CTRL Yourself

The role played by technology in today's world is clearly visible. Undoubtedly, thanks to the development of technology, our lives are getting easier in many areas. For example, we can always keep in touch with people from any region thanks to smartphones, or we can easily access information from anywhere in the world thanks to the internet. In addition, thanks to the development of technology, many of our processes have become faster and more efficient. For example, banking transactions can now be carried out much faster and more securely via internet banking. In addition, thanks to the smart devices we use in our homes, we can control the temperature, lighting, and security of our homes. In this way, we make our life more comfortable. Whether you are a student or an employee, the correct use of technology makes our lives easier. It is possible to give many more examples of how technology has made our lives easier.

Digitalization and the advancement of technology bring with it many social problems;

- **Online harassment and bullying:** Many people, especially young people, and children, can experience harassment, threats, and bullying on the internet and other online platforms. For example, a student may be intimidated by schoolmates on social media or receive sexually explicit messages. Such behavior can harm the self-esteem and mental health of young people and children.
- **Online fraud:** On the internet, there are a variety of scams perpetrated by fraudsters. For example, they may steal your personal information through fake emails or websites, or lie to you and take money or other valuables.
- **Cyber attacks:** Cyber attacks are another serious online threat that harms many people. For example, malware or ransomware can be used to steal your personal information and data or cause massive financial damage to companies.
- **Hate speech and discrimination:** Anonymity on the internet can lead some people to engage in hate speech and discrimination. For example, some people may make discriminatory comments on social media about race, gender, sexual orientation, or religious beliefs.
- **Personal privacy violations:** Violations of personal privacy are also a common problem online. For example, many social media platforms may collect users' personal information and use it for advertising and other

purposes. Such breaches can violate people's privacy rights and even pose security risks.

Digitalization is effective in every aspect of our lives today. For this reason, individuals need to adapt to digitalization processes by improving their digital competencies. This will both facilitate individuals' lives and contribute to the establishment of a safe digital environment.

Legal regulations of governments are of course important to combat problems such as digital harassment and bullying. However, by developing digital competencies, individuals can also protect themselves from such problems. This is also a requirement of digital citizenship.

Digital citizenship means that individuals understand their rights and responsibilities in the digital world and exercise these rights and responsibilities properly. Digital citizenship is directly related to the development of digital competencies and encourages individuals to behave safely, ethically, and responsibly in the digital world. In today's rapidly advancing digitalization process, it is extremely important for individuals to develop their digital competencies and be aware of digital citizenship.

Digital citizenship has become increasingly important with the widespread use of the internet and its use in almost every aspect of life. As the importance of the Internet, digital technology, and digitalization in our lives increases, the importance of digital citizenship also increases. Digital citizenship is an important concept for individuals to communicate effectively online, recognize and protect themselves from dangers in the digital world, protect their digital data, and practice values such as respect, tolerance, and responsibility in their interactions on the internet.

Digital citizens are people who use the internet and digital technologies effectively and responsibly. Digital citizenship is a set of skills and knowledge that individuals of all ages should possess. Digital citizens act lawfully in the digital world, protect their personal information, help prevent cyberbullying and other digital crimes, and interact respectfully and fairly with other people online.

As it is known, digital citizenship skills include the following:

1. **Digital security:** Taking the necessary measures to ensure security in the digital world, especially the protection of personal information and data.
2. **Digital ethics:** Following ethical rules of behavior in the digital world, respecting others, following digital laws and not violating rights.

3. **Digital responsibility:** Taking responsibility for one's own digital activities and interactions, protecting the rights and freedoms of others, and sharing factual and accurate information on digital platforms.
4. **Digital literacy:** Reading information critically in the digital world, discerning accurate information, communicating effectively, and helping others to develop their digital literacy skills.

It is seen that there are problems in social and political areas in societies that do not have digital citizenship awareness. We can understand the importance of the issue by looking at these examples;

- In 2021, a Twitter user targeted English soccer player Marcus Rashford with racist tweets because England lost the final match of the European Football Championship. Such disrespect has caused tension and even physical violence between people.
- In the 2016 US presidential election, Russia allegedly organized online propaganda campaigns that influenced the election results.
- During the COVID-19 pandemic, fake medicines, vaccines, and treatments were sold online. People who believed such fake information resorted to the wrong treatment methods, which can cause serious health problems or even death.
- In Myanmar in 2017, disinformation, hate speech, and propaganda on social media platforms led to an ethnic cleansing crisis in the country, forcing hundreds of thousands of Rohingya Muslims to flee the country.
- In 2013, the database of a major retail company, Target, was hacked, stealing 110 million customer details and leaking their personal information, credit card details, and addresses.
- In Brazil in 2018, misleading news, lies and manipulation spread via WhatsApp changed the country's political future and led to a far-right candidate winning the elections.
- In 2019, a right-wing extremist attacked a mosque in New Zealand, killing 51 people. The attacker had previously shared extremist views on social media and was influenced by the propaganda of other right-wing extremists online.
- In 2021, a student at the University of Miami hacked into the university's computer system, gained access to exams, and then stole them. This student was arrested and sentenced to prison for his cybercriminal activities.

- In 2018, Facebook shared the personal data of 87 million users without their permission due to the Cambridge Analytica scandal. This incident showed how vulnerable users are in the digital world.

Our project aims to contribute to the development of digital competencies and raise awareness about the concept of digital citizenship. We believe that we can achieve this goal with our activities. The training activities, seminars, webinars, panels, virtual mobility activities, MOOCs, and gamified education modules we have planned during the project will contribute to our goal of developing digital competencies.