

The logo for the Safer Internet Forum 2025. It features the text "SAFER INTERNET" in a dark blue, sans-serif font. Below it, the word "FORUM" is in a larger, bold, dark blue font. The letter "O" in "FORUM" is replaced by a red speech bubble icon containing three white dots. To the right of "FORUM", the year "2025" is written in a red, sans-serif font.

WHY AGE MATTERS

Protecting and empowering youth in the digital age



Thursday, 4 December 2025
Hybrid – Brussels and online

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Welcome to Safer Internet Forum 2025



Protecting and
empowering youth
in the digital age

The Safer Internet Forum (SIF) is a key annual international conference in Europe where policymakers, researchers, law enforcement bodies, youth, parents and caregivers, teachers, NGOs, industry representatives, experts and other relevant actors come together to discuss the latest trends, opportunities, risks and solutions related to child online safety and making the internet a better place. The Forum will take place in a hybrid* format on Thursday, 4 December 2025, with a theme of *Why age matters: Protecting and empowering youth in the digital age*.

The 2025 Safer Internet Forum will discuss how to ensure age-appropriate online experiences through a proportionate and children's rights-centric approach. The discussion will include age assurance methods, as well as other complementary tools, to support parents in making responsible choices, with some focus on video games. The discussions will contribute to the priority of the European Commission, as expressed by President von der Leyen, to further strengthen the protection of minors online. SIF will bring together a variety of public and private stakeholders, including children and young people, to discuss the current state of play across and beyond the European Union, and look forward to future developments.

As in previous editions, SIF will enjoy a youth-led format: the event is organised with the support of a [Youth Advisory Group \(YAG\)](#), which will work alongside EUN's BIK Coordination Team and the European Commission to prepare the SIF programme, and the role of children and young people in particular.

During the Forum, the sessions will be animated by the [BIK Youth Panel](#), composed of young people from the national youth panels of [European Safer Internet Centres](#) and children from the [EU Children's Participation Platform](#). Young people will express their views and share their positive experiences online, as well as their challenges, when using digital services with many other stakeholders, such as policymakers, industry, civil society, academics, parents and educators.

Please browse the full agenda on the following pages.

As participants in Safer Internet Forum 2025*, we hope that you will find it to be both a thought-provoking and inspiring opportunity. Whether joining onsite or online, we encourage you to use the event to:

- keep informed of emerging trends and issues, especially as they relate to the rights of all children and young people to be protected, empowered and respected in the digital environment.
- be aware of the importance of age-appropriate online experiences.
- facilitate knowledge, experience and good practice sharing.
- identify opportunities to collaborate with others on new ideas, resources and projects.
- contribute to the implementation of the European strategy for a better internet for kids (BIK+) and ongoing policy work in this field.

We look forward to working with you today, and in the future, to continue the mission of creating a Better Internet for Kids. Find out more at better-internet-for-kids.europa.eu.

A Forum report, presentations, and session recordings (where available) will be made available after the event and progressively published at better-internet-for-kids.europa.eu/sif.

The Safer Internet Forum (SIF) 2025 is organised by the European Commission as part of its Better Internet for Kids (BIK) initiative, with operational support from European Schoolnet. The event is funded by the [Digital Europe Programme \(DIGITAL\)](#). In case of queries, please contact the Safer Internet Forum Secretariat at saferinternetforum@betterinternetforkids.eu.

* All attendees should refer to the [code of conduct for participating in this event](#).

Agenda

Thursday, 4 December 2025

Please note: all times are in Central European Time (CET).

08:00 – 09:00	Arrival and registration <i>Onsite and online registration will both open at 08:00 CET. The Forum will start promptly at 09:00 CET. ALL participants are encouraged to register in good time.</i>
09:00 – 09:30	High-level opening and welcome Speaker: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Henna Virkkunen, Executive Vice-President for Tech Sovereignty, Security and Democracy, European Commission Chairs: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Erik, Gabriele and Marta, SIF Youth Advisory Group members <i>Online participants will follow a live stream of this session within the virtual meeting environment. Closed captioning will be provided for this session.</i>
09:30 – 10:15	Keynote presentation Why age matters? Keynote setting the scene on the general importance of social media and online content and services in the life of children, including its benefits and risks. Speaker: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Julie Inman Grant, eSafety Commissioner, Australia <i>Online participants will follow a live stream of this session within the virtual meeting environment. Closed captioning will be provided for this session.</i>
10:15 – 10:45	Coffee break

10:45 – 11:30	<p>Panel discussion</p> <p><i>How to better support parents to protect and empower their children online</i></p> <p>What are the next steps needed to create a better online environment where parents can confidently guide their children in the digital world?</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Renate Nikolay, Deputy Director-General, DG CONNECT, European Commission • Dóra Dávid, Member of the European Parliament • Niamh Hodnett, Online Safety Commissioner, Coimisiún na Meán, Ireland • Elisabeth Secker, Managing Director, USK (German Entertainment Software Self-Regulation Body) • Elizabeth Gosme, Director, COFACE Families Europe <p>Chairs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ishani and Philippos, SIF Youth Advisory Group members <p><i>Online participants will follow a live stream of this session within the virtual meeting environment. Closed captioning will be provided for this session.</i></p>
11:30 – 12:30	<p>Empowering parents, raising resilient kids: a partnership for responsible gaming</p> <p>A youth-led session which will evolve around where we are and where we should be heading in the video games environment. The discussion will touch upon age rating and parental control tools with voices from kids, parents, child online safety experts, and industry.</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dirk Bosmans, Director, PEGI s.a. (Pan-European Game Information) • Davinia Marie Muscat, Team Leader, BeSmartOnline, Malta (Maltese Safer Internet Centre) • Tomasz Smaczny, Parenting Educator and Team Coach <p><i>Online participants will follow a live stream of this session within the virtual meeting environment. Closed captioning will be provided for this session.</i></p>
12:30 – 14:00	<p>Networking lunch</p>
14:00 – 14:30	<p>Roundtable on potential age restrictions to social media</p> <p>Young people and parents will present, in plenary, what they consider their priorities for the discussion on potential age restrictions, which will follow in several breakout rooms for onsite participants and in a parallel session for online participants.</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BIK Youth Panel • Representing the voices of parents and caregivers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Amaia Echevarría, Director, Unión de Asociaciones Familiares – Marina Wetzer-Karlsson, Senior Expert/Consultant and International Development Leader – Tomasz Smaczny, Parenting Educator and Team Coach <p><i>Online participants will follow a live stream of this session within the virtual meeting environment. Closed captioning will be provided for this session.</i></p>

14:30 – 15:45	<p>Parallel sessions on age restrictions and fundamental rights</p> <p>For this part of the agenda, onsite participants and online participants will follow separate activities. Discussions for both groups will focus on how to protect children from age-inappropriate online experiences while ensuring their inclusion and empowerment.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="316 336 906 394">ONSITE parallel sessions</th><th data-bbox="906 336 1492 394">ONLINE session</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="316 394 906 1189"> <p>Onsite participants will take part in breakout rooms; room and table allocations are indicated on participant badges.</p> <p>The discussions will start with a quick round of introductions, and then the youth panellist(s) at each table will share some initial thoughts on the issues. Against this background, each table will aim to cover the following three areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children of today – how can we protect children from harmful online experiences while also protecting their rights? • Approaches to online safety service design, which could include age assurance but also safety-by-design, age-appropriate design and child-centred design. • Children of tomorrow – implications of age restrictions and what should social media look like in 10 years. <p>Each room will hear brief feedback from the tables in their room, and a rapporteur will collate feedback to share in the key conclusions session.</p> </td><td data-bbox="906 394 1492 1189"> <p>Online participants will follow discussions via a live stream within the virtual meeting environment.</p> <p>The session will be structured around three mini panels, which will explore the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children of today – how can we protect children from harmful online experiences while also protecting their rights? • Approaches to online safety service design, which could include age assurance but also safety-by-design, age-appropriate design and child-centred design. • Children of tomorrow – implications of age restrictions and what should social media look like in 10 years. <p>There will be an opportunity for audience questions and discussion after each panel.</p> </td></tr> </tbody> </table>	ONSITE parallel sessions	ONLINE session	<p>Onsite participants will take part in breakout rooms; room and table allocations are indicated on participant badges.</p> <p>The discussions will start with a quick round of introductions, and then the youth panellist(s) at each table will share some initial thoughts on the issues. Against this background, each table will aim to cover the following three areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children of today – how can we protect children from harmful online experiences while also protecting their rights? • Approaches to online safety service design, which could include age assurance but also safety-by-design, age-appropriate design and child-centred design. • Children of tomorrow – implications of age restrictions and what should social media look like in 10 years. <p>Each room will hear brief feedback from the tables in their room, and a rapporteur will collate feedback to share in the key conclusions session.</p>	<p>Online participants will follow discussions via a live stream within the virtual meeting environment.</p> <p>The session will be structured around three mini panels, which will explore the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children of today – how can we protect children from harmful online experiences while also protecting their rights? • Approaches to online safety service design, which could include age assurance but also safety-by-design, age-appropriate design and child-centred design. • Children of tomorrow – implications of age restrictions and what should social media look like in 10 years. <p>There will be an opportunity for audience questions and discussion after each panel.</p>
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15:45 – 16:15	Coffee break				
16:15 – 17:00	<p>Key conclusions</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maja, SIF Youth Advisory Group member • Liudas Mikalkevičius, Coordinator, Draugiškas Internetas, Lithuania (Lithuanian Safer Internet Centre) • Marina Wetzer-Karlsson, Senior Expert/Consultant and International Development Leader <p>Chair:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manuela Martra, Deputy Head of Unit & Senior Expert – Accessibility, Multilingualism & Safer Internet, DG CONNECT, European Commission <p><i>Online participants will follow a live stream of this session within the virtual meeting environment.</i></p> <p><i>Closed captioning will be provided for this session.</i></p>				
17:00 – 17:15	<p>Closing remarks, including the announcement of the Best Safer Internet Centre Resource of the Year</p> <p>Speaker:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yvo Volman, Director of the Data Directorate, DG CONNECT, European Commission <p><i>Online participants will follow a live stream of this session within the virtual meeting environment.</i></p> <p><i>Closed captioning will be provided for this session.</i></p>				
17:15 onwards	Networking reception for onsite participants				

SAFER INTERNET FORUM 2025

A YOUTH-LED EDITION

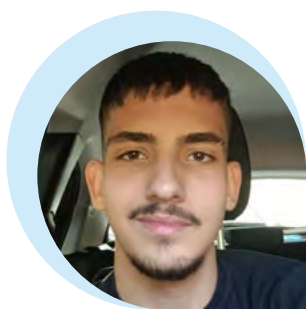
This year's Safer Internet Forum (SIF) has been organised in a youth-led manner, with young people playing an active role in planning, preparation, and delivery.



SIF Youth Advisory Group 2025

The SIF Youth Advisory Group is formed of six young people from various European countries. Over recent months, they have worked collaboratively at preparatory meetings to share their respective views and shape the development of the Forum's agenda.

Meet the SIF Youth Advisory Group members here:



Philippos, Greece

Hey! My name is Philippos, I'm 17 years old, and I live in Greece. I'm super into science and tech. I want to study Electrical and Computer Engineering because I love how things work, especially when it comes to maths, physics, and chemistry. When I'm not studying, you'll probably find me on the basketball court with my friends, while at the same time I have a black belt in karate. I also love learning languages, I speak four foreign ones fluently (besides my native language), because I'm really interested in communication and understanding different cultures. Learning languages helps me interact with people from all over the world and see things from new perspectives.



Ishani, Ireland

Hi! I'm Ishani, and I am 16 years old. I am from Ireland. I participated as a member of the BIK Youth Panel in 2024 and later became a BIK Youth Ambassador. As an individual who depends on the use of technology, it is only right that I strive to make it safer for others as well. My experience with the BIK Youth Panel has deepened my understanding of online safety and youth empowerment, and I'm particularly passionate about raising awareness around digital well-being and promoting positive online spaces for young people. I am more than delighted to return this year as a member of the SIF Youth Advisory Group and look forward to collaborating with others to make a meaningful impact and help make the internet a safer place.



Gabriele, Italy

Hey! I'm Gabriele, I'm 17 and from Italy. I'm obsessed with making tech work for people, not against them, whether that's through coding apps with friends, explaining AI on TV or online, or fighting for young people's rights to control what algorithms show us. I speak five languages because I love connecting with people across cultures, and I believe the internet should bring us together, not tear us apart. I'm here at SIF because I think we deserve a digital world that empowers us, respects our privacy, and actually listens to what young people have to say!



Erik, Lithuania

Hi! My name is Erik and I'm from Lithuania. I'm 16 years old and interested in digital art, video game design, and the psychology behind it. In my free time, I enjoy listening to music, watching movies, playing video games, and working on DIY projects. I have been a Safer Internet Ambassador in my country for two years now, and was part of the BIK Youth Panel at SIF last year. Topics that are important to me include cyberbullying, digital well-being and mental health, misinformation, and harmful content online. I care about making online spaces safer, more understanding and welcoming for everyone.



Maja, Poland

Hi! I'm Maja, an 18-year-old political science student from Poland and a BIK Youth Ambassador since 2023. I've been contributing on both national and international levels to make the internet a kinder and safer place. I believe that even the smallest spark can start a big change, and I'm thrilled to be part of this year's SIF YAG to turn ideas into meaningful impact!



Marta, Portugal

Hi, I'm Marta, I'm 18 years old, and I'm a European Youth Ambassador for the Better Internet for Kids (BIK) programme of the European Commission. My journey in advocating for children's rights online began with my participation in the Portuguese initiative Digital Leaders, promoted by the SeguraNet Awareness Centre (part of the Portuguese Safer Internet Centre). Since then, I've collaborated with the Portuguese Ministry of Education, taking part in various conferences and talks where I share my perspective on the challenges young people face online. I also work as a consultant for APAV (the Portuguese Association for Victim Support) on a project dedicated to promoting digital well-being among young people. Since joining the BIK Youth panel, I've participated in several online sessions on the European Union's Digital Services Act (DSA). I've also been a speaker at major European events, including the 2024 edition of the Safer Internet Forum and the 15th European Forum on the Rights of the Child.

BIK Youth Panel 2025

Each year, a Better Internet for Kids (BIK) Youth Panel is organised prior to and during the Safer Internet Forum (SIF). Drawn from national youth panels convened by [Safer Internet Centres across Europe](#), BIK Youth Panellists are encouraged to voice not only their personal opinions and challenges, but also those of their peers whom they represent at a European level. This year, youth from national Safer Internet Centres have been joined by five youth members of the [EU Children's Participation Platform](#).

Since mid-September, through a series of online meetings, BIK Youth Panellists have been actively preparing their contributions to this year's Forum by sharing their respective perspectives on better and safer internet issues with their peers, agreeing on key themes, and preparing awareness materials on these topics.

In the days preceding this year's Forum, a group of 33 BIK Youth Panellists from 25 European countries have come together, face-to-face in Brussels, to finalise their work which they will present throughout the course of the day. Together with the SIF Youth Advisory Group, they will also lead various discussions to ensure that their voices can inform the perspectives of the various stakeholders participating in the Forum, and influence ongoing work in this field.

We take this opportunity to thank the members of the SIF Youth Advisory Group and the BIK Youth Panel for their dedication and commitment to creating a safer, better internet for their peers and young people across the globe.

Meet the other Forum speakers and contributors



Henna Virkkunen

Executive Vice-President for Tech Sovereignty, Security and Democracy, European Commission

As Executive Vice-President for Tech Sovereignty, Security and Democracy, Ms Henna Virkkunen is tasked with combating the increasingly complex security threats facing the EU, whilst at the same time strengthening our external borders and our internal security. This goes hand in hand with her responsibility to ensure our freedoms, justice and democracy are strengthened too. Furthermore, she is responsible for the Digital and Frontier Technologies portfolio. This entails leading Europe's efforts in shaping a competitive, resilient, and inclusive digital future and maintaining or attaining leadership in strategic digital technologies.

Prior to joining the European Commission Ms Virkkunen served as a Member of the European Parliament for over ten years. As a Member of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy, her work focused on digitalisation and frontier technologies.

Ms Virkkunen has held various ministerial positions in Finland, namely Minister of Transport and Local Government (2014), Minister of Public Administration and Local Government (2011-2014) as well as Minister of Education (2008-2011).



Dirk Bosmans

Director, PEGI s.a. (Pan-European Game Information)

Dirk Bosmans is Director of PEGI s.a. (Pan-European Game Information), the organisation that runs the European age rating system for video games and apps. Based in Brussels, he oversees the continuous development of the PEGI system and works with national trade associations, government stakeholders and industry partners across Europe on raising awareness among parents about video game culture and media literacy in general, and age ratings for games in particular.



Dóra Dávid

Member of the European Parliament

Dóra Dávid has been a Member of the European Parliament since July 2024. She is a member of TISZA, the new democratic opposition party in Hungary. TISZA is part of the centre-right European People's Party, the largest political group in the European Parliament.

Dóra sits in the Parliament's Committee on Internal Market and Consumer Protection, where she focuses on EU digital policies, especially on the protection of minors online, AI policy, tech sovereignty, and simplification of legislation, among other issues.

Dóra is a multilingual, London- and Cambridge-educated, qualified lawyer with many years' experience advising multinational companies in competition, data protection, and consumer protection law. She has worked at international law firms, global tech companies, an international NGO and in an EU institution.



Amaia Echevarría

Director, Unión de Asociaciones Familiares (UNAF), Spain

Amaia Echevarría is the Director of the Unión de Asociaciones Familiares (UNAF), an organisation that has championed the rights and well-being of families in Spain for over 35 years. With more than 20 years' experience leading projects across the social and corporate sectors, Amaia has demonstrated a strong commitment to developing social policies and delivering public services that strengthen and support family wellbeing, diversity and gender equality. She holds a BSc in Business Administration, a BA in Business Studies, and an MSc in Marketing.

Her professional career spans both the private sector—where she has held senior management positions in prominent companies—and the social sector, where she has played a pivotal role in team leadership and the development of projects with significant social impact.

As a mother of two teenagers, Amaia also brings a personal perspective to the challenges families face in the digital age. Her extensive collaboration with families in educational settings has provided her with valuable insights into the practical realities of how families navigate the balance between ensuring youth safety online and supporting their development as confident, responsible digital citizens. Amaia also complements her professional work through active involvement in various associations, contributing her expertise as a member of Boards of Directors and bringing specialist knowledge on equality, social equity and family rights issues.



Elizabeth Gosme

Director, COFACE Families Europe

Elizabeth Gosme is a mother of two girls and the Director of COFACE Families Europe. COFACE is a network of 50+ family organisations across 23 countries advocating for the rights of all families without discrimination through various tools: advocacy and campaigning at the European Union level for strong social rights and gender-responsive family policies, building European research projects, developing practical tools to support parents, families, and children. Based on its digitalisation principles, 2030 Child Compass, and DigiGen research, COFACE works closely with the EU institutions, Better Internet for Kids, European Schoolnet, and key ICT industries to promote child rights and safety online. This is done through a whole-family lens, advocating for regulation, self-regulation, and education tools to empower children and their families in the digital environment.



Niamh Hodnett

Online Safety Commissioner, Coimisiún na Meán, Ireland

Niamh Hodnett is the Online Safety Commissioner at Coimisiún na Meán, Ireland's media regulator. She oversees the organisation's Policy & Research Division, including responsibility for the development of the Online Safety Code. During 2025, she is the Vice-Chair of the Global Online Safety Regulators Network.

Niamh has extensive experience in designing, enforcing and managing compliance with regulatory obligations at both an Irish and EU level. Her expertise spans online safety, data protection, cybersecurity, competition, consumer protection, and communications regulation. Niamh has brought criminal prosecutions for regulatory breaches, as well as civil enforcement compliance proceedings. She has in-depth litigation experience of appeals and judicial reviews.

A qualified solicitor, Niamh has previously worked at ComReg, Ireland's communications regulator, at law firms in both Ireland and Brussels, and in a variety of in-house legal and regulatory roles. She has co-authored books on European law and Irish regulatory law.



Julie Inman Grant

eSafety Commissioner, Australia

Julie Inman Grant is Australia's eSafety Commissioner. In this role, Julie leads the world's first government regulatory agency committed to keeping its citizens safer online.

The Commissioner's career began at the US Congress in Washington, DC, before joining Microsoft, where Julie spent 17 years in various corporate affairs roles. At Twitter, she set up the company's policy and philanthropy programmes across Australia, New Zealand & Southeast Asia, and drove APAC-wide Government Relations for Adobe.

As Commissioner since January 2017, Julie has overseen significant increases in the eSafety office's budget, increased staffing levels, and launched innovative programmes such as the Safety by Design and Women in the Spotlight initiatives. She has established herself as a nimble and anticipatory regulator, establishing the innovative tech trends horizon-scanning program in 2020. Julie and her team are currently focused on compliance and enforcement of world-first systemic codes and standards, and implementing the social media age restriction bill through 2025.

Julie serves as a Senior Advisor to the Technology Policy Design Centre and is the current Chair of the Australian Digital Platforms Regulatory Forum (DP-REG). She served as co-founder and inaugural Chair of the Global Online Safety Regulators Network and is a long-serving Board Member of the WeProtect Global Alliance. She also serves on the World Economic Forum's Global Coalition for Digital Safety; represents Australia on the Global Partnership for Action on Gender-Based Harassment & Abuse, and serves on France's Laboratory for Women's Rights Online.

More information can be found at www.esafety.gov.au.



Manuela Martra

Deputy Head of Unit & Senior Expert – Accessibility, Multilingualism & Safer Internet, DG CONNECT, European Commission

Manuela Martra is Deputy Head of Unit & Senior Expert in the Accessibility, Multilingualism & Safer Internet Unit, in the Directorate for Data at the European Commission's Directorate General for Communications Networks, Content & Technology (DG CONNECT). She has worked for the EU institutions in Luxembourg for almost 25 years, most of them devoted to supporting a safer and better internet for children. Her current work includes coordination of the EU approach to age verification and the preparation of the EC cyberbullying action plan. She is very committed to ensuring, through a multi-stakeholder approach, that citizens, and particularly the most vulnerable, benefit fully from the digital transformation.



Liudas Mikalkevičius

Coordinator, Draugiškas Internetas, Lithuania (Lithuanian Safer Internet Centre)

Liudas Mikalkevičius coordinates the Lithuanian Safer Internet Centre (Draugiškas Internetas). He has spent the past three years strengthening national efforts through the integration of international best practices, including the BIK+ strategy and elements of the Digital Services Act (DSA) framework. His work places a strong emphasis on meaningful youth participation, including those from vulnerable backgrounds, ensuring that young people can identify the online challenges they face and co-create solutions. Under his coordination, Youth Panel activities and cross-border youth exchanges are central components of the Safer Internet Centre's approach.

Liudas has contributed to international expert group meetings and regularly participates in national parliamentary discussions related to children's well-being and suicide prevention. His academic background includes engineering degrees from universities in Lithuania and Switzerland, as well as studies in the United States. While committed to technological progress and innovation, he advocates for robust safeguards to ensure that digital environments remain safe and supportive for children and young people from all walks of life.



Davinia Marie Muscat

Team Leader, BeSmartOnline, Malta (Maltese Safer Internet Centre)

Davinia Marie Muscat is BeSmartOnline's Team Leader at Malta's Safer Internet Centre, under the Foundation for Social Welfare Services. In her leadership role, Davinia Marie actively delivers talks in schools, engages parents and children, and provides specialised training for professionals to prevent and address online risks. As a Helpline Officer, she offers vital support to those affected by cyberbullying, online abuse, and digital wellness challenges. Her work as a Hotline Analyst involves intervening in cases of child sexual abuse material, furthering the mission to combat online exploitation. Beyond her digital safety leadership, Davinia Marie is also committed to personal development, helping individuals heal, find balance, and rediscover their true selves.

through a holistic and heart-centred approach. By integrating her expertise in internet safety and personal growth, Davinia Marie empowers others to cultivate a safer and more harmonious life both online and off.



Renate Nikolay

Deputy Director-General, DG CONNECT, European Commission

Renate Nikolay is Deputy Director-General in the European Commission's Directorate-General for Communication Networks, Content and Technology (DG CONNECT). In that role, she oversees the enforcement of the digital rulebook for platforms (Digital Services Act and Digital Markets Act), the policies on digital connectivity, data, media and audiovisual as well as international and interinstitutional relations.

Between 2014 and 2022, she was Head of Cabinet of Věra Jourová in her roles as Commissioner for Justice and Consumers and as Vice-President for Values and Transparency. Prior to that, Renate Nikolay was Head of Unit in DG JUST and served as a member of the Cabinets of Cathy Ashton and Peter Mandelson.

Renate Nikolay started her career in the European Commission in 2003 in DG Trade after having worked as a diplomat at the German Permanent Representation to the EU in Brussels and at the Federal Economics Ministry in Berlin.

Renate Nikolay has a law degree from the Free University of Berlin (Erstes und Zweites Staatsexamen) and a Master of Laws as a Fulbright Scholar from Washington, DC. She also participated in an Erasmus exchange with Grenoble/France.



Elisabeth Secker

Managing Director, USK - German Entertainment Software Self-Regulation Body, Germany

Since January 2018, Elisabeth Secker has been Managing Director of USK, the German Entertainment Software Self-Regulation Body. In this role, she and her team coordinate the age-rating process for digital games in line with German youth protection regulations and work closely with partners across the games industry, as well as national youth protection authorities. Furthermore, Elisabeth and her team are dedicated to helping families build media literacy around games through a variety of initiatives. She also serves on the Board of the International Age Rating Coalition (IARC), a system which provides a globally streamlined age classification process for digital games and mobile apps.

Before joining USK, Elisabeth was Deputy Head of the Department for the Protection of Minors at die medienanstalten, the umbrella organisation of the 14 state media authorities in Berlin. In addition, she serves on the Advisory Board of the Digital Games Culture Foundation and the Safer Advisory Board of an international gaming platform.



Tomasz Smaczny

Parenting Educator and Team Coach

Tomasz Smaczny is a Parenting Educator and Team Coach, promoting leadership inspired by mindful parenting. He is the author of „Pozwól dziecku być” (Let the child be) – the first Polish parenting guide inspired by the RIE approach. He holds diplomas from six universities; his multidisciplinary education (psychological, sociological, intercultural, and economic) allows him to view parenting from various perspectives. He co-created one of the largest Polish parenting groups on Facebook, Lepszy Tata – ojcowskie inspiracje (Better Dad), and acts as an ambassador for the Share the Care Foundation. He is a father to his 9-year-old daughter, Tosia.



Yvo Volman

Director of the Data Directorate, DG CONNECT, European Commission

Yvo Volman is Director of the Data Directorate in the Directorate General for Communication Networks, Content and Technology of the European Commission. Yvo studied at the Universities of Amsterdam and Strasbourg and holds a PhD in European law awarded by the European University Institute in Florence. He worked for the Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs in the areas of industrial and technology policy, before joining the European Commission in 1998. In the Commission, he deals with legislative and strategic issues as well as funding programmes related to the information market, digitisation and data.



Marina Wetzer-Karlsson

Senior Expert/Consultant and International Development Leader

Marina Wetzer-Karlsson is a Senior Expert/Consultant and International Development Leader specialising in well-being, sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), family policy, and equality. With a public-health-driven leadership approach, Marina designs, implements, and evaluates large-scale national and international programmes that strengthen population well-being and reduce inequalities. Her work spans NGOs, government, and global development contexts, bringing together strategic vision, evidence-based decision-making, systems thinking, and expert consortium management. She has over 20 years of experience in the field of public health and has secured more than €10M in multi-source funding, developed inclusive and high-performing teams, and advocated for well-being-focused policies at both EU and national levels. She is purpose-driven and impact-oriented and brings public-health-informed leadership that empowers people, strengthens organisational resilience, and delivers sustainable well-being outcomes across national, European, and global settings. Marina is a mother of three adult daughters and a grandparent to seven grandchildren.

Code of conduct for all participants

The **Safer Internet Forum** is a youth-led event with many children and youth in attendance, and we want to ensure their well-being and safety. Attendance at the Forum is an experience where **all participants are expected to act and behave according to fundamental European values**:

Human dignity and human rights

All participants will respect each other at all times and in all circumstances.

Rule of law

All communities function according to a certain number of rules. The participants agree to abide by a set of fundamental rules as set out below.

Peace

We intend to share and live this unique experience all together in peace and without any tension or conflict of any kind.

Democracy

All participants should be allowed to actively engage in the group discussions and express their opinion. All opinions should be valued and respected.

Solidarity

If any of the young participants need help or support:

- Carolina, the Child Protection Officer during SIF, can be contacted for help and support at carolina.fruscione@eun.org.
- Alternatively, Nathalie, the European Schoolnet Child Protection Officer, can be contacted for help and support at nathalie.scheeck@eun.org.

Freedom

Freedom is the basis of all democratic communities, but freedom must be based on the combination of all other values.

Tolerance

Participants and youth groups are a multicultural community; all participants should be broad-minded and respectful of other cultures, language performance and differences.

Equality

All participants are treated equally, whatever their age, gender, origin, or religion.

Other fundamental principles of the Safer Internet Forum

Cigarettes, alcohol and drugs

Smoking and the use of alcohol are prohibited for all minors; other participants are requested to consume with discretion in the presence of minors. Possession or use of illegal drugs or illegal substances are strictly prohibited.

Belongings and theft

The European Commission and the EUN (European Schoolnet) team will not take responsibility for any injuries, damage or theft of personal belongings (i.e. radios, cameras, etc.). We strongly advise participants to be careful.

Child and Youth Protection Policy

A number of measures and principles are applied when EUN Partnership aisbl (European Schoolnet) works with children and young people in order to ensure their rights and needs are protected. These are outlined in the [European Schoolnet's Child and Youth Protection Policy](#). Should you have questions related to the policy or concerns about your safety, needs and rights, please contact the European Schoolnet Child Protection Officer: nathalie.scheeck@eun.org.

Exclusion from participation

Any participant behaving in a way contrary to this set of rules and values will be immediately excluded from all activities.

A note on online participation

Participants attending the Safer Internet Forum 2025 online are equally expected to respect the principles outlined above. Any participant deemed to not be abiding by these principles, including in online chat/Q&A spaces, will be removed from the online environment without prior notification, and will be prevented from re-entering the online space.



Safer Internet Day 2026

Tuesday
10 February

Together for a better internet

better-internet-for-kids.europa.eu/saferinternetday



#SID2026

