Better Internet for Kids (BIK) Policy Monitor Country Profile 2025: GREECE

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 Greek country profile online on the BIK Knowledge hub.

Introduction

The BIK+ strategy continues to guide the policies developed by the Greek Safer Internet Centre, which maintains a close collaboration with the Ministries of Education, Religious Affairs and Sports, the Ministry of Digital Governance and the Ministry of Citizen's Protection. Additionally, the Greek SIC's educational material and activities for the promotion of safe use of the internet by minors continue being released under the auspices of the Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs and Sports.

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 which address children and the digital environment** (protection, empowerment, and participation).

- **The BIK+ strategy is an important influence on policy development** on children and the digital environment that informs and guides national policies, even if they do not directly refer to BIK+.

- **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	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 National Strategy for Protecting Minors from Internet Addiction was presented by the Ministry of Digital Governance on December 30, 2024 .

- A government initiative for the creation of a special platform for reporting incidents of school violence and bullying has been created. The reports submitted reach the corresponding school unit and a four- member action team from the Education Directorate, where specialized educators and psychologists address each incident in collaboration with the responsible authorities.

- The Institute of Child Health (ICH), specifically the Department of Mental Health and Social Welfare, has recently been involved in research programmes aimed at protecting minors from online abuse.

- The Greek SIC's hotline, SafeLine.gr became the first officially recognised Trusted Flagger in Greece under the European Union's new Digital Services Act (DSA).

- The National Strategy for Protecting Minors from Internet Addiction , developed by the Ministry of Digital Governance, includes among aspects the platform parco.gov.gr , which includes basic guidelines for setting up parental controls on children's mobile devices, whether they run on iOS or Android; the Kids Wallet, an application set to launch in the upcoming spring, which will allow for age verification of the user. The goal is for the Kids Wallet to become the means of age verification at a national level. At the same time, the Kids Wallet will have pre-installed parental control features.

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.

- **Quantitative data on some aspects of children's digital activity is collected regularly** as part of broader surveys.

- **Surveys of children's experiences** of risks, harms and digital well-being **are undertaken on an ad-hoc and irregular basis.**

- **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.

- **Regarding research funding,** There are occasional special initiatives to gather evidence about children and the digital environment.

- **Policies are monitored and evaluated but not systematically**.

	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 Greek SIC carries out surveys on children's digital habits and interests. The survey, which was approved by the Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs and Sports, was conducted to 26,000 students aged between 10-17 years on Internet habits. The latest research under the title 'Violence on the Internet' was conducted nationwide with the approval of the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs

- KMOP (Centre for the Study and Organisation of Programmes), which is one of the oldest civil society organizations in Greece, presented on December 2, 2024 the results of its research titled 'Attitudes and Behaviors of Children on the Internet.' This study was completed in October 2024, with a sample of students aged 9-11.

- As announced during this year's Greek SIC's Advisory Board by a representative of the Ministry of Digital Governance, part of the National Strategy for the Protection of Minors from Internet Addiction will also constitute the systematic recording of internet usage nationwide and the behaviour of minors.

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 different ministries** with leadership distributed according to the area of specialisation.

- **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	Not present
Lead ministry for policy development		X		
National coordination body		X		
National action plan or strategy		X		

Table 3: Topic summary - policy governance

- Under the new DSA Regulation, the Hellenic Telecommunications and Post Commission, an independent regulatory authority, has been designated as the Digital Services Coordinator for Greece. At the same time, other authorities, such as the Greek Data Protection Authority and the Greek National Council for Radio and Television, have responsibility for the implementation of certain DSA articles.

- There is no national coordination body or agency as such that reports to the lead ministry. However, a Task Force has been created where representatives from the Ministry of Digital Governance participate alongside other national bodies, such as the Hellenic Communications and Post Commission, with the aim of protecting children from algorithmic addiction on the internet.

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.

- There are **occasional opportunities for different stakeholders to participate in policy development**, but this is infrequent.

- **Public consultation on policy development is infrequent and irregular**.

- **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

- The Greek Safer Internet Centre (SIC) has an Advisory Board composed of representatives from major stakeholders such as Ministries, the Cybercrime Unit of the Greek Police, ISPs, Academia, NGOs, etc. The advisory board meets once a year.

- The Greek SIC also interacts significantly with the general public, which likewise plays a key role in its activities. This includes a youth panel, where young people have the chance to express their opinions regarding the threats and problematic issues that arise while online.

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.

Implementing EU laws

- Directive (EU) 2018/1808 (Audiovisual Media Services Directive (AVMSD)) has officially been transferred to the Greek legislation by Act 4779/2021. Especially, Article 28 of the AVMSD has been transferred by Article 32 of Act 4779/2021.

- On 5 April 2024, the Greek Parliament adopted Law 5099/2024 (the law) for the implementation of the EU Digital Services Act (DSA) in Greece. The law designates the Hellenic Telecommunications and Post Commission (EETT) as the Digital Services Coordinator in Greece. Other competent authorities responsible for supervising intermediary services providers and enforcing the DSA in Greece are the National Council for Radio and Television (NCRTV) and the Hellenic Data Protection Authority (HDPA).

- 'Trusted Flagger' status has been granted to SafeLine.gr, with which it is already in close collaboration for the exchange of expertise and the necessary DSA reports regarding the actions taken by the Trusted Flagger to inform the respective online platforms about illegal content.

Harmful online content

- The term 'harmful online content' is specified in the Greek Act 4779/2021 as the content that "may impair the physical, mental or moral development of minors". The strictest categories of harmful online content that are mentioned in the above Act are gratuitous violence and pornography.

- In Greece, SafeLine, the national hotline, can ask Internet Service Providers (ISPs) to remove illegal content from the internet. The Hellenic

Telecommunications and Post Commission has established a system of safeguards with the aim of enabling immediate intervention, upon requests from the Public Prosecutor, regarding the blocking of access to domain names and Internet Protocol (IP) addresses due to illegal activities.

Harmful online conduct

- Article 346 of the Greek Penal Code covers the protection of children and young people from intimate image abuse or 'the non-consensual sharing of intimate images'. The Greek SIC, through its axis of SafeLine, participates in the implementation of the STOPNCII tool and the Take It Down tool, which both aim at fighting the non-consensual sharing of intimate images.

- The term 'cyberbullying' is not explicitly covered in Greek legislation. However, it can be addressed under other categories of illegal conduct, e.g. personal data violation, defamation, etc. When young people are victims of cyberbullying, they can submit their reports and contact the Greek SIC Helpline for psychological support. From a legal point of view, a victim of cyberbullying can submit a report to SafeLine, the Greek hotline against illegal internet content /activities, or the Cyber Crime Unit of the Greek Police.

- A government initiative for the creation of a special platform for reporting incidents of school violence and bullying has been launched. The reports submitted reach the corresponding school unit and a four-member action team from the Education Directorate, where specialized educators and psychologists address each incident in collaboration with the responsible authorities.

Age verification

- The National Strategy for the Protection of Minors from Internet Addiction includes provisions for the Kids Wallet, an application set to launch in the upcoming spring, which will allow for age verification of the user. The goal is for the Kids Wallet to become the means of age verification at a national level.

Commercial content

- The Greek Advertising and Marketing Communications Code is based on the Advertising and Marketing Communications Code of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), which is applied internationally. The code was developed by the Communications Control Council, the competent body for self-regulation in the advertising market. This 2023 edition of the code sets out the rules that must be followed by all those involved in advertising and marketing, including advertisers, advertisers' agents, advertising media, content creators, influencers, bloggers, vloggers, etc. The code includes relevant references to advertising communications aimed at children.

Mental health and well-being

- The Greek SIC's Helpline is aimed at children, teenagers, and their families, providing support and advice on issues related to the use of the internet, mobile phones, and electronic games (harassment, addiction, harmful content, etc.).

- The Centre for the Treatment of Addicted Individuals in Greece has created programmes for teenagers and young adults that provide support for internet and video game addiction. The aim of these programs is to reduce the time spent in front of the computer and help young people cope with the challenges and difficulties of their age. The programs offer among others: Individual and group counselling, psychotherapy, supportive self-help groups and family meetings.

	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

- Although online safety is not officially part of the Greek school curriculum, it is important to mention that educational material under the auspices of the Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs and Sports is developed continuously by the Greek SIC.

- The Greek SIC's educational material can also be found on the platform Dexiotites 21+ (Skills 21+), where the Ministry offers a pool of resources to all educators in the country. Teachers usually use this material to transfer knowledge to the classroom.

- A circular addressed to all involved parties (Regional Education Directorates, school advisors, schools, etc.) by the Ministry of Education prohibits the use of mobile phones and other electronic devices by children in both primary and secondary education. At the same time, the circular emphasizes that the

posting of photos and videos featuring students on the school websites is only allowed when there is written parental consent.

● The Greek SIC has created and published new digital material for each educational level, which can be used as a 'tool' both in the classroom and at home. The 'Back to School Package 2023-2024' focuses on digital citizenship, the rights and responsibilities of children on the internet, as well as the changes that the Digital Services Act (DSA) aims to promote.

Digital literacy skills to empower young people

● On the occasion of the celebration of Safer Internet Day 2025, the Greek SIC of the Foundation for Research and Technology announced a nationwide student competition with different topics for Primary and Secondary education. The topic of the competition for Primary school students is: 'Say NO to Cyberbullying: Learn, Protect, Support!' and for Secondary school students, 'Social Networks: Protecting Ourselves and Our Friends.'

● Primary school students, either individually or in groups, were invited to create material related to the forms of cyberbullying, self-protection measures, and the management options available to someone, whether they are a victim or a witness of an incident.

● The Youth Panel of the Greek SIC has also published the fifth version of the magazine 'Digizens!', which is a magazine designed by young people and targeted at young people.

	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 Greek SIC's National Student Competitions. For instance, on the occasion of the celebration of Safer Internet Day 2024, the Greek SIC announced a nationwide student competition with the theme 'Capture the Flag – Cybersecurity Competition'. The competition is supported by the National Cybersecurity Authority of the Ministry of Digital Governance as an initiative that will contribute to efforts to attract young people to the field of Cybersecurity and is under the auspices of the Ministry of Digital Governance. The competition is also under the auspices of the Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs, and Sports.

- The Youth Panel of the SIC has also been involved in pan-European events, such as Training Meetings of the INSAFE organisation and in online events for the celebration of Safer Internet Day 2025.

Supporting children's rights

- The initiative 'Digital Citizenship for Children' is an extracurricular educational programme aiming to develop children's ability to become active and responsible Digital Citizens. It is a comprehensive program that provides parents with the appropriate tools to help them approach the topic of Digital Citizenship correctly and thoroughly, based on their child's age. The program focuses on fostering critical thinking regarding the use of digital platforms, developing responsibility concerning the rights and duties arising from the

use of digital tools, and teaching practices that ensure safety in the digital world. The Ministry of Digital Governance developed this program in collaboration with the Department of Primary Education/Pedagogical Institute of the University of Crete

Digital inclusion

- The Greek SIC joined forces with UNICEF Hellas, with the support of the Ministry of Education's Autonomous Department for Coordination and Monitoring of Refugee Education, to implement an action plan aimed at promoting online safety and digital citizenship education for migrant and refugee children living in Greece, as well as their families. Specifically, as part of the 'Back to School 2023' campaign, the Greek SIC, in collaboration with UNICEF, translated part of its informational and educational material into the most widely spoken languages among migrant and refugee children in Greece: Persian, Arabic, French, and English. The material includes informational leaflets on almost all topics related to safe internet use, such as cyberbullying, online grooming and exploitation, fake news, safety on social networks, excessive internet use, etc. It also includes stories for young children with messages about safe internet use and a manual for safe online navigation.

	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

The latest research of the Greek SIC under the title 'Violence on the Internet' which was conducted nationwide with the approval of the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs (Ref. No. 142639/ΓΔ4) between November and March 2023-2024. A total of 4,800 students aged 12-18 participated through an electronic questionnaire completed during class hours.

Example 2

The Greek SIC's collaboration with the National Cybersecurity Authority of the Ministry of Digital Governance for the organization of National Student Cybersecurity Competitions: an initiative that contributes to efforts to attract young people to the field of Cybersecurity.

BIK+ index 2025: Greece

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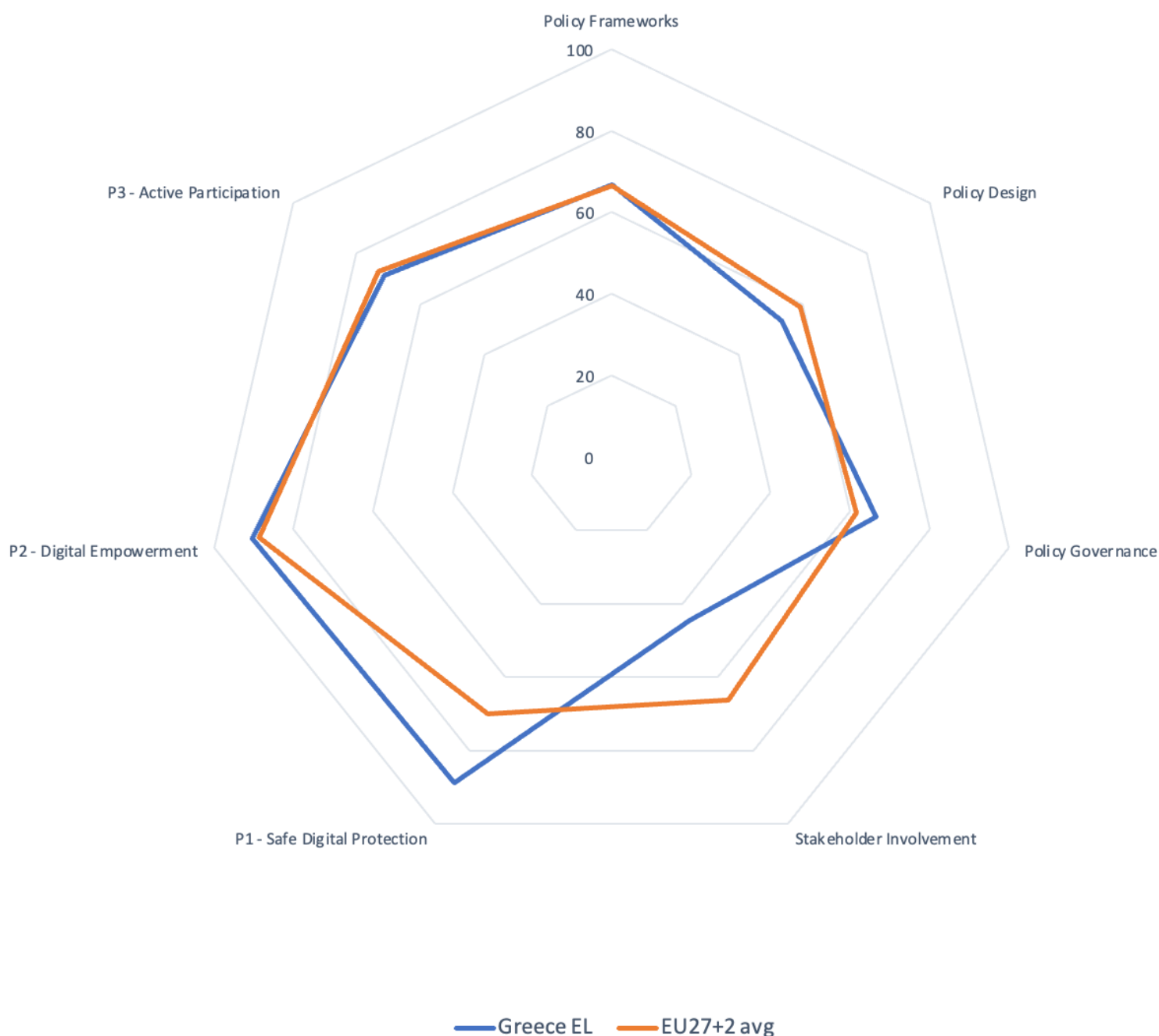

Figure 1: Greece - EU27+2 average comparison

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