

Better Internet for Kids (BIK) Policy monitor country profile 2025: CYPRUS

The [BIK Policy monitor country profiles](#) summarise findings about the implementation of the BIK+ strategy's three pillars (protection, empowerment, participation) across each of the EU's Member States as well as Iceland and Norway. Download the full [BIK Policy monitor report 2025](#) from the [BIK Policy monitor](#) on the new [BIK Knowledge hub](#) and access the [Cypriot country profile online](#) on the BIK Knowledge hub.

Introduction

In Cyprus, the implementation of the BIK+ strategy is a key focus for authorities and agencies responsible for child protection and safe internet use. Key national strategies detailed below draw extensively on BIK+.

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 **comprehensively addressed** with children's online protection, digital empowerment and digital participation incorporated into national/regional laws, regulations and policies.
- There are **separate, dedicated policies which address the topic of children and the digital environment** (protection, empowerment, and participation).

- The BIK/BIK+ strategy **is very important at the national level and is explicitly referenced in national policies** on children and the digital environment.
- National/regional policies and policy documents **explicitly recognise children's rights in the digital environment**.

	High	Medium	Low	Not present
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:

- The **Digital Strategy for Cyprus 2020-2025** (adopted in June 2020) is the key policy document to accelerate Cyprus's digital transformation. The implementation of the Digital Strategy is coordinated by the **Deputy Ministry of Research, Innovation and Digital Policy (DMRID)**.
- The **Strategy for a Better Internet for Kids in Cyprus (2018)**. This was developed in the framework of Action 14 of the Cybersecurity Strategy of the Republic of Cyprus and the cooperation of the members of the Working Group that dealt with the National Education/ Information Program specifically for children, teachers and parents. The Strategy was approved by the Council of Ministers on December 19, 2017 (Decision date 12/19/17 and Decision No. 83.979).
- The **National Cybersecurity Strategy of Cyprus 2020**. This document reviews the previous national strategy (2013) and focuses on seven areas identified as priorities in the Cypriot response to cyber threats.

- Additionally, Cyprus has implemented legal frameworks such as the 'Protection of Minors from Sexual Abuse, Sexual Exploitation, and Child Pornography Law of 2014', which addresses issues related to safeguarding children in digital spaces.

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**, but only irregularly.
- **Surveys of children's experiences** of risks, harms and digital well-being **are undertaken on an ad-hoc and irregular basis**.
- **Systems are in place at the government level to gather information** on children and the digital environment.
- **Existing national research funding is available** for research on children and the digital environment, but this is **not explicitly specified**.
- **Policies undergo systematic and regular monitoring and evaluation** to assess the effectiveness of actions in different contexts and to take account of new technologies or emergent risks.

	High	Medium	Low	Not present
Regular data collection			X	
Data on risks, harms and digital well-being			X	
Information systems	X			
National research fund		X		
Monitoring and evaluation	X			

Table 2: Topic summary - policy design

Recent national research studies include:

- The [Cyprus Safer Internet Centre \(SIC\)](#) conducts research and collects data to better understand the online landscape and the challenges children face in the digital environment.
- Evaluation Report on Identifying Needs, Perspectives, and Experiences for Crafting a National Strategic Internet Policy – This report was compiled within the framework of formulating a national strategy in the Republic of Cyprus for enhancing Internet security and use among students, teachers, and parents. The strategy also encompasses assessing the requirements of various demographics, including teachers, parents, and children. A working group was established under the coordination of the Pedagogical Institute of the Ministry of Education and Culture and the General Coordination of the Office of the Electronics Regulatory Commissioner Communications and Posts (GERIET).
- [Cyprus](#) also took part in the [Health Behaviour in School-aged Children \(HBSC\)](#): World Health Organization Collaborative Cross-National Study, which examined various behaviours, including teenagers' online activity and risky behaviours such as cyberbullying.

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.

- There is **one central body** (e.g., a central ministry office, public agency, or regulatory authority) formally mandated to lead and develop policies, guidelines, and programmes related to children and the digital environment.
- **A clearly defined coordination function is in place**, involving all relevant stakeholders and encompasses the cross-cutting policy issues relating to children and the digital environment.

- There is a **defined national action plan** for children and the digital environment with accountabilities such as defined timelines, assigned responsibilities, or key performance indicators (KPIs).

	High	Medium	Low	Not present
Lead ministry for policy development	X			
National coordination body	X			
National action plan or strategy	X			

Table 3: Topic summary - policy governance

The coordination of policies related to [National Strategy for a Better Internet for Kids in Cyprus](#) is divided among several entities, with the [Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth](#) having the responsibility and the [Cyprus Safer Internet Centre – CYberSafety](#) playing key role. The [Cyprus Pedagogical Institute](#), under the Ministry of Education, facilitates communication and cooperation across departments and agencies regarding children's use of the Internet.

The national coordination body reports to the lead ministry responsible for children's online safety and plays a crucial role in fostering communication, sharing information, and building partnerships to protect children online.

An inter-ministerial committee has been formed in Cyprus to promote and monitor the National Strategy for a Better Internet for Kids. This committee comprises the Minister of Education and Culture, the Minister of Justice and Public Order, the Minister of Energy, Commerce, Industry and Tourism, the Minister of Transport, Communications and Works, and the Commissioner of Electronic Communications and Postal Regulations.

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 only when new policies are being developed.**
- **Children are listened to directly in the policy development process** (e.g., through hearings, consultations, specific surveys) but are not formally involved in decision-making.

	High	Medium	Low	Not present
Stakeholder forum		X		
Consulting the public on BIK topics		X		
Involvement of young people		X		

Table 4: Topic summary - Stakeholder involvement

Regarding opportunities for involvement in policymaking, young people are actively involved in the [CYberSafety Youth Panel of Cyprus](#) which enables participants to share knowledge, suggest actions, and promote the safe and creative use of digital technologies. Members of the panel - which includes members of the Cyprus Children's Parliament, coordinated by the Pancyprian Coordinating Committee for the Protection and Welfare of Children (PCCPWC), members of the Teenage Advisors' Group of the Commissioner for Children's Rights, as well as students from the 'Young Coaches of the Internet' programme, coordinated by the Cyprus Pedagogical Institute, - also act as ambassadors for digital safety, disseminating information on best practices among their peers.

BIK+ actions

Pillar 1 – Safe digital experiences

Safe digital experiences refer 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.

Implementing EU laws

- In Cyprus, the [Cyprus Radio Television Authority \(CRTA\)](#) serves as the Digital Services Coordinator, while the Deputy Ministry of Research, Innovation, and Digital Policy is the designated authority responsible for implementing the [Digital Services Act \(DSA\)](#). The DSA includes provisions aimed at protecting minors in the digital environment, specifically in Articles 14, 28, 34, and 35. Cyprus has passed legislation to implement the DSA.

Harmful online content

- Cyprus does not have specific definitions or classifications of harmful online content included in national laws, regulations or policies. However, the Cyprus Safer Internet Centre (SIC), which operates as part of the European Commission's Better Internet for Kids (BIK+) initiative, plays a key role in defining and addressing harmful content. Also, the DSA, implemented in Cyprus, provides a framework for regulating harmful content online, with specific provisions on the protection of minors and the management of illegal online content.
- The legal framework that governs the prevention and combating of sexual abuse, sexual exploitation of children, and child pornography is established in Law 91(I)/2014.

Harmful online conduct

- In Cyprus, protection against intimate image abuse, also known as 'revenge porn' and 'non-consensual sharing of personal images,' is covered by various

laws and regulations related to privacy protection, data protection, and prevention of bullying.

- Relevant laws include:
 - Law 138(I)/2012: Prevention and Combating of Family Violence Law.
 - Law 144(I)/2007: Regulation of the Provision of Electronic Services Law.
 - Law 38(I)/2014: Protection of Children from Sexual Abuse and Exploitation and Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children in Pornography Law.

Age verification

- The laws concerning the identification of potentially harmful content in Cyprus do not specify or legally require age verification mechanisms to restrict access to adult content for minors.
- Digital identity systems available for minors are not currently available in Cyprus.

Commercial content

- The Cyprus Advertising Council (CAC) provides a non- statutory self-regulatory code of conduct that includes guidelines for advertising practices. This code is widely followed by advertisers and digital marketers, including those involved in influencer-based marketing. The code aims to ensure transparency, fairness, and protection of consumers, including the clear identification of commercial content.
- While there is no specific law focused solely on influencer marketing, the [Consumer Protection Law of 2021 \(Law 112\(I\)/2021\) \(CPL\)](#) includes provisions that relate to unfair commercial practices, which would encompass misleading or deceptive influencer-based marketing if influencers fail to clearly disclose paid promotions or advertising.

Mental health and well-being

- Various initiatives are in place dedicated to protecting children's mental health and well-being online. The [Cyprus Safer Internet Centre](#) provides services such as the Helpline for children and parents, offering support on issues like cyberbullying and harmful content.
- Schools incorporate digital literacy and online safety lessons into their curricula, educating children about the risks of online activity, including mental health challenges such as cyberbullying and the effects of excessive screen time.
- Mental health professionals (e.g., Educational Psychology Service) are trained to assist children dealing with online-related mental health issues, providing support for problems like cyberbullying or anxiety related to online interactions.

	In place	In development	Other activity	Not in place
Codes of practice			X	
DSC implemented		X		
Definition of harmful content			X	
Bodies can order content removal	X			
Children's complaints mechanism	X			
Intimate image abuse laws	X			
Cyberbullying laws	X			
Age verification requirements			X	
Digital identity systems (EUDI)				X
Consumer codes of practice		X		
Mental health measures			X	
Addressing unfair commercial practices			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 for online safety education

- Teaching online safety has been fully incorporated into the national/regional school curriculum.
- The topic New Technologies (Harnessing digital technologies for learning) is spread over 16 teaching periods in grade 5 and 16 teaching periods in grade 6 and includes 3 teaching units: i. Computational Thinking, ii. digital skills; and iii. Digital Literacy.
- In Cyprus, there are national strategies to support online safety policies in schools. These include a [clear policy](#) for cyberbullying incidents.
- In Cyprus, several national and regional activities reinforce informal education about online safety. These include public awareness campaigns, workshops and training programmes, online resources and guides, and partnerships and collaboration. The [Cyprus Safer Internet Centre](#), operated by the Cyprus Pedagogical Institute and other partners, is one of the main supporting bodies.
- The [CYberSafety partners](#), including the Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth, Cyprus University of Technology, University of Cyprus, Digital Security Authority, Cyprus Telecommunication Authority, and Pancyprrian School of Parents, offer a range of national activities to develop and promote peer-to-peer training and support programmes in online safety. These include workshops, conferences, seminars, trainings and experiential activities in summer camps.

Digital literacy skills to empower young people

- [Digital Skills – Cyprus National Action Plan 2021-2025](#) - a comprehensive and comprehensive action plan to enhance digital skills, which is developed in

three (3) main axes: upgrading the digital skills of the general population, enhancing the skills of the public and private workforce, with particular reference to ICT specialists, and developing expanded digital competence within the education system.

- The [Youth Coaches programme](#) is an initiative that aims to empower children to take the lead in promoting online safety and digital awareness in their communities.

	In place	In development	Other activity	Not in place
Teaching online safety	X			
Online safety policies in schools	X			
Informal education about online safety	X			
Adequate teacher training	X			
Basic digital skills training	X			
Critical media literacy		X		
Creative digital skills	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 [Cyprus Youth Council](#) supports young people with opportunities to participate in formal decision-making bodies at various levels of governance, including local councils, advisory committees, and national youth councils.

- The [CYberSafety Youth Panel of Cyprus](#), which operates as part of the European project 'Cyprus Safer Internet Centre - CYberSafety – Better Internet for Kids', aims to enable knowledge and experience sharing among participants, make suggestions and take actions regarding the creative and safe use of digital technologies and the internet.
- The CYberSafety Youth Panel Cyprus team for 2023-2024 was composed of 40 members of the Cyprus Children's Parliament, members of the Teenage Advisers' Group of the Commissioner for Children's Rights, and students from the Young Coaches for the Internet programme. The Children's Parliament consults children on BIK policy issues and activities. However, there are no specific arrangements for children to participate in the design of BIK policies.

Supporting children's rights

- Cyprus doesn't have specific laws mandating youth participation in decision-making bodies at the national or regional level. However, efforts to involve young people in decision-making processes have been growing globally, including in Cyprus. efforts to promote better awareness of children's rights in relation to the digital environment have been ongoing.

Digital inclusion

- In Cyprus, several national and regional activities aim to address digital inequalities that negatively impact children's ability to participate in the digital environment.
- The Cyprus Pedagogical Institute (Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth) implements, several actions aiming to contribute to the development of digital skills for in-service teachers and students. These include the [Innovative Schools and Educational Coaches programme](#), the [Young Coaches for the Internet programme](#), [eSafe Schools](#), and [Recording Memory](#).
- The Strengthening the Cyprus Safer Internet Use Network (SAFI) brings together various agencies involved in the protection of children and adolescents on the internet. Efforts to strengthen SAFI include developing

action plans, sharing best practices, and fostering partnerships to address cybersecurity challenges.

	In place	In development	Other activity	Not in place
Promoting active participation and civic engagement		X		
Involvement in policymaking		X		
Awareness raising on children's rights		X		
Child-friendly versions of policy documents			X	
Addressing digital inequalities	X			
Supports for marginalised groups	X			
Positive digital content	X			

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

Best practices

Example 1

Cyprus Safer Internet Centre

The [Safer Internet Centre Cyprus](#) is part of the broader Safer Internet Programme funded by the European Commission. Its goal is to promote the safer and more responsible use of online technologies and mobile phones, particularly among children and young people. Supported by the European Commission and coordinated by the Cyprus Pedagogical Institute, in collaboration with various partners, the program includes awareness-raising campaigns, educational resources, and support services for children, parents, and educators.

Example 2

The Digital Pioneers Program

The [Digital Pioneers Programme](#) is an initiative designed to empower children to take the lead in promoting online safety and digital awareness within their communities. It provides children with the opportunity to develop skills in digital safety and online protection, allowing them to share their knowledge with classmates, friends, and families. Through interactive activities and games, children learn about internet dangers and self-protection. The program also fosters collaboration, communication, and critical thinking skills, empowering them to be responsible digital citizens. Participants in the Digital Pioneers program become ambassadors for online safety, helping create a safer online environment for all.

Example 3

Digital Literacy Workshops in Schools

Digital literacy workshops are organised in schools across Cyprus to educate students on safe and responsible internet use, critical thinking skills, and privacy protection. These workshops are interactive and often include activities, discussions, and real-life scenarios to engage students.

BIK+ index 2025: Cyprus

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 Cyprus compared to the EU27+2 average. Values are shown in per cent.

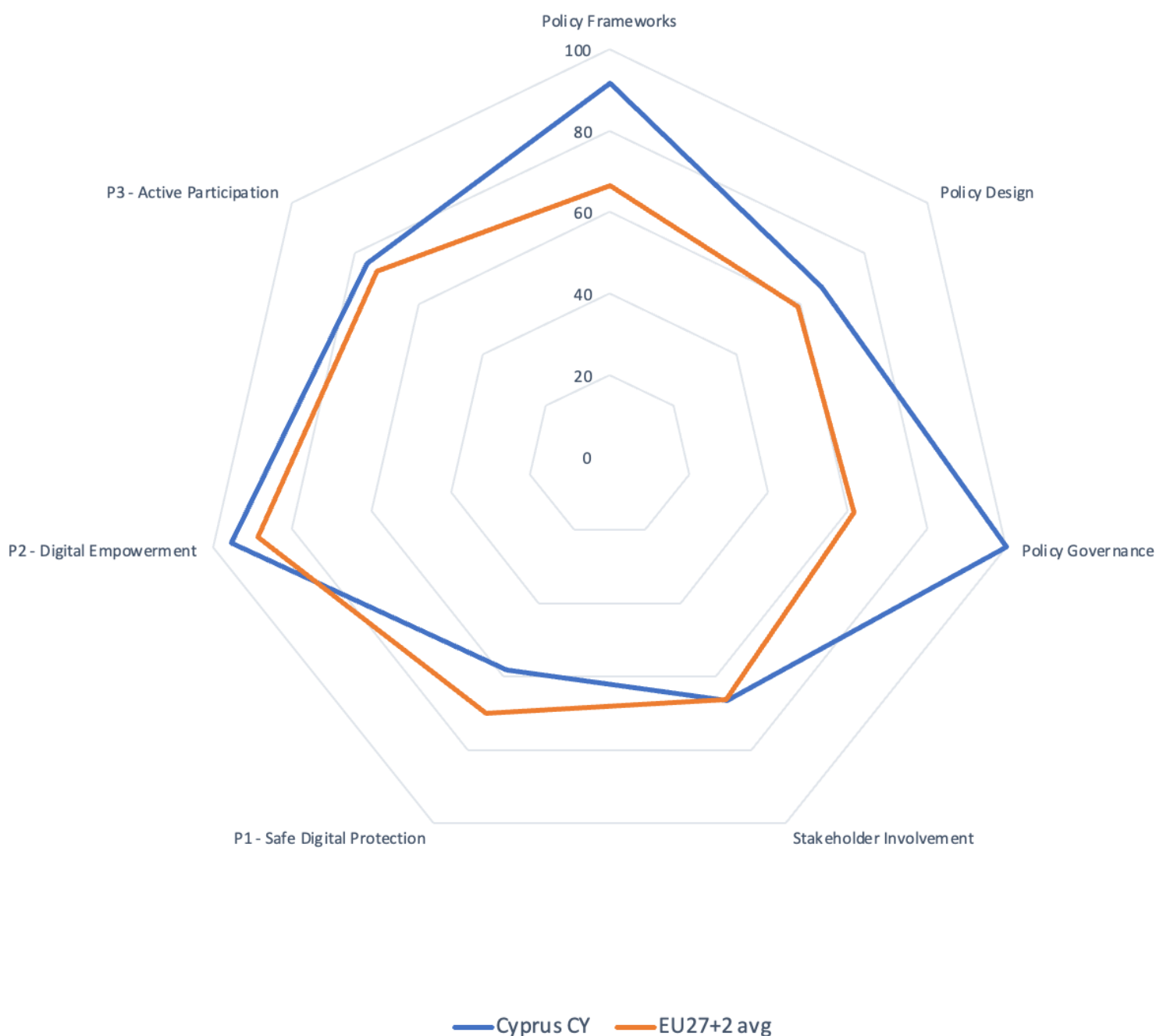


Figure 1: BIK+ index 2025: Cyprus - EU27+2 average comparison



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