

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

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

## Introduction

The [Safe Internet Centre Slovakia](#) has been officially operating since 01 July 2024. The project is supported by the European Commission's Digital Europe Programme and focuses on the protection of children in the digital environment in accordance with European standards. The Safe Internet Centre Slovakia is thus part of the European family of Safer Internet Centres, which is united by the international Insafe network. The national Coordination Centre for Resolving the Issues of Violence against Children oversees child protection policies in the digital environment in the Slovak Republic. Together with [digiQ – Digital Intelligence](#), it will form the component of the centre focused on raising awareness. The Central Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, through the [National Helpline for Children at Risk](#), will cover the helpline's activities, and the non-governmental organisation [Ochráň ma](#) will manage the hotline focused on removing illegal material (CSAM) from the online 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 is **one main overarching policy framework** that addresses the topic of 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** (i.e., it informs and guides national policies even if they do not directly refer to BIK+).
- **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:

- In 2019, the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family adopted the National Strategy for the Protection of Children in the Digital Environment.

This is the main overarching framework for BIK-related policies and focuses on three main areas - prevention, intervention and aftercare.

- The Government of the Slovak Republic approved the [Action Plan for the National Strategy for the Protection of Children in the Digital Environment for the period 2024 – 2025](#) on 17 April 2024. The document includes tasks focused on prevention, intervention, as well as subsequent care for both victims and perpetrators of criminal activity in this area.
- The Government of the Slovak Republic also approved the [Action Plan for Addressing Bullying in Schools and Educational Institutions for the Years 2022–2023](#) (including cyberbullying).

### 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.

- **There is a regular (e.g., annual or bi-annual) nationally representative survey** specifically focused on children's digital activity which informs national policies on this topic
- **Regular (e.g., annual or bi-annual) surveys include measures of children's experiences of risks, harms and digital well-being.**
- **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 undergo systematic and regular monitoring and evaluation** to assess the effectiveness of actions in different contexts (e.g., 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:

- Research reports from the EU Kids Online Slovak national team are available [here](#). In 2023, the research report: '[Selected Forms of Risk Behaviour of Children and Young People in 2023](#)' was successfully released. The Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic, through the National Coordination Centre for Resolving the Issues of Violence against Children, commissions annual research on similar topics, carried out by researchers specializing in the study of children's experiences and behaviours in the digital environment.
- The [Slovak Centre of Scientific and Technical Information](#) (CVTI SR) conducts regular research on internet use and virtual threats among school youth. These studies provide valuable data for national policymaking. Recent reports include: [Internet Use and Associated Risks Among Primary and Secondary School Students](#) (2024) and [Bullying and Cyberbullying in Primary and Secondary Schools](#) (2023).
- [Selected Forms of Risk Behaviour of Children and Young People](#) (2023) was a report prepared at the request of the [National Coordination Centre for Resolving the Issues of Violence against Children](#) under the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic. The research was conducted on a sample of 1,932 children and adolescents aged nine to 18. The research used a questionnaire that was primarily based on a survey instrument used by the EU Kids Online IV project.

- A specific monitoring system is in place for the area of children and the digital environment. According to the resolution of the Government of the Slovak Republic, the relevant ministries and the Director of the National Security Authority are required to submit to the National Coordination Centre for Resolving the Issues of Violence against Children reports on the fulfilment of tasks arising from the [Action Plan for the National Strategy for the Protection of Children in the Digital Environment for the period 2024 – 2025](#).

### 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.

- The **lead ministry, public agency or regulatory authority is an informal arrangement** depending on the requirements at a particular point in time.
- **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** 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

- The [Action Plan for the National Strategy for the Protection of Children in the Digital Environment for the period 2024 – 2025](#) outlines specific tasks to be

taken in support of the implementation of the specific objectives of the National Strategy for the Protection of Children in the Digital Environment, subjects responsible for the completion of the tasks and their deadlines. It does not, however, establish KPIs.

### 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	<b>X</b>			
Consulting the public on BIK topics		<b>X</b>		
Involvement of young people	<b>X</b>			

*Table 4: Topic summary - Stakeholder involvement*

- Representatives of the National Coordination Centre for Resolving the Issues of Violence against Children (NCC) and representatives of other ministries concerned actively participate in national and international working groups related to digital policies for children.

- Slovakia has an inter-ministerial working group on the [National Strategy for the Protection of Children in the Digital Environment](#), which is led by the NCC.
- NCC emphasises a participatory approach in policy-making. This method actively involves young people, particularly in discussions surrounding children's digital activities. The goal is to engage children directly in designing policies and strategies that affect their lives. This initiative has been an integral part of the National Strategy for the Protection of Children from Violence, where children from various regions of Slovakia have actively participated in the strategy development through in-person participatory meetings. The approach has been applied extensively during 2022, 2023, and 2024, with discussions held across Slovakia.
- In 2025, the National Strategy for Child Protection in the Digital Environment is scheduled for redesign. There is a plan to revisit the regions to gather firsthand insights from children on what is important to them in online protection. The discussions will include representatives from NCC, NGOs, judges, and police officers, ensuring children engage with these stakeholders as equals. This approach not only enriches the policy-making process with real-world perspectives from those directly affected—children—but also empowers young people by acknowledging their views and experiences as crucial inputs to policy development. The objective is to ensure that the redesign of the child protection strategy in digital environments is deeply informed by the actual needs and views of children, promoting safer online spaces through informed and inclusive policymaking.

## 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 [Act on Media Services](#) is currently in the legislative process. According to the draft law, the [Council for Media Services](#) is to become the coordinator for digital services (DSC).
- The Act transposes the Audiovisual Media Services Directive. It introduces an obligation of audiovisual media services providers to take appropriate measures to protect minors from content that may impair their physical, mental or moral development.
- The Slovak DSC – Council for Media Services coordinated the response to the European Commission’s call for evidence for guidelines for the protection of minors with the Trust and Safety Network. This working group, established by the Council for Media Services, operates on a national level and gathers important institutions from government, NGOs, academia and research institutes on the topic of digital trust and safety, including the protection of minors.

## **Harmful online content**

- A definition of harmful online content is not included in laws, regulations or policies at the country level.
- According to the Act on Media Services, the Council for Media Services has the competence to cooperate with online content sharing platforms in the effective, proportionate, and non-discriminatory application of their service provision rules. Under this authority, the Council for Media Services has established bilateral contact lines with representatives of the companies operating these platforms.
- The [OCHRÁNMA.sk](#) hotline serves to report potentially illegal or obviously inappropriate content and is intended for anyone who has encountered it on the internet.

## **Harmful online conduct**

- Non-consensual sharing of intimate images is covered under § 368 (Production of child pornography) and § 369 (Distribution of child



pornography) of the [Criminal Code](#) (though it is irrelevant whether the sharing of intimate photos took place without consent or out of revenge).

- National laws in place to protect children and young people from cyberbullying include the application of § 360b (Dangerous electronic harassment) of the Criminal Code.
- The Ministry of Education, Research, Development and Youth of the Slovak Republic issued Directive No. 36 /2018 on the Prevention and Resolution of Bullying Among Children and Students in Schools and Educational Institutions.

### **Age verification**

- According to the [Act on Media Services](#), measures to protect minors from content which may impair their physical, mental or moral development may include effective parental controls or age verification mechanisms.

### **Commercial content**

- The [Advertising Council](#) and its Code of Ethics for Advertising Practice (Etický kódex reklamnej praxe) aim to codify the ethical principles of advertising practice in Slovakia and thereby contribute to ensuring that advertising in the Slovak Republic serves advertisers and consumers as effectively as possible and meets the ethical standards for advertising. The Advertising Council is listed as a self-regulatory body in the register of the Council for Media Services as of September 21, 2023.
- Additionally, the self-regulation of influencer-based marketing and online commercial content on digital platforms is guided by the [Code of Influencer Marketing](#) (Kódex influencer marketingu), introduced in 2022.

### **Mental health and well-being**

- The Government of the Slovak Republic has approved, by Resolution No. 482/2024 dated August 21, 2024, the National Mental Health Program and the Action Plan of the National Mental Health Program for the years 2024-2030. This strategic program focuses on developing the mental health care

system in Slovakia. The aim is to ensure humane, modern, and accessible care for all residents of the Slovak Republic, with one of the emphases of the National Mental Health Program being on prevention and early intervention in the field of mental health care for children and youth, including in the online space. By 2030, it plans to create and regulate conditions, mechanisms, measures, and tools that will support mental health at the level of individuals, communities, and the entire population.

- In addition, the Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic is currently preparing a website for the Slovak Government's Council for Mental Health. The website will include an educational section on mental health, providing basic information about mental health, links to an existing support map, and direct links to organisations active in the field of mental health. The website launch is scheduled for no later than June 2025.

	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*

- In April 2024, the Ministry of Education, Research, Development and Youth of the Slovak Republic presented a framework for the regulation of mobile phones and similar devices in primary schools. Regulation is regulated by Act No. 245/2008 Coll., which enters into force on 01 January 2025. In primary schools, in the first to third grade, it completely bans the use of mobile phones. In grades four to nine, the use of mobile phones is possible, if required by the state educational program or by the decision of the teacher. The prohibition does not apply to students with disabilities using a means of communication for purposes related to a disability.
- The Ministry of Education, Research, Development and Youth of the Slovak Republic issued Directive No. 36 /2018 on the Prevention and Resolution of Bullying Among Children and Students in Schools and Educational Institutions.
- Additionally, the [National Project DiTEdu](#) provides teacher training and lesson plans for teaching cybersecurity and online safety.
- The new [National Curriculum for Primary Education](#) addresses digital literacy as part of the key cross-cutting literacies. One of the aims of the Man and Society learning standard is to be able to distinguish between trustworthy sources of information and to behave safely in an online environment.
- One of the main goals of the educational standard of informatics is to be able to use digital technologies - to meaningfully select and use appropriate tools to achieve goals and to work correctly and safely in the digital environment. A new curriculum is being prepared for secondary schools at this time.
- [Paragraph 153 of Act No.245/2008](#) regulates the issuance of a school code of conduct, which sets and regulates the rules in the school, where the school

may also regulate the use of mobile phones. The Ministry of Education, Research, Development and Youth of the Slovak Republic has currently set up an expert working group composed of experts not only from the school environment but also from psychologists and the third sector, who will set new rules regarding the use of mobile phones in primary schools. New rules on the use of mobile phones are expected at the beginning of April 2024, updating the ordinance on the use of mobile phones.

- The National Coordination Centre for addressing violence against children implements the educational programme Children's Safety on the Internet aimed at the professional public, teachers, helping professions, psychologists, social workers, etc.

### **Digital literacy skills to empower young people**

- Training in basic digital skills is part of the educational standard for informatics. One of its main goals is the effective use of digital technologies—selecting and utilizing appropriate tools to achieve goals, and working correctly and safely in a digital environment. This includes navigating web pages, searching for texts and images on specified pages, and understanding safe and ethical online behaviour. Informatics is a compulsory subject for grades 3-8, with each student receiving a total of 6 hours per week of informatics instruction at elementary school.
- The [Council for Media Services](#) has initiated a [Media Literacy+ Platform](#) to provide space for the exchange of best practices in media literacy. The platform's focus is on the general public, and its members' activities are aimed at various socio-economic groups, including young people.

	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	<b>X</b>
Creative digital skills	<b>X</b>

*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 National Coordination Centre for Resolving the Issues of Violence against Children (NCC) emphasises a participatory approach in policy-making. This method actively involves young people, particularly in discussions surrounding children’s digital activities. The goal is to engage children directly in designing policies and strategies that affect their lives. This initiative has been an integral part of the National Strategy for the Protection of Children from Violence, where children from various regions of Slovakia have actively participated in the strategy development through in-person participatory meetings. The approach has been applied extensively during the years 2022, 2023, and 2024, with discussions held across Slovakia.
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empowers young people by acknowledging their views and experiences as crucial inputs to policy development.

### ***Supporting children's rights***

- The [National Project DiTEdu](#) provides various outreach and public awareness activities promoting cybersecurity and online safety. Children's rights, including those related to the digital space, are discussed during participatory meetings organized by the National Coordination Centre for Resolving the Issues of Violence against Children. These are informal and irregular activities.
- Additionally, an [initiative](#) by the Office for Personal Data Protection was supported to establish a dedicated email address to enhance the protection of children's and youth's personal data.
- Experts from the Media Literacy+ platform coordinated by the Council for Media Services organised Media and Information Literacy Week, which was held between 24 and 31 October 2024. All activities prepared by the platform's initiative members this year revolved around the theme '[Opportunities vs. Responsibility: How to Live in the Digital World](#).' The week included workshops, discussions, and a conference and produced a guide for thriving online.

### ***Digital inclusion***

- The [National Project DiTEdu](#) aims to close the first digital divide by providing every school in the country with a basic level of digital infrastructure, including internet access and an 'inclusion set', targeting marginalised and disadvantaged groups.
- The Digital Youth Forum (DYF), organised by the National Coordination Centre (NCC), is inspired by a successful model from a neighbouring country and aims to engage high school students in Slovakia in fostering safe, creative, and positive use of digital technologies. The event features a rich mix of lectures, interactive discussions, technological workshops, and entertainment, including music and good food, to create a comprehensive educational

experience. The forum emphasises key digital themes such as women in IT, sexual education, video games, and environmental activism through technology, incorporating presentations from both experts and peers to foster a peer-to-peer learning environment. Held annually, the forum has successfully engaged 160 high school students in both Žilina in 2023 and Prešov in 2024, demonstrating a strong potential for further expansion.

	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 Competition

Organised by the National Coordination Centre for Resolving the Issues of Violence against Children (NCC), the Safer Internet Day contest is an annual event that empowers children across Slovakia to explore and express their views on creating a safer digital environment. Since its inception in 2023, the contest has encouraged artistic and creative responses from school children to critical questions about online safety and digital citizenship. The contest, held annually, invites school classes and informal educational groups to submit creative projects. These projects

address themes such as the meaning of a better and safe internet, envisioning an online world without threats, and proposing actionable ideas to improve the digital landscape.

The competition rapidly expanded from 75 schools and over 2,200 participants in its first year to 100 schools and 3,500 children in 2024, demonstrating significant engagement across Slovakia. This initiative not only highlights the creativity of children but also instils a sense of responsibility towards fostering a safer and more inclusive online environment.

### Example 2: Digital Youth Forum (DYF)

The Digital Youth Forum (DYF), organised by the National Coordination Centre (NCC), is inspired by a successful model from a neighbouring country and aims to engage high school students in Slovakia in fostering safe, creative, and positive use of digital technologies. The event features a rich mix of lectures, interactive discussions, technological workshops, and entertainment, including music and good food, to create a comprehensive educational experience. The forum emphasises key digital themes such as women in IT, sexual education, video games, and environmental activism through technology, incorporating presentations from both experts and peers to foster a peer-to-peer learning environment. Held annually, the forum has successfully engaged 160 high school students in both Žilina in 2023 and Prešov in 2024, demonstrating a strong potential for further expansion.

### Example 3: Activities of digiQ

digiQ realises its mission via 3 programs:

1. digiPEERS, the volunteer program for youth 14 to 19 years of age, offers a year-long education and awareness in digital citizenship. In 2024, the program received accreditation both by the Slovak Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Youth in the area of non-formal education and the Slovak Ministry of Interior in the area of volunteering. 30 volunteers delivered 126 outputs, be it workshops or educational materials for their peers on online safety, critical thinking, digital wellbeing, fighting hate speech and disinformation. They participated in producing



seven educational games aimed at the prevention of disinformation and co-led in training on digital safety for the elderly.

2. digiQ runs a reporting portal 'Report it' (nahlas.to), and its monitoring officers took part in the continuous monitoring of hate speech on major social networks. In 2024 800 examples of illegal hate speech were reported to social media. digiQ also participated in the last monitoring exercises run within the Code of Conduct on tackling illegal hate speech.

3. The Cyber4Kids programme is an educational initiative aimed at promoting digital literacy, online safety, and critical thinking among children and teenagers. The program focuses on empowering young people to navigate the online world responsibly and safely while being aware of the potential risks and challenges posed by the digital environment. Through workshops in primary and secondary schools in Slovakia, 4500 students participated in a 4-lesson-long non-formal education, with half of these students being in the age group of 11 to 13 years.

## BIK+ index 2025: Slovak Republic

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

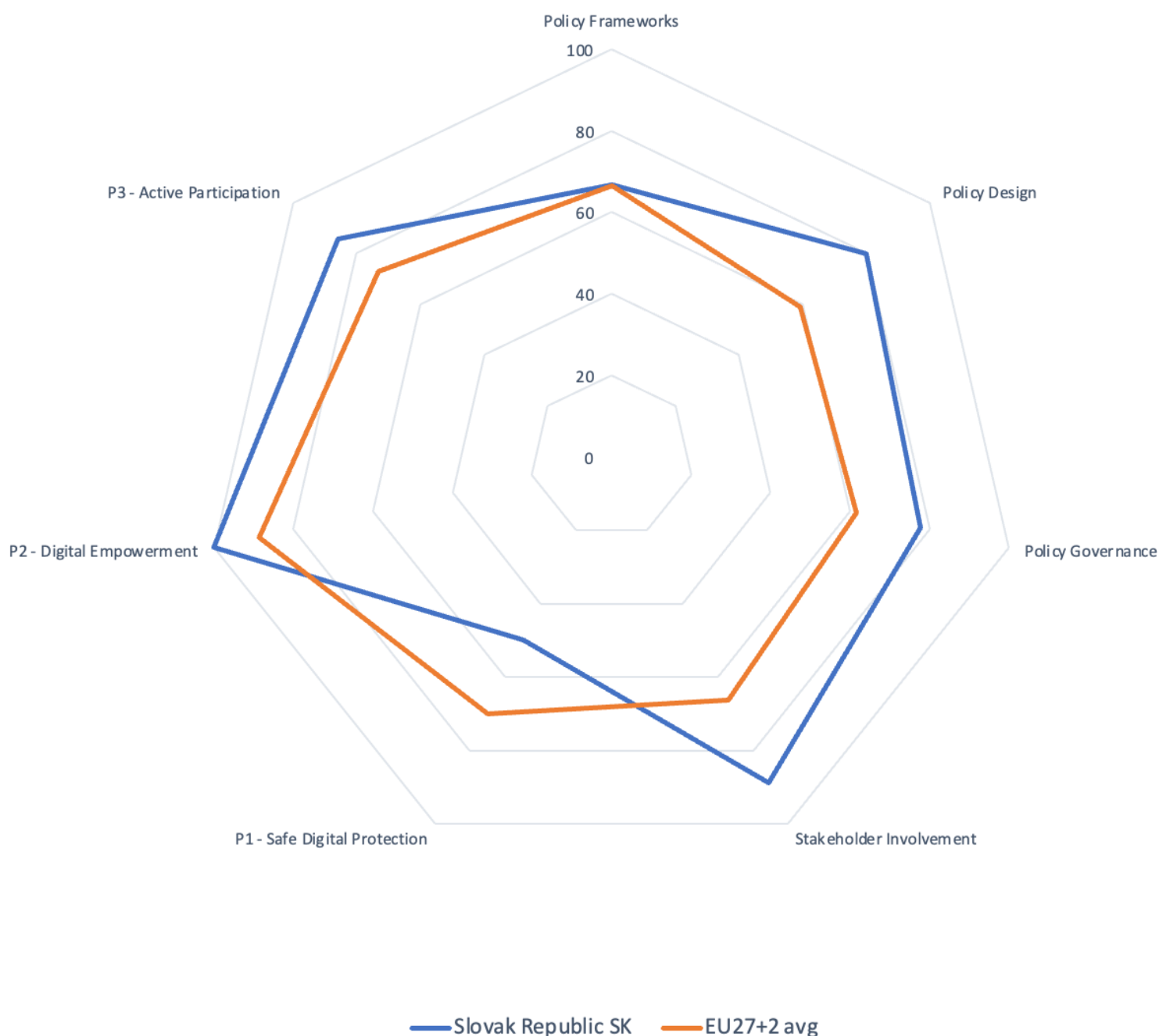


Figure 1: BIK+ index 2025: Slovak Republic - EU27+2 average comparison



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