

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

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 [Belgian country profile online](#) on the BIK Knowledge hub.

Introduction

Children in Spain are increasingly being considered in the design of policies related to their participation in the digital environment, including the work of the Experts Committee for the Protection of Minors in Digital Environments. The committee's working methodology includes the creation of various working groups covering key areas. One of these working groups is specifically dedicated to the 'Participation of children,' providing a structured approach to involve children in discussions and decisions concerning their digital environment.

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+ strategy is very important in the national policy** on children and the digital environment and is explicitly referenced in national policies.
- **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 Organic Law for the Protection of Children and Adolescents against Violence (LO 8/2021)(LOPIVI) (summary available in English) and the Eradication of Violence and Abuse in Childhood and Adolescence (EEVIA) Strategy aim to ensure online safety. The General Law on Audiovisual Communication (Law 13/2022) also includes provisions for child protection in audiovisual content.
- The Organic Law on Protection of Personal Data and Guarantee of Digital Rights (LOPDGDD) safeguards minors' data privacy, contributing to a secure online environment. Both LOPIVI and LOPDGDD emphasise the protection of children's rights in the digital realm, ensuring that their dignity, privacy, and overall well-being are safeguarded online. They explicitly address issues such as consent, information transparency, and the right to be forgotten, aligning with the principles outlined in the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child

General Comment No. 25 (2021) on children's rights in relation to the digital environment.

- **Guide on age verification systems:** in December 2023, the Spanish Data Protection Agency (AEPD) introduced a [practical guide](#) outlining ten standards aimed at protecting minors from accessing inappropriate online content.
- **Proposed legislation to enhance online safety for minors:** in June 2024, the Spanish government proposed a [Draft Organic Law for the Protection of Children in Digital Environments](#). Key components of this draft legislation include allowing courts to issue digital restraining orders against individuals posing online threats to minors; raising the minimum age requirement for opening social media accounts from 14 to 16 years; parental control tools by default in devices used by children; and implementing health screenings for teenagers to detect emotional disorders related to excessive internet use.
- **Recommendations on children's use of digital devices:** A committee of 50 independent experts released a report in December 2024 advising the Spanish government to limit children's exposure to digital devices.
- The recently created [Digital Rights Observatory](#) focuses on safeguarding fundamental digital rights and ensuring technological advancements respect individual freedoms. Among the safeguards included in the Digital Rights Charter are the protection of the rights of minors and vulnerable groups.

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.**
- **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.

- **Existing national research funding is available** for research on children and the digital environment, but this is **not explicitly specified**.
- **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 National Observatory of Technology and Society has published the survey [The Use of Technologies by Minors in Spain. Edition 2024 - Data 2023](#), analysing the relationship between minors and digital technologies, considering various demographic factors including gender, age, region, and household income.
- The Orange Foundation and Save the Children Spain, through GAD3, conducted the report [Children and Adolescents in Digital Environments](#), based on interviews with more than 2,500 people and the participation of 17 experts in the field. The report was prepared in November 2024.
- The Public Prosecutor's Office monitors and combats crimes against minors in the digital space. Its [2023 report](#) emphasised the growing challenge of online predators and cybercrimes, advocating for stronger industry collaboration to enhance child protection.

- The [National Institute of Statistics \(INE\)](#): collects data regularly on internet use, device ownership, and online activities of all household members, including children. [The Survey on the Information Society \(CIS\)](#), conducted annually, occasionally includes modules focusing on specific digital topics like online learning or media consumption, potentially including children's experiences.
- The [National Observatory for Telecommunications and the Information Society \(ONSTI\)](#), through its Cybersecurity Observatory, conducts comprehensive studies on citizens' technology usage, including online behaviours, potential risks, and emerging trends among young users.
- Other organisations, including the [Spanish Safer Internet Centre \(SIC\) Consortium](#), NGOs and research institutions, conduct surveys and collect data on specific aspects of children's digital lives and online safety.
- The [Spanish Data Protection Agency's \(AEPD\) Privacy and Digital Health Working Group](#) plays an important role in studying and proposing initiatives to protect the rights of individuals in the digital field, with a special focus on minors. It comprises experts in digital health, privacy, cybersecurity, and other relevant areas and includes representatives from public bodies and private entities.
- Following the report by the [Committee of Experts](#) and in line with the [proposed new law](#) for the protection of minors in digital environments, the launch of a comprehensive strategy for childhood is expected. So far, the Strategy for the Eradication of Violence Against Children, derived from the Comprehensive Law for the Protection of Children and Adolescents Against Violence (LOPVI), stands out. This strategy has been gathering information on the progress made in the country regarding violence against children.

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.

- **One central body is formally mandated to lead and develop policies,** guidelines, and programmes relating to children and the digital environment, if necessary, in consultation with other departments.
- **Coordination happens more informally across the different departments and entities** that contribute to government policies, guidelines, and programmes regarding children and the digital environment.
- There is a **defined national action plan on 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

- Over the past year, the landscape of public actors involved in the governance of digital activity policies has expanded. In late 2023, the Government mandated the Ministry of Youth and Childhood ([Ministerio de Juventud e Infancia](#)) to lead the [development of a legislative proposal](#) for the protection of minors in digital environments. This initiative also included the creation of an [Expert Committee](#) tasked with drafting a report containing recommendations for the various stakeholders involved in policy development and implementation, in which the Spanish SIC has also been represented. Throughout 2024, the Ministry has coordinated these efforts. Furthermore, in 2025, the newly appointed [Digital Services Coordinator](#) will join the efforts of various ministries, alongside the National Commission on Markets and Competition (CNMC).

- A strategy is expected to be developed to support the implementation of the [proposed Organic Law](#) for the protection of children in digital environments. In the meantime, the efforts of the [Spanish Data Protection Agency](#) (AEPD) have also been noteworthy, as it has led the Interministerial Working Group on 'Children, Digital Health and Privacy'. Additionally, the [Safer Internet Centre](#), which brings together 15 organisations, has played a key role in developing initiatives and programs to raise awareness about online safety and digital activities.
- Within the framework of LOPIVI, an assessment report will be produced to evaluate the compliance and the effectiveness of the [Eradication of Violence and Abuse in Childhood and Adolescence \(EEVIA\) strategy](#). This report, to be presented to the Council of Ministers, will be developed in collaboration with the Ministries of Justice, Interior, Health, Education, and Vocational Training, as well as the High Commissioner for the Fight against Child Poverty. The results of the annual evaluation report, which will encompass available statistical data on violence in the digital environment against children and adolescents, will be made public to enhance general awareness.

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 is a **designated multi-stakeholder forum in place** which facilitates the involvement of all relevant stakeholder groups.
- **Members of the public are consulted only when new policies are being developed.**
- **Children are actively involved in the design of policies related to their participation in the digital environment.** There are specially designed structures in place for this purpose.

	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

- Throughout 2024, the development of the [Draft Organic Law for the Protection of Children in Digital Environments](#) has involved a coordinated process among various government departments, public agencies, and law enforcement authorities to draft the legislation. During the process, a public consultation has been conducted to gather input from civil society, industry, and other relevant stakeholders.
- Other authorities have also conducted public consultations on key aspects of the policies under development. For instance, the [CNMC](#) launched a [public consultation](#) on the criteria to ensure the adequacy of age verification systems in video-sharing platform services concerning harmful content for minors.
- Representatives from two of the leading child-focused organizations have actively participated in the aforementioned Committee of Experts. Firstly, [Plataforma de Infancia](#), the coalition of organizations advocating for children's rights, organises consultations and workshops where children can express their views on digital matters. Initiatives include [La Infancia Opina](#) or [La Pinza de Cibercorresponsales](#), a network of young cyber journalists that takes part of the Safer Internet Centre program of activities.
- The [Consejo de la Juventud de España](#) (CJE) or the Spanish Youth Council also serves as a platform for youth organizations to participate in policy discussions, including those concerning the digital environment. Both can be seen as designed structures in place for the participation of Youth in the design of policies.

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

- The Ministry for Digital Transformation and Public Service has officially designated the [National Markets and Competition Commission \(CNMC\)](#), as Digital Services Coordinator (DSC) at the national level in accordance with the provisions of the [Digital Services Act \(DSA\)](#). The agency is expected to soon establish an action plan for the implementation of the Digital Services Act (DSA) in Spain.
- The CNMC is expected to play a role in monitoring and enforcing regulations related to harmful online content, including that which affects minors. In this regard, the [draft organic law](#) for the protection of minors in digital environments includes, among its additional provisions, the necessary changes to grant the CNMC the authority to remove online content harmful to children.

Harmful online content

- The legislative proposal for the protection of minors in digital environments includes, in its preamble, an approach to a classification of harmful content, based on the [classification displayed](#) on the SIC's website. However, in relation to the implementation of the DSA, it is necessary to further develop this classification to ensure it comprehensively adapts to the evolving digital landscape while remaining aligned with the local context. This is one of the measures proposed by the [Expert Committee](#) in its recommendation report.

- There is no single, universally agreed-upon definition of 'harmful online content' in Spanish law, regulations, or policies. However, several legal frameworks address various aspects of it:
 - The [Organic Law for the Protection of Children and Adolescents against Violence \(LO 8/2021\)\(LOPIVI\)](#) ([summary available in English](#)) does not include a specific definition of 'harmful online content.' However, it does define what violence against minors is, including violence carried out through information and communication technologies, such as threats, insults and slander, exploitation, including sexual violence, corruption, child pornography, prostitution, bullying, sexual harassment, cyberbullying, unsolicited access to pornography, sexual extortion, and the public dissemination of private data, carried out through digital media.
 - The [Organic Law on Protection of Personal Data and Guarantee of Digital Rights \(LOPDGDD\)](#) prohibits processing personal data that incites violence, hatred, or discrimination.
 - The [General Law on Audiovisual Communication \(Law 13/2022\)](#) categorises certain types of content as "unsuitable for minors" and restricts access accordingly.

Harmful online conduct

- National/regional laws, regulations, or policies in place to protect children and young people from intimate image abuse are covered under Article 197.7 of the Spanish Penal Code. This provision criminalises the disclosure of intimate images without the consent of the individuals involved. It aims to protect individuals, including children and young people, from unauthorised private and sensitive content sharing. Offenders may face criminal charges, including fines and imprisonment, for violating this provision.
- There is no specific legislation on cyberbullying in Spain, but there are laws that address these behaviours through various legal provisions, and those responsible may be held accountable both criminally and under civil law.

Article 173 of the Penal Code deals with the 'offense against moral integrity.' This article can be applied in cases of cyberbullying, often in conjunction with other criminal offenses such as assault, threats, coercion, defamation, or slander. Additionally, when cyberbullying occurs through electronic means, it may also involve computer crimes.

Age verification

- Spain is trying to enlarge the establishment of legal measures to enforce age verification and protect minors from accessing adult or restricted online content. [The General Law for Audiovisual Communication](#) (LGCA) mandates that providers of audiovisual content and video-sharing platforms implement effective mechanisms to prevent minors from accessing harmful content. This includes requiring age verification systems to ensure compliance with content restrictions. In addition, the proposed [Law on the Protection of Minors in Digital Environments](#) requires companies to implement reliable age verification systems to restrict minors' access to certain content or services.
- The [AEPD has issued guidelines on age verification](#), setting out principles to balance age-gating with data protection and user privacy.
- The legislative proposal for the protection of minors in digital environments includes a specific requirement that any age verification and control system implemented by video-sharing service providers, as mandated by Article 89 of Law 13/2022, complies with the European digital identity framework (eIDAS2) to ensure harmonised processing across EU member states. Spain is also part of the European task force leading pilot projects on age verification tools to protect minors from adult content online. The tool being developed is a mobile application based on the credential model of eIDAS2. This application aligns with the technical specifications of the European Digital Identity Wallet.

Commercial content

- In Spain, the [General Advertising Law](#) (Ley General de Publicidad) and the [Unfair Competition and Advertising Act](#) (Ley de Competencia Desleal y

Publicidad) provide some guidelines on truthful advertising and the protection of consumers from misleading practices.

- The [Spanish Advertising Self-Regulation Code](#) (Código de Conducta Publicitaria) also serves as a self-regulatory framework for the advertising industry. In addition, the Spanish Association of Advertisers (AEA) and the Association for Self-Regulation of Commercial Communication (AUTOCONTROL) developed a [Code of Conduct for managing relationships with influencers](#).

Mental health and well-being

- The action against addictions and abuse related to digital services is part of the Mental Health Strategy of the National Health System and the [2022-2024 Mental Health Action Plan](#). This plan was approved by the Interterritorial Council of the National Health System in May 2022 and has since been updated for the 2022-2026 period. The [Expert Committee report](#) for the protection of minors in digital environments includes specific recommendations on this matter, including measures to improve the detection and intervention in schools and in primary health attention and the proposal for the creation of an National Observatory on Mental Health.

	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

- The curriculum for primary and secondary education includes the development of digital competencies, ranging from basic digital skills to critical understanding of online information and internet safety. Primary education focuses more on basic digital skills, online safety, and responsible technology use, while secondary education delves into critical thinking, digital citizenship, and more in-depth online safety skills. The autonomous communities have some autonomy to adapt and complement the national curriculum according to their specific needs.
- The [Common Framework for Digital Teaching Competence](#) (based on the European framework) outlines the skills and knowledge that teachers should possess to integrate technology into teaching effectively. This includes aspects related to online safety.
- There is also the [Digital Competences Plan](#), a national initiative aimed at strengthening the population's digital skills as a whole. This plan addresses topics such as online safety and the promotion of responsible technology use.
- The [National Institute of Educational Technologies and Teacher Training](#) (INTEF), under the Ministry of Education, plays a key role in promoting the

use of technology in education. It provides teachers diverse resources and training programs covering various topics, including online safety. INTEF collaborates with the [Spanish Safer Internet Centre](#) (IS4K), coordinated by INCIBE, to offer specialised training for teachers in cybersecurity and online safety. This collaboration involves the development of training modules, workshops, and other educational resources.

- The Ministry of Education offers online courses and resources covering various digital skills, including online safety topics such as responsible technology use, digital citizenship, and critical thinking. Some of these initiatives are conducted together with the [Spanish SIC](#). The SIC provides workshops, webinars, and resources on online safety for diverse audiences, including families, adults, and teachers.

Digital literacy skills to empower young people

- The [National Digital Competence Plan](#) and the [Education Law](#) (summary available in English) both play important roles in fostering digital skills among minors, emphasising their critical capabilities and active participation.
- To further enhance digital education, Spain has launched initiatives such as the 'Escuela 4.0' programme within the Digital Competences Plan (Digital Spain 2026 Strategy), which focuses on computational thinking, programming, and robotics for both teachers and students from early childhood education through compulsory secondary education. This programme aims to reduce the digital divide and improve future employability by integrating digital skills into the classroom.
- Among measures to combat disinformation and foster children's critical media literacy are the following
 - [IBERIFIER](#) (Iberian Digital Media Observatory). Launched in 2021, IBERIFIER is a collaborative project involving over 20 partners from Spain and Portugal. It focuses on monitoring disinformation, conducting research, and promoting media literacy. The initiative offers training

sessions for journalists, educators, and students, aiming to empower citizens against information disorders.

- **MediaWise's Teen Fact-Checking Network (TFCN)**. In collaboration with the Spanish fact-checking organisation Verificat, MediaWise introduced TFCN in Spain in 2024. This programme trains teenagers to identify and debunk misinformation on social media platforms, enhancing peer-to-peer education in media literacy.
- **Responsables en las Redes** is a series of courses designed for upper primary school students, aimed at raising awareness about the importance of acting responsibly on social media and demanding the same level of responsibility from influencers. This project also includes the dissemination of information through periodic newsletters and the creation of educational capsules for teachers to use in the classroom, helping students work on specific aspects of social media responsibility.

	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 [Youth Institute](#) (Injuve) in Spain focuses on promoting youth engagement. The Injuve Youth Portal often serves as a platform providing information on youth opportunities, including events, campaigns, and initiatives related to civic participation and digital engagement.
- The [Consejo de la Juventud de España](#) (CJE) plays a role in representing and promoting the interests of young people in Spain. It often engages in initiatives related to youth participation, advocacy, and digital engagement.
- [Platfaorma de Infancia](#), a non-governmental organisation focused on children's rights, operates a [Youth Panel](#) that actively engages young people in promoting online safety, in coordination with the Spanish SIC.

Supporting children's rights

- The [State Strategy for the Rights of Children and Adolescence \(2023-2030\)](#) refers to the right of children and adolescents to participate in decisions that affect them, in the creation of safe spaces and to ask for help, learning to participate critically and actively in society. In September 2021, the State Council for the Participation of Children and Adolescents was created in line with the demand of the Committee on the Rights of the Child.
- The [Observatory for Children's Rights in the Digital Environment](#) will monitor and analyse the most widely used digital applications among teenagers to assess whether they uphold children's rights. As part of this initiative, groups of adolescents aged 14 to 17 will evaluate various apps such as Instagram, YouTube, TikTok, and WhatsApp to determine whether the digital environment enables children and teenagers to fully exercise their rights.

Digital inclusion

- The [Digital Agenda 2026](#) and the [Digital Skills Plan](#) are two key instruments that aim to stimulate the creation of digital content in Spain. These initiatives promote the development of digital skills among the population, support the production of high-quality digital content, and foster the participation of citizens in the digital economy.
- The [Skills Upload Jr Challenge](#) is a European competition that invites students, guided by a teacher, to develop solutions to everyday problems and use technology as a driver for positive impact in their communities. The 2024-2025 challenge focuses on 'Bridging the Digital Divide: Promoting Inclusion Through Digital Technology,' encouraging students to create solutions related to quality education (SDG 4), gender equality (SDG 5), and sustainable cities and communities (SDG 11).

	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

Safer Internet Day 2025 (SID)

On February 11, 2025, INCIBE organised the [Safer Internet Day \(SID\)](#) with nationwide initiatives promoting online safety. INCIBE held an event in Valencia with 475 students, streaming a program of activities. In collaboration with INTEF, they hosted the workshop 'Think, Connect, and Choose Your Path on the Internet.' The 'Youth Asks' initiative featured youth interviewing industry leaders from Vodafone, Telefónica, and MasOrange on digital balance. INCIBE also presented 017, the national cybersecurity helpline, highlighting cases of minors seeking help. The 2025 SID in Spain reached 27,000 students.

Example 2

Observatory for Children's Rights

The [Observatory for Children's Rights in the Digital Environment](#) aims to monitor and analyse the most widely used digital applications among teenagers to assess whether they uphold children's rights. Adolescents aged 14 to 17 will assess apps like Instagram, YouTube, TikTok, and WhatsApp to see if they help children and teens exercise their rights. This project, led by Plataforma de Infancia and PantallasAmigas, is part of the European SIC-Spain 4.0 initiative within Spain's Safer Internet Centre.

Example 3

Educational materials for upper primary school

[Responsables en las Redes](#) is a series of courses designed for upper primary school students, aimed at raising awareness about the importance of acting responsibly on social media and demanding the same level of responsibility from influencers. This project also includes the dissemination of information through periodic newsletters and the creation of educational capsules for teachers to use in the classroom, helping students work on specific aspects of social media responsibility.

BIK+ index 2025: Spain

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

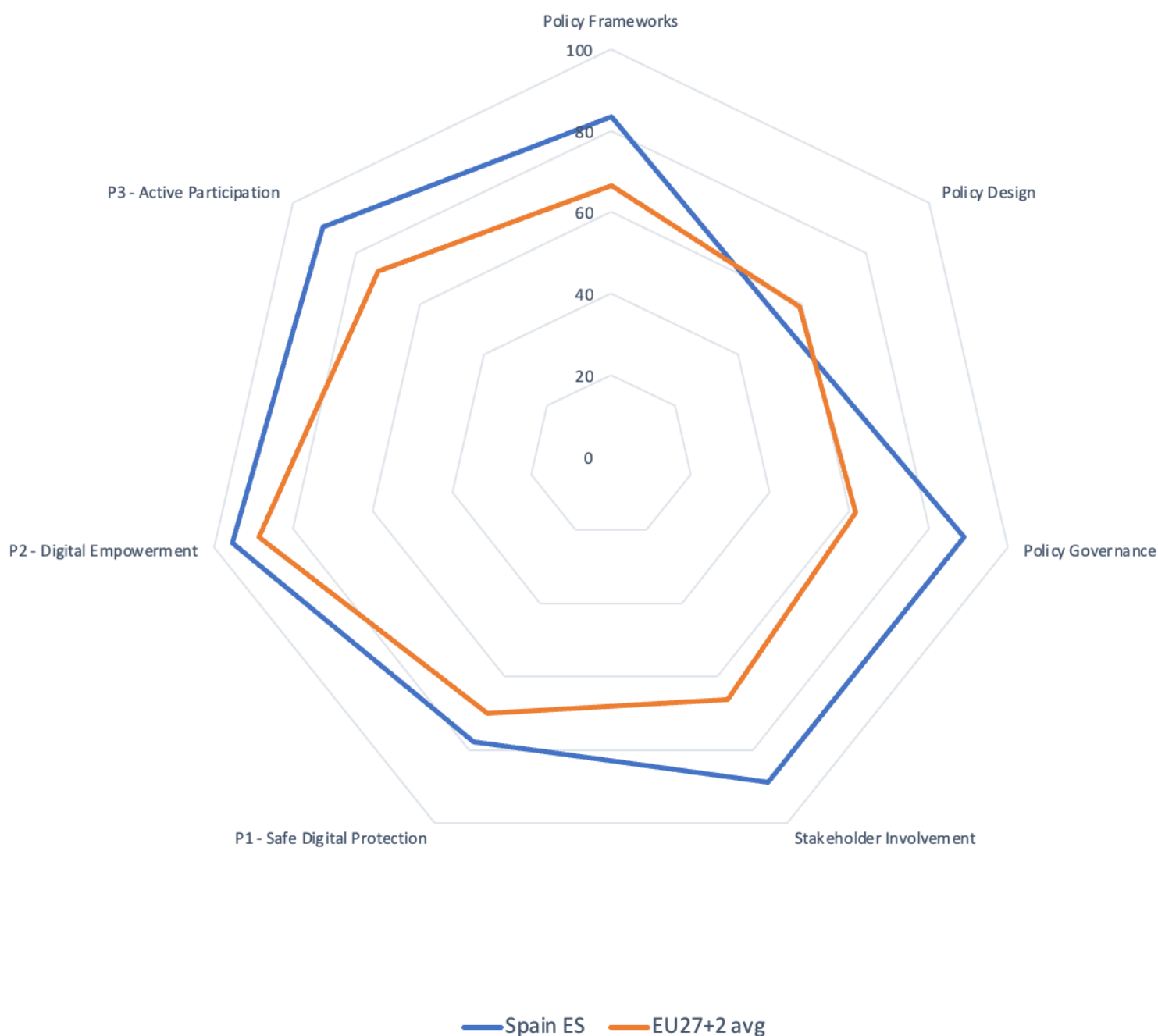


Figure 1: BIK+ index 2025: Spain - EU27+2 average comparison



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