



European
Commission

A DIGITAL DECADE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

The European strategy
for a better Internet
for kids (BIK+)



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#DigitalEU
#BIKplus

The Commission has adopted a new strategy to improve age-appropriate digital services and to ensure that every child is protected, empowered and respected online, with no one left behind.

3 PILLARS:



A safe digital environment
to protect children from harmful
and illegal online content.

**Empower children in the digital
world** and give them the necessary
skills to make safe choices and
express themselves online.



Improve children's active participation,
with more child-led activities to foster
innovative and creative digital experiences.

WHAT WE HAVE NOW



The time children spend online almost **doubled** between 2010 and 2020 in many countries. A majority of children use their smartphones 'daily' or 'almost all the time'.

54% of European children aged 9-16 using the internet **visit social networking sites daily** or even more often than that.



1/3

Globally, 1 in 3 children have reported being a **victim of online bullying**.

X2

The number of online images of **suspected child sexual abuse** processed worldwide almost doubled between 2017 and 2019. The problem increased further during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In Europe, **8%** of young people aged 15 are **digitally unconfident**.



70%

of children in the EU would like to **participate more** in the decisions affecting their lives.

WHAT THE BIK+ WILL CHANGE

▶ encourage and facilitate a comprehensive **EU code of conduct** on age-appropriate design, covering topics including age assurance, data protection and clear and accessible information.

▶ support the development of an EU-wide digital **proof of age**.

▶ ensure a '116 111' phone number for **assistance on cyberbullying** by 2023.

▶ support reporting of **illegal and harmful content** through the Safer Internet helplines and hotlines.

▶ organise **media literacy campaigns for children**, teachers and parents.

▶ develop **teaching modules for teachers** via the betterinternetforkids.eu (BIK) portal.

▶ strengthen the support of Safer Internet Centres in Member States to **children in vulnerable situations** to address the digital divide.

▶ involve children in the creation of the **EU code of conduct** on age-appropriate design.

▶ support peer-to-peer training on **online opportunities and risks**.