

Better Internet for Kids (BIK) Policy Monitor Country Profile 2024: FRANCE

The Better Internet for Kids (BIK) Policy Monitor is a tool used to compare and exchange knowledge on policy making and implementation in EU Member States, Iceland and Norway on the pillars and recommendations of the [European Strategy for a Better Internet for Children \(BIK+ strategy\)](#). The 2024 edition of the BIK Policy Monitor report examines the implementation of the BIK+ strategy in 29 European countries, including all EU Member States, Iceland, and Norway.

The country profile outlines findings about the implementation of the BIK+ strategy based on BIK policies and BIK+ actions across the strategy's three pillars as surveyed in the BIK Policy Monitor (as per February 2024). Download the full [BIK Policy Monitor report 2024](#) from the Better Internet for Kids website.

BIK policies

Policy frameworks

Policy frameworks describe the overarching approach for a better internet and establish the underlying goals, principles and guidelines that shape individual policies within this area.

- This topic is an **important and emerging policy priority**, with children's online protection, digital empowerment, and digital participation partially covered in national/regional laws, regulations and policies.
- There are **separate, dedicated policies** that address children and the digital environment (protection, empowerment, and participation).
- The BIK / BIK+ strategy **has not influenced national policies** on children and the environment

- **Children's rights in the digital environment are not explicitly recognised** in national policy documents but receive implicit support in policies dealing with children's digital activity.

	High	Medium	Low	Other
Coverage of BIK+ issues in national policies		X		
Integration of policy provision		X		
Influence of the BIK+ strategy			X	
Recognition of children's rights		X		

Table 1: Topic summary - policy frameworks

Key national policy frameworks are:

Protecting minors online has been a key priority for the French government. In January 2024, the President of the Republic called for the creation of a **special commission** comprising experts in this field. This follows the establishment of the **Children Online Protection Lab** as a special initiative of the French President in 2022. France’s Awareness Centre, **Internet Sans Crainte**, was a member of the commission. The commission delivered its report *Enfants et écrans À la recherche du temps perdu* in April 2024.

On the legislative front, several important laws have been adopted in recent years, which also shows the growing interest of parliamentarians in these issues:

- The Law of 19 October 2020, aimed at regulating the commercial exploitation of the image of children under the age of sixteen on online platforms
- The Law of 2 March 2022, aimed at strengthening parental control over means of accessing the Internet and the Law of 2 March 2022, aimed at combating school bullying
- The Law of 7 July 2023, aimed at establishing a digital majority and combating online hatred
- The Law of 19 February 2024, aimed at ensuring respect for children's image rights

Policy design

Policy design asks whether evidence and research support BIK-related policies and whether systems are in place for monitoring and evaluating those policies.

- Surveys of children’s digital activities **are undertaken only irregularly**.
- **Information is regularly gathered to inform policies on children and the digital environment.** However, this relies primarily on third-party sources, and there are limited opportunities to commission new data on children’s digital activity.
- In the field of research, budget allocations for work on the subject are mostly decided at regional levels and in some national institutes.
- **Policies are monitored and evaluated but not systematically.** It depends on the needs at a particular time or when policies are being considered.

	High	Medium	Low	Other
Regular data collection			X	
Other information supports		X		
National research fund				X
Monitoring and evaluation		X		

Table 2: Topic summary - policy design

Recent national research studies include:

- Most data on children and the digital environment at the national level is the result of one-off research or initiatives by independent organisations involved in protecting minors on the Internet. There is no official barometer or specific government-led study to inform and guide political action.
- The long-term study "**Cohorte Elfe**", the French longitudinal study of children, gathers more than 150 researchers from many different disciplines to track the lives of children from birth to adulthood. In many areas, the research

conducted under the Elfe project provides the public authorities with benchmarks for devising more effective health and family policies. More than 18,000 children born in metropolitan France in 2011 (i.e., one in every 50 children born that year) have been included in the study. Elfe’s longitudinal dimension will better understand children’s development and well-being, including answers to the following question: "How do computer use, sports, and cultural activities influence children’s socialisation and physical and intellectual development?"

Policy governance

Policy governance examines how policies are coordinated at the governmental level, whether other implementation bodies are involved in their delivery, and whether structured mechanisms are available to guide their implementation.

- **Policy development sits across a range of ministries, and there is no lead with specific assigned responsibility** for developing government on policies, guidelines and programmes relating to children and the digital environment.
- **Coordination happens more informally across the different departments and entities** that contribute to government policies, guidelines, and programmes regarding children and the digital environment.
- **One or more programmes of action are underway** supporting children’s online safety and participation in the digital environment. However, these lack accountabilities such as defined timelines, assigned responsibilities or key performance indicators (KPIs).

	High	Medium	Low	Other
Lead ministry for policy development			X	
National coordination body		X		
National action plan or strategy		X		

Table 3: Topic summary - policy governance

At varying times, there has been a special counsellor in the cabinet of the Prime Minister for digital issues who is dedicated to the coordination of the roadmap for each of the ministries. However, this is subject to change, and accordingly, centralisation for children's online protection is sometimes lacking.

Stakeholder involvement

Stakeholder involvement enquires how different stakeholders can participate in policy development. Children’s involvement in policy-making is one such key issue. Additionally, international knowledge exchange about children's digital participation is also relevant to this topic.

- **Various ad hoc multistakeholder groups exist across different branches of government**, in which stakeholders may contribute to policy deliberation and development.
- **Members of the public are consulted on occasion in the course of the development of new policies.** However, this is not always the case.
- **There are limited opportunities for youth consultation** on digital policies.
- **Policymakers actively participate in various EU-level** and other international inter-governmental groups related to digital policies for children.

	High	Medium	Low	Other
Stakeholder forum		X		
Public consultation		X		
Involvement of young people				X
International knowledge exchange	X			

Table 4: Topic summary - Stakeholder involvement

BIK+ actions

Pillar 1 – safe digital experiences

Safe digital experiences refers to actions taken to protect children from harmful and illegal online content, conduct, contact, and risks as young consumers and to improve their well-being online through a safe, age-appropriate digital environment created in a way that respects children's best interests.

Responses to EU laws:

- The Law of 21 May 2024, aimed at securing and regulating the digital space, designates the [Regulatory Authority for Audiovisual and Digital Communication \(ARCOM\)](#) as the Digital Services Coordinator in France.

Addressing harmful online content:

- Harmful online content isn't listed in a precise law, as what is forbidden online is also prohibited offline.
- [Pharos](#) is a dedicated facility for reporting/removing harmful content. It is a government-led platform comprising law enforcement specialists from the Ministry of Interior. The facility is available to all, including children.
- In June 2023, a new law was voted on regarding the status of influencers and the labelling of commercial content on social platforms: [Law No. 2023-451 of 9 June 2023](#), aimed at regulating commercial influence and combating the excesses of influencers on social networks.

Addressing harmful online conduct:

- National/regional laws, regulations or policies in place to protect children and young people from intimate image abuse are covered under the [Penal Code](#)
- The relevant laws addressing bullying were also amended in March 2022 to include any bullying situation committed against minors online.

Age verification and digital identity systems:

- The Law No. 2024-449 of 21 May 2024, aimed at securing and regulating the digital space, addresses concrete ways to apply age verification, has been discussed, and a system is being tested.

	In place	In development	Not in place	Other
DSA legislation enacted		X		
Codes of practice of digital services		X		
Consumer code of practice	X			
Definition of harmful content			X	
Children's complaints mechanism	X			
Bodies can order content removal	X			
Intimate image abuse laws	X			
Cyberbullying laws	X			
Age verification for adult content		X		
Digital identity systems		X		

Table 5: Topic summary - pillar 1: safe digital experiences

Pillar 2 – digital empowerment

Digital empowerment incorporates actions so that all children, including those in vulnerable situations, acquire the necessary skills and competences to make sound choices and express themselves in the online environment safely and responsibly.

Supports in formal education:

- Online safety forms part of the national curriculum. The ministries responsible for National Education, Youth and Sports and Higher Education, Research, and Innovation have developed a digital skills reference framework (CRCN) inspired by the European framework (DIGCOMP) and valid from primary school to university.

- The [PIX certification](#) allows users to certify a digital skills profile and be recognised by the state and the professional world. It is an asset in the student's search for an internship, their progress in higher education, and their professional integration. The PIX certification process is mandatory from year eight, and final certification is mandatory for the final school exam in middle school and the final school exam in high school.
- The anti-bullying programme at school, [pHARe](#), is a comprehensive plan for preventing and dealing with bullying. Implemented in 2021, extended to schools and colleges at the start of the 2022 school year, it has been extended to high schools since the start of the 2023 school year. 100% of schools and establishments are implementing this program.
- An [Interministerial plan to combat harassment in schools](#) was adopted in September 2023. Measures implemented against harassment in schools include dedicated lessons to prevent bullying and cyberbullying from the third class to the high school, systematic recording of instances of harassment, designation of harassment coordinators, training of staff to fight against bullying, and an annual barometer of harassment in schools.
- [Internet Sans Crainte](#) is the national awareness-raising programme, as part of the [French Safer Internet Centre \(SIC\)](#), promoting a better internet for children and young people in France. Operating since 2007 by Tralalere, producer of pluri media educational programmes and awareness campaigns, it produces multimedia educational resources, often with the support of the Ministry of Education, which are extremely widely used both in schools and in other educational structures.
- [Internet Sans Crainte](#) leads regular training for teachers and trainers at both national and regional levels.

Informal education:

- The national [PIX certification process](#) for digital skills is also open to adults.
- The PIX repository is a framework to define and delimit the educational content covered by the PIX assessment and certification system. Based on

the European reference framework (DigComp) and the Digital Skills Reference Framework (CRCN), it is divided into 16 skills organised into five areas and broken down into eight levels. More than 200 topics are covered and change as technology evolves. The assessment on PIX uses a bank of questions designed and organised according to this framework.

Empowering through digital skills:

- Education in media literacy and critical analysis of the information system is part of the school curriculum via a domain called EMI ([Education aux médias et à l'information](#)). EMI is part of the common core of knowledge, skills and culture, the citizenship pathway and the artistic and cultural education pathway. The guidelines for cycles two and three and the programmes for cycle four define a teaching framework in which all disciplines participate.

	In place	In development	Not in place	Other
Teaching online safety	X			
Online safety policies in schools	X			
Adequate teacher training		X		
Informal education about online safety		X		
Peer-to-peer training in online safety			X	
Support for digital literacy skills	X			
Children's media literacy	X			
Challenge hate speech/digital civil courage	X			

Table 6: Topic summary - pillar 2: digital empowerment

Pillar 3 – active participation, respecting children’s rights

Active participation, respecting children’s rights, refers to actions which give children and young people a say in the digital environment, with more child-led activities to foster innovative and creative safe digital experiences.

Active participation:

- The French Safer Internet Consortium has led a Safer Internet Day event focused on young people and with large-scale youth representation.
- The “Parlement des enfants project” (the Children's Parliament" project) allows schoolchildren, through the practice of dialogue and democratic debate, to discover the role of the legislator during a class work carried out during part of the school year on an annual theme relating to current societal subjects. Topics may include policies related to children's use of the Internet. Youth councils get children involved on a local level.

Digital creativity:

- Code-decode is the programme to introduce young people to coding and digital culture such as making videos, create an app or shared digital platforms.
- Vinz et Lou, a collection of resources to tackle big society issues with primary school children cartoons, interactive activities, digital lessons, comics, cards and quizzes.

	In place	In development	Not in place	Other
Activities to promote active participation				X
Laws that mandate youth participation			X	
Awareness raising on children's rights			X	
Inclusiveness regarding active participation				X
Child-friendly versions of policy documents			X	
Positive digital content			X	
Activities encouraging digital creativity			X	

Table 7: Topic summary - pillar 3: active participation, respecting children's rights

BIK+ index 2024: France

The BIK+ index has been developed to provide an aggregated at-a-glance overview of the levels of implementation across the two dimensions, BIK policies and BIK+ actions, in France compared to the EU27+2 average. Values are shown in per cent.

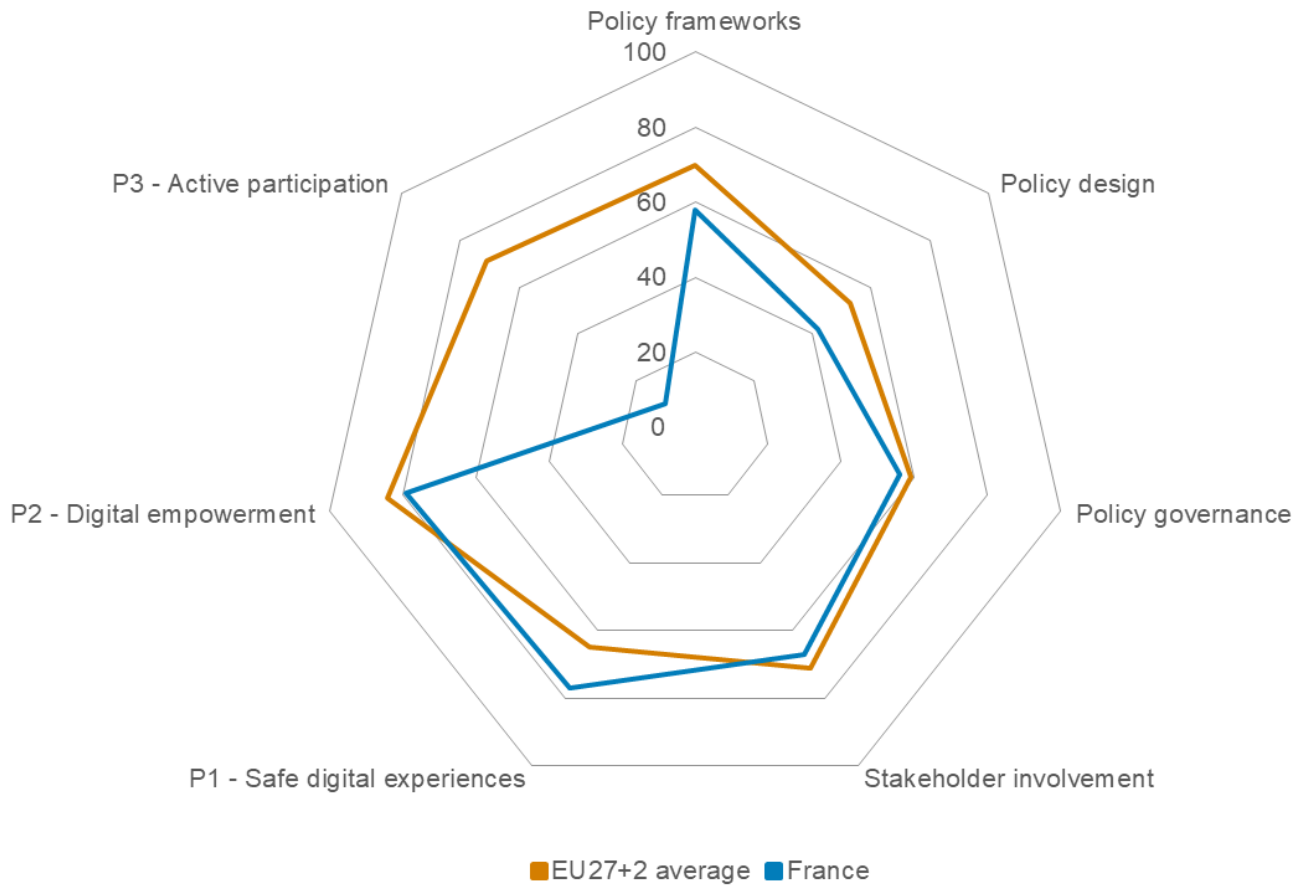


Figure 1: BIK+ index 2024: France - EU27+2 average comparison

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