonline.net), and thus with its new and expanding project, Global Kids Online (www.globalkidsonline.net). This includes therefore cooperation with UNICEF, and provides the basis for new funding bids to Horizon 2020 (two bids made in February 2016, one on cyberhate and one on a youth platform for digital inequality).
- Due to his new role as Dean at the Dublin Institute of Technology, Brian O’Neill stepped down from his formal role as Vice-Chair in 2015. The TWG is hugely grateful to him for his efforts and vision in establishing the TWG, and for his offer to continue to host our listserv.
- Elections were held in April, with a call for nominations circulated via ECREA and on the listserv. Sonia Livingstone, Cristina Ponte and David Smahel stood for the election and were duly elected.
- The TWG is planning a preconference in advance of the 2016 Prague ECREA conference, in association with COST Action IS1410, “The Digital Literacy and Multimodal Practices of Young Children.” David Smahel is conference chair and the call for papers is posted at <http://irtis.fss.muni.cz/preconference/> It may be possible for the best papers to be selected for a special issue of the journal, Cyberpsychology: Journal of Psychosocial Research on Cyberspace (www.cyberpsychology.eu)
- We have also issued a call for panel or paper proposals for our allotted two sessions at the main conference, and plans are underway to complete these.
- David Smahel is now leading on plans to develop a dedicated website for the TWG, to be online in 2016. This, it is planned, can be a repository for members’ biographies and research interests, as well as for publications, reports, relevant PhD theses, and information about upcoming and recent events, conference, journal special issues, and so forth.
- In early 2016 the TWG had 176 registered members.

Sonia Livingstone (chair), David Smahel and Cristina Ponte (vice-chairs)