

PLACING A SPOTLIGHT ON BIK YOUTH

RECAP OF YOUTH ACTIVITIES IN 2023

The European Year of Skills

The European Union declared 2023 the European Year of Skills, recognising the importance of making sure people have the right skills for good jobs, now and in the future.

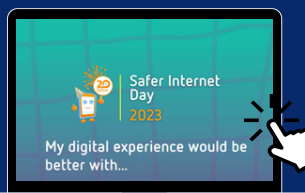
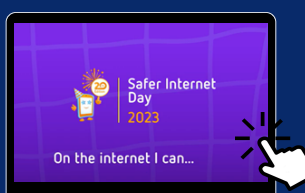
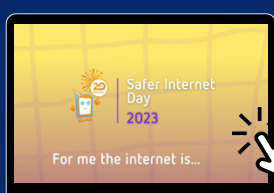
At Better Internet for Kids (BIK), our focus is on keeping children and young people safe in the online world. A big part of that is making sure that young people have **digital skills to protect themselves online and benefit from the opportunities which the digital world offers.**

WHAT HAPPENED IN 2023?

Safer Internet Day 2023

Safer Internet Day (SID) is an annual day of celebration, each February, to make the internet a safer and better place for all. People and organisations unite right across the globe to show their support for the day.

For Safer Internet Day 2023, BIK Youth Ambassadors and Youth Panellists from different European countries shared their views on opportunities online and what would make their digital lives safer in three short videos. [Find out what they said here...](#)



The Digital Services Act

The European Union wants to make sure that digital technologies and online platforms respect everyone's rights and provide safe and trustworthy services. The Digital Services Act (DSA) is a new set of rules that includes specific measures to protect people under 18.

In June 2023, Ambassadors Daria and George shared their views at a high-level event in Brussels. Daria expressed frustration with excessive online time and unnecessary terms, while George discussed the dangers of disinformation.

Online platforms are adapting to these new rules, helping young people to be more in control of their online lives.



Safer Internet Forum 2023



Building on the European Year of Skills, the 2023 edition of the Safer Internet Forum (SIF) focused on how to empower young people with the skills they need to thrive online.

The event was organised by 41 young people from 23 EU countries, members of the Safer Internet Forum Youth Advisory Group (SIF YAG) and the BIK Youth Panel, who played an active role in planning and delivering the Forum.

The SIF YAG determined the title, agenda, and chose speakers. They also hosted the event on the day, challenging presenters and participants in interactive discussions.

The BIK Youth Panel gave a live performance with the theme of Empower, Inspire, Transform, and led discussions on cyberbullying, consumer rights, and age verification online.



Go **'behind the scenes'** to discover how young people organised the 2023 edition of the Safer Internet Forum...

Watch the **Safer Internet Forum wrap-up video** to see how the day played out...



Representing youth voices across the globe

In 2023, BIK Youth Panellists and Ambassadors ensured young voices were heard globally:

- In April, BIK Youth Ambassadors Adrian and Molly participated in an EU Youth Design Jam in Brussels, organised by Meta in collaboration with Think Young.
- The annual Internet Governance Forum (IGF) brings people together, as equals, to discuss policy issues relating to the internet. This year's edition took place in October in Kyoto, Japan. BIK Youth Ambassador João co-moderated a discussion on the importance of youth participation.
- Also in October, ECPAT Taiwan hosted the ECPAT International Conference on child safety. BIK Youth Ambassador Kathrin was invited as a keynote speaker to share her views on youth participation and the European Union's strategies and rules for protecting those under the age of 18.

Want to know more about youth participation in 2023, and plans for 2024? Check out the [BIK Youth corner](#).

Find out more about youth participation in your country by [connecting with your national Safer Internet Centre](#).

