

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

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

## Introduction

The [Lithuanian Safer Internet Centre \(SIC LT\)](#) exists to promote a safer and better use of the internet and mobile technologies among children and young people. The SIC is developing and expanding a national platform while maintaining three main safer internet services: awareness centre, helpline and hotline.

## 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 the topic of children and the digital environment** (protection, empowerment, and participation).

- **The BIK+ strategy informs national policies but is not the main influence.**
- **Children's rights in the digital environment are implied rather than explicitly recognised in** policies regarding children and 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:**

- Law on Fundamentals of Protection of the Rights of the Child (consolidated version 2024)
- Law on the Protection of Minors Against the Detrimental Effect of Public Information (consolidated version 2024)
- Education Law of the Republic of Lithuania (consolidated version 2025)
- The Lithuanian Child Rights Protection and Adoption Agency is responsible for implementing laws and policies related to children's rights, including those online.

## **Policy design**

Policy design asks if evidence and research are used to support BIK-related policies, and if there are systems in place for monitoring and evaluating those policies.

- **Surveys of children's digital activities are undertaken, but only irregularly** (e.g., the EU Kids Online survey data from 2020 is the only available source on a national level).
- Surveys of children's experiences of risks, harms and digital well-being are **undertaken on an ad-hoc and irregular basis**.
- **Information systems to support policy development is irregular and ad hoc**.
- **Regarding research funding, there are occasional special initiatives** to gather evidence about children and the digital environment.
- **Monitoring and evaluation is ad hoc**, infrequent and not systematic.

	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:**

- EU Kids Online research (2018-2020) was implemented in Lithuania by a team of researchers from Vilnius University's **Institute of Psychology** as part of the Lithuanian Science Council-supported project 'Lithuanian children and adolescents' use of the Internet: trends of threats and opportunities in the context of EU countries'.
- The Digital Ethics Centre (Skaitmeninės etikos centras) carries out occasional research such as a **study on problematic usage of internet**.

## 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.
- There is **no coordination mechanism in place**. Policies, guidelines and programmes relating to children and the digital environment tend to be implemented independently of one another.
- **Government policy has yet to be developed into an implementable action plan** at this point.

	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 **Office of the Inspector of Journalist Ethics** and the **Communications Regulatory Authority of the Republic of Lithuania** (RRT) are responsible for the implementation and supervision of the **Law on the Protection of Minors Against the Detrimental Effect of Public Information**.
- The **Ministry of Education, Science and Sports** and the **Communications Regulatory Authority of the Republic of Lithuania** (RRT) are responsible for the implementation and supervision of the **Law on Education**.
- The **Government of the Republic of Lithuania**, municipalities and **The Office of the Ombudsperson of Child's Rights** are responsible for the implementation

and supervision of the Law on Fundamentals of Protection of the Rights of the Child.

- Numerous institutions have activities relevant to children's safety online, covering, for example, digital policy development or a specific subject such as consumer rights protection. The [Lithuanian Safer Internet Centre \(SIC\)](#), as RRT member, is responsible for implementing certain child safety measures, such as combating the spread of child sexual abuse material (CSAM).
- Other relevant agencies include the [State Data Protection Inspectorate \(VDAI\)](#), the [Office of the Inspector of Journalistic Ethics](#), and the [State Consumer Rights Protection Agency \(VVTAT\)](#).

## 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.
- **Public consultation on this topic is infrequent and irregular.**
- **Children's interests are considered indirectly** (e.g., through analysis of existing surveys and data collections)

	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

While there is no concrete national coordination body, relevant stakeholders contribute input as required. The institutions listed above are the main stakeholders from the public sector side. The Lithuanian Police is another institution that is actively involved. Civil society and the private sector tend to participate when a specific case arises. However, there is no forum or publicly led vehicle to participate.

## 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*

- New updates to the [Law of the Information Society](#) include the EU directives 2022/2065 and 2024/1689 into the Lithuanian law.
- The updated Law designates the following competent authorities:  
[Communications Regulatory Authority of the Republic of Lithuania \(RRT\)](#) - Digital Services Coordinator; [Office of the Inspector of Journalist Ethics](#) – responsible for the articles of the [Digital Services Act \(DSA\)](#) associated with minors' protection; [State Data Protection Inspectorate](#), responsible for the articles of DSA, related to the protection of personal data; [State Consumer Rights Protection Authority](#), responsible for the articles of DSA, associated with the protection of consumer rights.

#### *Harmful online content*

- [Law on the Protection of Minors Against the Detrimental Effect of Public Information](#) addresses the area of harmful online content. Art 4 defines harmful online content as follows: "Information that has a negative impact on minors is considered public information that may be harmful to the mental or physical health, physical, mental, spiritual or moral development of minors".

- Warning pages must be installed before websites that distribute content harmful to children. Distribution of pornographic content in Lithuania is illegal, and if detected, it will be removed from Lithuanian servers.
- There are several Lithuanian institutions with the power to order the removal or disabling of access to online content which is potentially harmful to children: the [Communications Regulatory Authority of the Republic of Lithuania \(RRT\)](#), the [Office of the Inspector of Journalist Ethics](#), and the [Drug, Tobacco and Alcohol Control Department](#).
- Children may make a complaint to the internet hotline '[Svarus internetas](#)' established in RRT. RRT has formal written agreements with the Police Department and the Office of the Inspector of Journalist Ethics concerning the internet hotline operation, where the hotline's operational procedures are thoroughly described.
- In Lithuania, the [Communications Regulatory Authority of the Republic of Lithuania \(RRT\)](#) publishes information about parental control tools and parents' involvement in their children's safety on the internet. RRT is responsible for testing and approving filtering software to be installed in public places where minors can be present, e.g., libraries, computer classes in schools, internet cafes, etc.

## **Harmful online conduct**

- The protection of children and young people from intimate image abuse and cyberbullying are covered under the [Law on Education](#), Article 23, which addresses the protection of children from all forms of violence in educational institutions.

## **Age verification**

- Young people may open a bank account in one of the Lithuanian banks, use their national ID card to verify their identity, or even sign digitally. However, these systems are not used for every website or platform that should monitor and verify the age of their customers/visitors.

- Lithuania has developed two new tools for age verification that are available to youngsters (14 to 18-year-olds) with parental consent as well as all adults, which help to verify identity (including age) and sign documents electronically. The state registrar runs the LT ID, while [ADIC](#) (Identity Documents Personalisation Centre) is run by the Migration Department (using the Lithuanian ID cards with NFC) under the Ministry of the Interior.

## Mental health and well-being

- The Lithuanian strategy includes the actions taken by [the Lithuanian Safer Internet Centre](#) awareness branch trying to reach the society through education and prevention. Also, the Lithuanian helpline - [Vaikų Linija](#), has released numerous successful campaigns against cyberbullying.

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

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 incorporated into the national curriculum within the newly developed [gyvenimo įgūdžių](#) ('Life experience') programme at school. Online safety is only one of many topics addressed in this program. Cyber safety topics, such as password use, are also a part of the informatics subject school programme.
- As observed by the SIC, for instance, through the informal information exchanges during Safer Internet Day, schools create their own policies on expected behaviour regarding smartphone use or internet etiquette.
- The [Digital Ethics Centre](#) has also developed guidelines for schools on digital usage. A recent one is called [Iš telefonų į mokyklas](#) ('from phones to schools'), which aims to ban phones in schools for under-16-year-olds. However, no concrete strategy has been adopted yet.
- The [Lithuanian SIC Young Ambassadors programme \(Youth Council\)](#) is encouraged to participate in peer-to-peer training with their classmates or friends in extra-curricular activities.
- It has become a tradition for the '[Langas į ateitį](#)' ('Window to the Future') alliance, together with the Safer Internet Centre partners, to visit children's camps every summer and talk to the campers about the internet's opportunities and dangers. They discuss with them where they can turn to when they find themselves in dangerous or uncomfortable situations or when their rights are violated.
- '[Langas į ateitį](#)' also organises 10 Safer Internet lessons at schools annually. During these discussions with younger pupils, we raise awareness of children's rights in relation to the digital environment.

- The Lithuanian Helpline, [Vaikau linija](#), also promotes better awareness of children's rights through its answers to queries and by actively visiting schools. Vaikau linija, who is assisting in Europe with the single helpline number for children 116111, cooperates with the State Child Rights Protection and Adoption Service specialists. This makes it possible to ensure the availability of emotional support for children and the receipt of social and legal consultations and services.
- 'Vaikai linija' is a long-standing member of the Lithuanian Emotional Support Services Association (LEPTA), as well as a member of the international organisation 'Child Helpline International' (CHI), which unites children's helplines around the world.

## Digital literacy skills to empower young people

- Programmes such as the [Žinių ekonomikos forumas](#) (Knowledge economy forum) trainings for schools related to media literacy are supported in collaboration with the British Council.
- The [Knowledge Economy Forum \(KEF\)](#) is a professional NGO in Vilnius, Lithuania, with more than 50 members representing research, innovation, and education. It brings together politicians, representatives from universities, other NGOs, and high-tech industry members to act as a think tank/debate platform for the country's societal and economic progress in the knowledge society, innovation, and education.

	In place	In development	Other activity	Not in place
Teaching online safety	<b>X</b>			
Online safety policies in schools		<b>X</b>		
Informal education about online safety	<b>X</b>			
Adequate teacher training	<b>X</b>			
Basic digital skills training			<b>X</b>	

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

- There is a general lack of a culture of directly consulting young people regarding policy-making in Lithuania. The [Lithuanian SIC](#) is trying to shift this perspective by assembling a very active [Youth Council \(Lithuanian SIC Young Ambassadors programme\)](#). However, the Lithuanian SIC does not have a specific mandate for developing or implementing policies in Lithuania.

### Supporting children’s rights

- A key priority for the [Lithuanian SIC](#) is promoting active participation, youth civic engagement, and advocacy in the digital environment. Other institutions, such as the [Digital Ethics Centre](#) or the Lithuanian Police, indirectly contribute to this.

### Digital inclusion

- The [Lithuanian Agency of Non-Formal Education](#) communicates with vulnerable groups of children by attending events in smaller towns and villages when there is an opportunity (for example, the Subačius culture house event about safer internet). It also organises events such as Kultūru ratas (Wheel of Cultures) for various minorities living in Lithuania, where a part of the event was dedicated to understanding online safety and the topic of online bullying.

**Digital creativity:**

- Regional activities include camps, one of which is dedicated to being safe online, and various events during Safer Internet Week, during which the regional libraries participate in promoting positive digital content and services for children.
- The [Lithuanian SIC](#) is actively organising events as well as participating in other institution events while promoting children's active participation and digital creativity.
- The national [STEAM Centres](#) (Science, technology, engineering, arts, and maths) are actively involved in offering children the opportunity to learn and use their creative skills online and with various equipment (digital and analogue) to create digital and tangible products and empower their creativity.
- The campaign 'All Digital Weeks' is organised annually in Lithuania under the coordination of the association '[Langas į ateitį](#)' ('Window to the Future'). In 2023, the three main themes of the campaign were: Digital Skills for 'Equity, Diversity and Inclusion' – from basic to advanced; digital media literacy; cybersecurity and online safety. During the three thematic weeks of the campaign, Lithuanian citizens, including children, were invited to participate in webinars presenting e-services and the opportunities offered by the internet, participate in educational events in public libraries and educational institutions, and test and improve their knowledge in quizzes. The campaign activities reached over 30,000 Lithuanian citizens.

	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**

## BIK+ index 2025: Lithuania

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

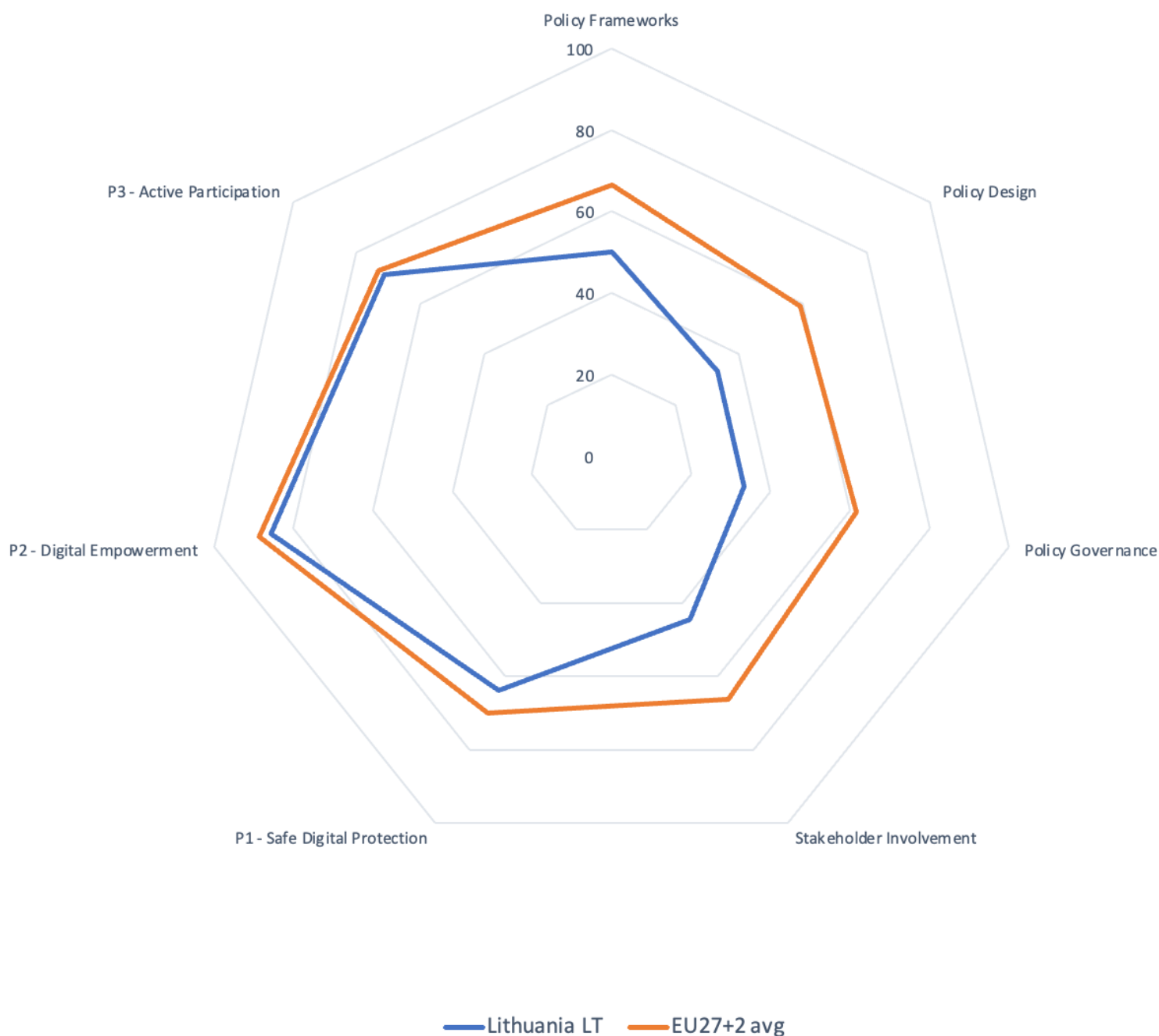


Figure 1: BIK+ index 2025: Lithuania - EU27+2 average comparison



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