



CHILD PROTECTION AND SELF-DETERMINATION IN THE DIGITAL ENVIRONMENT

The protection of minors in the digital age appears to be an extremely complex issue, once given the increasingly widespread use of social platforms by children and young people, who are now accustomed to relating mainly through them, and the media overexposure to which they are continually subjected by adults, parents, friends or relatives, who in the virtual space share information, content and images concerning them.

Technological evolution, on the one hand, has significant and unquestionable advantages for having created new opportunities for communication and relationships but, on the other hand, it certainly raises perplexity also and above all because of the risks related to indiscriminate use by the youngest children of all the tools that represent the result of the same evolution.

Digital abstinence does not appear to be a practicable option in practice, and the challenge is to make the use of technology, which is developing rapidly, as safe as possible, creating new opportunities and new risks especially for the most vulnerable users such as children.

Hence the growing interest of Italian and European legislators in protecting children in the digital context, which also makes them an earlier and particularly vulnerable consumer than in the analog world.