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Presentation title: Youth with a migrant background: as or at risk regarding traditional and cyberbullying at secondary schools in Belgium?

It's an undeniable fact that our society is changing from a homogenous society to a multicultural one. Today, no one is shocked when young people go to school with peers from around the world. Therefore, the possibility exists that these different backgrounds (e.g. language, traditions, cultures, etc.) produce some tensions in the classroom between youth with or without a migrant background, especially in terms of bullying. The current research examines, on the basis of a survey (online and on paper), the difference between these two groups (N=1808) regarding traditional and cyberbullying behavior. Findings suggest that youth with a migrant background are more likely to be a victim, offender and witness of traditional and cyberbullying. A possible theoretical explanation for this high victimization rate is that they are labeled as 'different', whereby they look like the perfect target for bullies. On the other side, immigrant bullies might see themselves as different, which result in a gap between 'us, the minority' versus 'them, the majority'. Because of this reason they use bullying behavior to try narrowing this power imbalance in order to gain respect and dominance. Findings in previous academic research stated that 'being a victim' correlates with negative psychological problems on a long term and 'being a bully' with a criminal career in the future. With this in mind, the next question arises: is youth with a migrant background at or as risk?