

Country profile 2026: Italy

Introduction

According to the [Digital Decade 2025: Country reports](#), Italy's digital landscape is characterised by high-quality infrastructure and advanced public services, but is significantly hindered by a critical shortage of digital skills and a lagging business sector. While 5G coverage reached 99.5% in 2024 and Fibre-to-the-Premises (FTTP) expanded to meet the EU average, the country's ICT sector remains stagnant, accounting for only 3.2% of gross value added. The low level of digital skills remains a challenge; only 45.8% of the population possesses basic digital skills, a figure substantially lower than the EU average of 55.6%. This gap is most severe among rural residents, and those with lower education levels, and even the most skilled demographic – young people – lags behind their European peers. According to the [State of the Digital Decade Eurobarometer 2025](#), public sentiment reflects an urgent demand for safer digital protections, with over 93% of citizens calling for government action on cyberbullying and children's mental health online. Responsibility for policy development concerning children and the digital environment is distributed across different ministries and authorities according to their respective mandates. The [Ministero dell'Istruzione e del Merito](#) plays a central role in education, prevention and awareness-raising actions, including the coordination of the Italian Safer Internet Centre (Generazioni Connesse).

BIK policies

Policy frameworks

Policy frameworks describe the overarching goals that shape policies for a better internet for kids.

	High	Medium	Low	Not present
Policy priority	X			
Integrated policy		X		
Influence of the BIK+ strategy		X		
Recognition of children's rights			X	

Table 1: Policy frameworks - Italy

- ***This topic is being comprehensively addressed*** with children’s protection, empowerment and participation in the digital environment incorporated into 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 is an important influence on policy development*** on children and the digital environment.
- ***Children’s rights in the digital environment are implied rather than explicitly recognised*** in policies regarding children and the digital environment.

Key developments and policy frameworks

- In Italy, children and the digital environment are addressed through a set of separate but complementary laws, regulations and policy measures covering cyberbullying prevention, child online protection, data protection, media regulation and digital education. Education policies, including the [National Digital School Plan \(PNSD\)](#), embed digital citizenship and online safety within the school system, while sectoral regulatory measures are adopted by competent authorities, notably [AGCOM](#), including age assurance/age verification actions.
- Since the last Policy monitor, the framework has been strengthened by [Law No. 70/2024](#) ("Provisions and delegation to the Government for the

prevention and combating of bullying and cyberbullying"), which has enhanced coordination on bullying and cyberbullying within the [Ministry of Istruzione e Merito](#). Independent authorities, including the [Garante per la protezione dei dati personali](#) (GPDP) and the [Autorità Garante per l'Infanzia e l'Adolescenza](#) (AGIA), contribute through guidance and recommendations, while cooperation with the [Italian Safer Internet Centre](#) (Generazioni Connesse) and law enforcement supports implementation.

- The legal framework has been strengthened through the amendments introduced by [Law No. 70/2024](#), including the establishment of a technical board on bullying and cyberbullying at the Ministry of Education and the drafting of an integrated action plan. These measures are complemented by operational cooperation mechanisms involving the Ministry of Education, the Italian Safer Internet Centre, and law enforcement authorities, in particular the [Polizia Postale e delle Comunicazioni](#), including referral and cooperation procedures with national helpline and reporting services that support children, families, and schools in addressing online risks.
- The BIK+ strategy has had an important influence on policy development regarding children and the digital environment in Italy. While it is not always explicitly referenced in national legislation, its principles inform and guide national actions on child online protection, digital empowerment and participation. These priorities are primarily implemented through the activities of the Italian Safer Internet Centre (Generazioni Connesse), primarily implemented through the activities of the Italian Safer Internet Centre (Generazioni Connesse), coordinated by the [Ministry of Istruzione e Merito](#), within a strengthened multi-stakeholder partnership. In this context, cooperation with the [Autorità per le Garanzie nelle Comunicazioni](#) (AGCOM), as a consortium partner of the Safer Internet Centre project, further supports alignment between awareness-raising, regulatory perspectives and media literacy initiatives.
- The [Autorità Garante per l'Infanzia e l'Adolescenza](#) has continued to promote awareness of children's rights in the digital environment through recommendations and awareness initiatives, while the [Garante](#)

per la protezione dei dati personali has issued guidance and decisions reinforcing the protection of minors’ personal data, including in relation to online platforms and emerging technologies. These approaches are reflected in educational and awareness-raising activities implemented through the Italian Safer Internet Centre coordinated by the [Ministero dell'Istruzione e del Merito](#).

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.

	High	Medium	Low	Not present
Regular data collection	X			
Data on risks, harms, well-being	X			
Information systems	X			
National research fund		X		
Monitoring and evaluation		X		

Table 2: Policy design - Italy

- **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 BIK topics.
- **Regular (e.g., annual or bi-annual) surveys** include measures of children’s experiences of risks, harms and digital well-being.
- **Systems are in place at the government level** to gather information on children and the digital environment.
- **Existing regular national research funding is available** for research on children and the digital environment, but this is not explicitly specified.
- **Policies are regularly monitored and evaluated**, but not always systematically.

Key national research studies

- Evidence is drawn from a combination of sources, including ISTAT surveys and thematic publications (e.g., children and adolescents' living conditions and digital habits, including cyberbullying-related indicators), as well as administrative/education-based monitoring initiatives. In particular, ISTAT continues to publish relevant national data on internet use and online behaviours, while school-based monitoring provides additional insight into bullying/cyberbullying dynamics.
- School-based monitoring on bullying and cyberbullying is carried out through structured national initiatives promoted by the [Ministry of Istruzione e Merito](#), including the [ELISA platform](#), the official national hub for the prevention of bullying and cyberbullying.
- In addition, the Italian Safer Internet Centre (Generazioni Connesse), coordinated by the Ministry, conducts an annual national survey in the context of Safer Internet Day, in cooperation with academic partners and research organisations, including Skuola.net, the University of Florence and Sapienza University of Rome. These surveys provide recurring evidence on children's and young people's online behaviours, exposure to risks, well-being, cyberbullying, excessive use and emerging trends. This evidence base is complemented by national statistics (e.g. ISTAT) and data from helpline and reporting services, supporting evidence-informed policy development and educational interventions.
- Competitive research programmes coordinated by the Ministero dell'Università e della Ricerca enable universities and research bodies to address children's digital behaviours, online risks and educational responses. In the education sector, applied research and experimentation are also supported through public bodies such as INDIRE, often in connection with digital education and online safety initiatives implemented in schools, including those coordinated through the Italian Safer Internet Centre (Generazioni Connesse).

Policy governance

Policy governance examines how policies are coordinated at the governmental level, whether other implementation bodies are involved in their delivery and coordination.

	High	Medium	Low	Not present
Lead ministry for policy development		X		
National coordination body	X			
National action plan or strategy		X		

Table 3: Policy governance - Italy

- **Policy development sits across different ministries** with leadership officially distributed according to the area of specialisation.
- **A clearly defined, formal coordination mechanism exists (e.g., task force, steering committee) with a clear mandate.** It systematically engages all relevant stakeholders and ensures coherent, cross-cutting policy development and implementation related to children and the digital environment.
- **One or more programmes of action is/are underway supporting children’s online safety and participation in the digital environment.** However, these lack accountabilities, such as defined timelines, assigned responsibilities or key performance indicators (KPIs).

Stakeholder involvement

Stakeholder involvement enquires how different stakeholders can participate in policy development.

	High	Medium	Low	Not present
Stakeholder forum	X			
Public consultation on BIK topics		X		
Youth involvement in policy	X			

Table 4: Stakeholder involvement - Italy

- **A formal, designated multi-stakeholder forum is in place** that consistently engages all relevant stakeholder groups (e.g., government, civil society, private sector, academia, children, and caregivers) and plays a meaningful role in policy discussion and development.
- **The public is consulted during the development of new BIK policies.** While engagement is structured and meaningful, it is event-driven and does not occur outside of major policy formulation efforts.
- **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.

Stakeholder mechanisms

- The **Ministero dell'Istruzione e del Merito**, through the coordination of the Italian Safer Internet Centre (Generazioni Connesse), ensures structured and continuous engagement of relevant stakeholder groups. Within this framework, the Advisory Board of the Safer Internet Centre operates as a dedicated multi-stakeholder forum, bringing together public authorities, independent regulators, civil society organisations, academia, education stakeholders and experts to provide strategic guidance and contribute to policy-relevant discussions.
- Members of the general public are consulted in the context of policy development on BIK-related topics mainly through structured, event-driven and issue-specific consultation processes. Public engagement occurs, in particular, within initiatives promoted by the **Ministero dell'Istruzione e del Merito**, including those implemented through the Italian Safer Internet Centre (Generazioni Connesse), which provide opportunities for parents, educators and citizens to provide feedback on children's online safety, digital education and well-being.
- Children and young people are actively involved in initiatives related to the digital environment through dedicated and structured participation mechanisms. Young people participate through specifically designed structures such as Youth Panels and youth ambassador programmes,

enabling direct contribution to discussions on online safety, digital well-being and participation. In addition, the [Consulte Provinciali degli Studenti](#), promoted by the Ministry, provide an institutional channel for student representation and dialogue on education-related issues, including those related to the digital environment.

- Participatory initiatives promoted by the [Autorità Garante per l'Infanzia e l'Adolescenza](#), including youth consultations and advisory bodies, further support the direct involvement of children and adolescents.

BIK+ actions

Pillar 1 – Safe digital experiences

Actions to promote a safe, age-appropriate digital environment that respects children’s best interests.

	In place	In development	Other activity	Not present
Content rating systems for online/video games	X			
DSC measures protection of minors	X			
DSC-SIC working relationship	X			
Definition of harmful online content	X			
Complaints handling mechanism	X			
Intimate image abuse laws	X			
Cyberbullying laws	X			
Age verification requirements	X			
Digital wallet for minors		X		
EU harmonised age verification		X		
Laws on online marketing	X			
Protecting mental health and well-being	X			

Table 5: Safe digital experiences - Italy

Implementing EU laws

- In Italy, the rating and classification of video and online games are governed by recognised content rating systems, such as the PEGI (Pan European Game Information) scheme, which is widely applied by

industry actors and distributors. The PEGI system provides age-based ratings and content descriptors to inform parents, caregivers and young users about the suitability of games. Its application is supported through awareness-raising activities and guidance promoted in the education sector, including initiatives implemented through the Italian Safer Internet Centre (Generazioni Connesse), coordinated by the [Ministero dell'Istruzione e del Merito](#). While compliance with PEGI is primarily industry-led, it represents the established reference framework for age rating and classification of video games in Italy.

- The [Autorità per le Garanzie nelle Comunicazioni](#) (AGCOM) serves as Italy's Digital Services Coordinator. Together with other competent authorities, it has taken actions to strengthen the protection of minors online, including regulatory, supervisory, and monitoring activities related to online platforms and video-sharing services. These measures are complemented by national initiatives on online safety and awareness-raising coordinated by the [Ministero dell'Istruzione e del Merito](#) through the Italian Safer Internet Centre (Generazioni Connesse), ensuring alignment between regulatory enforcement, prevention, education and support services.
- There is a continuous and structured working relationship in place between the national Digital Services Coordinator and the Italian Safer Internet Centre. The [Autorità per le Garanzie nelle Comunicazioni](#), in its role as Digital Services Coordinator, maintains regular exchanges with the Italian Safer Internet Centre (Generazioni Connesse), which is coordinated by the [Ministero dell'Istruzione e del Merito](#). This cooperation includes periodic meetings, information exchange and coordination on issues related to the protection of minors online, media literacy and emerging risks in the digital environment.

Addressing online harms

- In Italy, definitions and classifications of harmful online content are included in national laws, regulations and policy frameworks, albeit through a combination of sectoral provisions rather than a single unified classification system. Relevant definitions are provided in legislation

addressing cyberbullying and the protection of minors online, as well as in regulatory measures applicable to audiovisual media services and video-sharing platforms.

- In this context, [AGCOM](#) plays a key role in defining and supervising obligations related to harmful content and the protection of minors, in line with national law and EU frameworks. In addition, data protection rules and guidance issued by the [Garante per la protezione dei dati personali](#) help safeguard minors from harmful practices in the digital environment.
- In Italy, individuals, including children, as well as organisations, can submit complaints and reports concerning harmful online content, cyberbullying and other online safety issues through multiple established and complementary mechanisms. At the regulatory level, the AGCOM provides procedures for reporting content and violations related to the protection of minors online, while law enforcement channels are available through the [Polizia Postale e delle Comunicazioni](#).
- Operational support is also ensured through the Italian Safer Internet Centre (Generazioni Connesse), coordinated by the [Ministero dell'Istruzione e del Merito](#), which includes dedicated reporting and helpline services. In particular, children, parents and educators can access the national helpline 19696, managed by Telefono Azzurro, as well as specialised online reporting services (hotlines) operated by Telefono Azzurro and Save the Children Italia, which cooperate with competent authorities for referral and follow-up where appropriate. Together, these mechanisms ensure accessible, child-friendly and multi-channel complaint pathways.
- In Italy, specific legal measures are in place to address intimate image abuse, including so-called "revenge porn". The offence is explicitly criminalised under Article 612-ter of the Criminal Code, which provides sanctions for the unlawful dissemination of sexually explicit images or videos without the consent of the persons depicted. Protection measures are complemented by procedural safeguards and support mechanisms for victims. Reports and complaints can be submitted to law enforcement

authorities, including the Polizia Postale e delle Comunicazioni, as well as through reporting and support services provided within the framework of the Italian Safer Internet Centre (Generazioni Connesse), coordinated by the [Ministero dell'Istruzione e del Merito](#).

Age assurance

- National rules on the protection of minors apply to audiovisual media services and video-sharing platforms, and specific regulatory measures on age verification have been adopted and are supervised by AGCOM, including those regarding content harmful to minors. These requirements are implemented in alignment with EU law and have been further reinforced in the context of the application of the Digital Services Act. In parallel, the [Garante per la protezione dei dati personali](#) provides guidance and oversight to ensure that age assurance mechanisms comply with data protection principles, including proportionality, data minimisation and the protection of minors' personal data. Awareness-raising and educational actions supporting safe access to online content are promoted through initiatives coordinated by the [Ministero dell'Istruzione e del Merito](#), notably via the [Italian Safer Internet Centre](#) (Generazioni Connesse).
- The European Digital Identity (EUDI) Wallet is currently being developed and tested in line with EU-level initiatives, with a primary focus on adult users. At this stage, there is no dedicated national plan for the systematic rollout of the EUDI Wallet for minors. However, the issue of secure digital identification and age assurance for children and adolescents is actively discussed at the national level in the context of online child protection.
- AGCOM has contributed to the national debate by putting forward proposals and recommendations on age assurance and age verification mechanisms, including reflections on the potential role of interoperable European solutions in ensuring effective and privacy-preserving protection of minors online. In line with the recommendations of the 2025 State of the Digital Decade report, Italian authorities continue to follow EU developments and technical standards related to electronic

identification, while any future extension of the EUDI Wallet to minors would need to ensure strong safeguards for children's rights, data protection and parental involvement.

Supporting digital well-being

- Online commercial practices that may affect children, including influencer marketing, unfair commercial practices and manipulative design practices (commonly referred to as "dark patterns"), are addressed through a combination of national consumer protection law, sectoral regulation and regulatory enforcement, rather than through a single dedicated legal instrument.
- The general framework on unfair commercial practices also applies to online environments and provides enhanced protection for minors. Independent authorities primarily ensure enforcement and guidance. The [Autorità Garante della Concorrenza e del Mercato](#) is competent for unfair and misleading commercial practices, including those carried out online and through influencer marketing, and has intervened in cases involving inadequate transparency and practices targeting vulnerable consumers, including minors.
- AGCOM oversees audiovisual and online media services, including commercial communications disseminated via digital platforms, with a particular focus on protecting minors. In addition, the [Garante per la protezione dei dati personali](#) addresses data-driven and manipulative practices through the application of data protection rules, including guidance and enforcement actions relevant to profiling, consent and design choices that may unduly influence children's behaviour online.
- Measures are in place at the national and regional levels to support and protect children's mental health and well-being in relation to their online experiences, primarily through prevention, education, support services and awareness-raising initiatives. At the national level, the [Ministero dell'Istruzione e del Merito](#) promotes actions within schools aimed at fostering digital well-being, responsible online behaviour and awareness

of risks such as cyberbullying, online pressure and excessive use. These actions are supported operationally by the Italian Safer Internet Centre (Generazioni Connesse), which provides educational resources, helpline services, and youth participation activities that address the impact of the digital environment on well-being.

- In addition, child support services and helplines, including those operated by Telefono Azzurro, offer assistance to children and adolescents experiencing distress related to online activities. Regional and local authorities may also implement complementary initiatives in the fields of health promotion, psychological support and youth services. While these measures contribute to protecting children’s mental health and well-being online, they are generally integrated into broader child protection, education and health policies rather than framed within a single dedicated national strategy focused exclusively on the online dimension.

Pillar 2 – Digital empowerment

	In place	In development	Other activity	Not present
Teaching online safety	X			
Digital skills training	X			
Policies on digital use in schools	X			
Adequate teacher training	X			
Non-formal online safety education	X			
Critical media literacy	X			
Creative digital skills	X			
Supports for parents	X			

Table 6: Digital empowerment - Italy

Digital empowerment in formal education

- Digital citizenship, online safety, data protection and responsible online behaviour are embedded within Educazione civica, which is compulsory at all school levels and includes specific references to digital rights, duties and risks in the online environment. In addition, digital education objectives are supported by national education policies and guidance promoted by the [Ministero dell’Istruzione e del Merito](#), notably through the [Piano Nazionale Scuola Digitale \(PNSD\)](#), which fosters the integration of digital competence, media literacy and online safety across teaching and learning practices.
- At the primary level, provision focuses on age-appropriate awareness, safe behaviours and basic digital literacy, while at the secondary level it addresses more complex issues such as cyberbullying, privacy, digital identity, critical thinking and the responsible use of online platforms. These curricular provisions are complemented by training, educational resources, and awareness-raising activities implemented through the [Italian Safer Internet Centre](#) (Generazioni Connesse), which support schools and teachers in translating curriculum objectives into classroom practice.
- Training in basic digital skills is a core component of the education system and is integrated into the national curriculum through a cross-curricular approach rather than as a standalone subject. Key areas such as information and data literacy, communication and collaboration, digital content creation, online safety, and problem-solving are embedded in compulsory Educazione civica and across different subjects at primary and secondary levels.
- National and school-level policies are in place to guide the use of digital technologies in schools, addressing issues such as responsible device use, online behaviour, and the prevention and management of cyberbullying. The [Ministero dell’Istruzione e del Merito](#) provides a national policy framework through legislation, guidelines and administrative acts that define principles and responsibilities for the educational use of digital technologies. Schools are required to adopt internal regulations and codes of conduct that may include rules on the

use of smartphones and digital devices during school time, expected online behaviour and procedures for handling cyberbullying and online safety incidents.

- National measures on cyberbullying prevention, established by Law No. 71/2017 as amended, provide a common reference framework for schools, including reporting procedures and protective measures. These policies are supported by educational guidance, training, and operational tools made available by the Italian Safer Internet Centre (Generazioni Connesse), which assists schools in developing e-policies, awareness-raising activities, and response mechanisms. Regional and local authorities may complement national guidance with additional initiatives, while implementation is tailored to each school's specific educational context.
- National and regional activities are in place to support both pre-service and in-service teacher training on online safety and responsible use of digital technologies. At the national level, the [Ministero dell'Istruzione e del Merito](#) promotes continuous professional development for teachers through structured training programmes and guidance addressing digital competences, online safety, cyberbullying prevention and digital well-being. In-service training is supported through national training plans and dedicated initiatives implemented by public bodies such as INDIRE, which provides resources, courses and communities of practice for teachers on digital education and safe online behaviour.

Digital empowerment and lifelong learning

- At the national level, the [Ministero dell'Istruzione e del Merito](#) supports and coordinates non-formal education actions through the Italian SIC, which delivers campaigns, workshops, peer education activities and youth-led initiatives addressing online safety, digital well-being and responsible online behaviour. In addition, civil society organisations and NGOs play a key role in the non-formal education landscape. Organisations such as Telefono Azzurro and Save the Children Italia implement outreach activities, youth engagement programmes, and awareness initiatives targeting children, adolescents, parents, and

educators in informal settings, including youth centres, community spaces, and online environments.

- Media and digital literacy are promoted within national education policies coordinated by the [Ministero dell'Istruzione e del Merito](#), notably through compulsory Educazione civica and broader digital education initiatives. These actions are supported operationally by the SIC, which implements campaigns, educational resources, and youth engagement activities that address disinformation, critical thinking, and responsible media consumption. In addition, Italy participates in the European Digital Media Observatory network through the Italian Digital Media Observatory, which contributes to countering disinformation through research, public events, workshops and media literacy activities, including initiatives relevant to young audiences.
- Professional and civil society actors also play a role: initiatives promoted by the Ordine dei Giornalisti and its foundations support educational programmes in schools aimed at improving students' understanding of news production, fact-checking and the risks of misinformation. Furthermore, the Autorità per le Garanzie nelle Comunicazioni promotes media literacy initiatives and monitoring activities in the information environment, with particular attention to the protection of minors. Regional and local authorities, universities, and NGOs may complement national actions through projects and campaigns that support critical media literacy and resilience against online disinformation. Together, these initiatives contribute to a coordinated effort to foster critical media literacy and counter disinformation affecting children and adolescents.
- The [Ministero dell'Istruzione e del Merito](#) supports creative and innovative uses of digital tools within schools through digital education policies and programmes that foster creativity, problem-solving and active participation, including activities linked to coding, digital storytelling, multimedia production and creative use of emerging technologies. These objectives are supported operationally by the Italian Safer Internet Centre (Generazioni Connesse), which promotes youth-led initiatives, creative campaigns, peer education activities and

participatory formats enabling children and adolescents to express themselves through digital media in a safe and responsible way.

- Further initiatives support parents in promoting online safety and developing their children’s digital skills through programmes delivered by civil society organisations, foundations and private-sector stakeholders active in the digital education ecosystem. Several non-profit organisations and foundations, including Associazione Fare per Bene, Pepita Onlus, the Fondazione Carolina – Centro di Prevenzione al Cyberbullismo and the Fondazione Mondo Digitale, implement awareness campaigns, parental guidance programmes and training activities focused on digital well-being and online risk prevention.
- In addition, private-sector actors such as Google, Meta (Facebook), and Hewlett Packard Enterprise contribute through educational initiatives and resources for families, often in cooperation with public institutions and NGOs. Together, these actions complement the SIC by providing parents with practical tools from institutions and NGOs.

Pillar 3 – Active participation, respecting children’s rights

	In place	In development	Other activity	Not present
Promoting civic engagement	X			
Promoting children's rights	X			
Child-friendly policy documents		X		
Addressing digital inequalities	X			
Positive digital content	X			

Table 7: Active participation, respecting rights - Italy

Active participation

- National and regional initiatives promote youth civic engagement and active participation in democratic processes and public life. Within the education system, the [Ministero dell’Istruzione e del Merito](#) supports

youth participation through institutional mechanisms such as student representative bodies and Consulte studentesche, which provide structured opportunities for civic engagement and democratic dialogue. In addition, specific programmes promoted by public authorities, civil society, and private-sector partners foster active citizenship among young people. These include initiatives implemented by Skuola. net, in cooperation with Meta, which promotes awareness, participation and responsible civic engagement in digital environments.

- The [Autorità Garante per l'Infanzia e l'Adolescenza](#) promotes youth participation through dedicated programmes, including initiatives involving youth ambassadors and consultative mechanisms that enable children and adolescents to express their views and engage with institutions.
- Child-friendly communication of policies and rights is promoted through a range of institutional practices and coordinated initiatives. The [Autorità Garante per l' Infanzia e l'Adolescenza](#) plays a key role in producing accessible and age-appropriate materials to raise awareness of children's rights, including in the digital environment. Within this framework, the Italian Safer Internet Centre (Generazioni Connesse) supports children's understanding of digital rights and responsibilities by translating complex policy and regulatory concepts into child-friendly language and educational resources, including with regard to data protection (GDPR) and online platform regulation (DSA).
- Complementary awareness and prevention activities are also carried out by the Polizia Postale e delle Comunicazioni through outreach and educational initiatives. In addition, all partners of the SIC consortium and members of its Advisory Board contribute to these objectives by developing and delivering campaigns, materials, and educational initiatives to improve children's understanding of their rights and protections in the digital environment. Together, these practices enhance accessibility and comprehension for minors, even though they are not embedded in a single centralised government system.

Addressing digital inequalities

- Measures to improve connectivity and access to digital services, including in rural and disadvantaged areas, are implemented through national and regional programmes, contributing to more equitable access for families and young people. Within the education system, the **Ministero dell'Istruzione e del Merito** supports targeted actions to reduce digital and educational gaps through dedicated funding allocated to Uffici Scolastici Regionali, which implement initiatives to improve access to digital tools, skills development, and inclusion for disadvantaged students.
- At the regional level, the **Comitati regionali per le comunicazioni (CORECOM)**, coordinated by the **Autorità per le Garanzie nelle Comunicazioni**, contribute to addressing digital inequalities through awareness-raising, media literacy initiatives and locally tailored actions aimed at promoting informed and inclusive participation in the digital environment. Together, these measures support a coordinated national and regional approach to reducing digital divides and fostering more inclusive digital participation for children.
- The **Ministero dell'Istruzione e del Merito** promotes the educational and creative use of digital technologies in schools, encouraging the development of child-centred digital content. The SIC contributes by promoting youth-led initiatives, creative campaigns and participatory activities that give visibility to positive online experiences and good practices. In addition, independent authorities and civil society actors support initiatives to enhance the availability and dissemination of high-quality digital content for minors.

Best practices

Example 1

"Patentino per cittadini digitali" (Digital Citizenship "license" pathway for schools)

The initiative "Patentino per Cittadini Digitali" (Digital Citizen's License) is a strategic educational programme designed to bridge the generational digital divide and promote a safer, more conscious use of technology among young people. Aimed primarily at lower and upper secondary school students, the project functions as a "license" to navigate the digital world, mirroring the concept of a driver's license for the internet.

Supported by regional authorities (such as various Co.Re.Com – Regional Committees for Communications) and educational institutions, the "Patentino" serves as a fundamental component of Italy's Civic Education curriculum. By formalising digital literacy, the initiative empowers the "onlife" generation – those who do not distinguish between their online and offline identities – to navigate the complexities of the 21st-century economy and society with the necessary ethical and technical safeguards

Example 2

Fondazione Carolina – "Re.Te. (Rescue Team)" rapid response to online harms

Fondazione Carolina is a specialised, interdisciplinary support initiative that responds to online danger situations (e.g., cyberbullying, grooming, sexting, and other serious risks), combining educational, psychological, legal, and communication expertise. Dedicated to the memory of Carolina Picchio, the first recognised victim of cyberbullying in Italy, the initiative serves as a multidimensional platform dedicated to the "well-being of the new generations," specifically focusing on digital citizenship education and the prevention of online violence. The initiative's primary mission is to co-create a "child-friendly" digital dimension. It operates through three core pillars: research, prevention, and support.

Example 3

BullisNO

BullisNO is a school-based anti-bullying and cyberbullying prevention programme promoted by Fare X BeneETS. FARE X BENE is an Italian non-profit organization (ETS) dedicated to the protection of human rights and the prevention of all forms of violence, discrimination, and social exclusion. Since its inception, the initiative has positioned itself as a critical advocate for the most vulnerable members of society – primarily children, adolescents, and women – by fostering a culture of respect, digital citizenship, and emotional awareness. BullisNO focuses on fostering respectful relationships, empathy, digital responsibility, and early recognition of risky behaviours, while also providing guidance on seeking help and reporting incidents.

Since its inception, BullisNO has reached tens of thousands of students across Italy. It has evolved to address modern digital challenges, such as "cyberblame" and the psychological impact of social media. By creating a national network of informed students and teachers, the programme seeks to transform the school environment from a site of potential conflict into a "safe space."

BIK+ index 2026: Italy

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

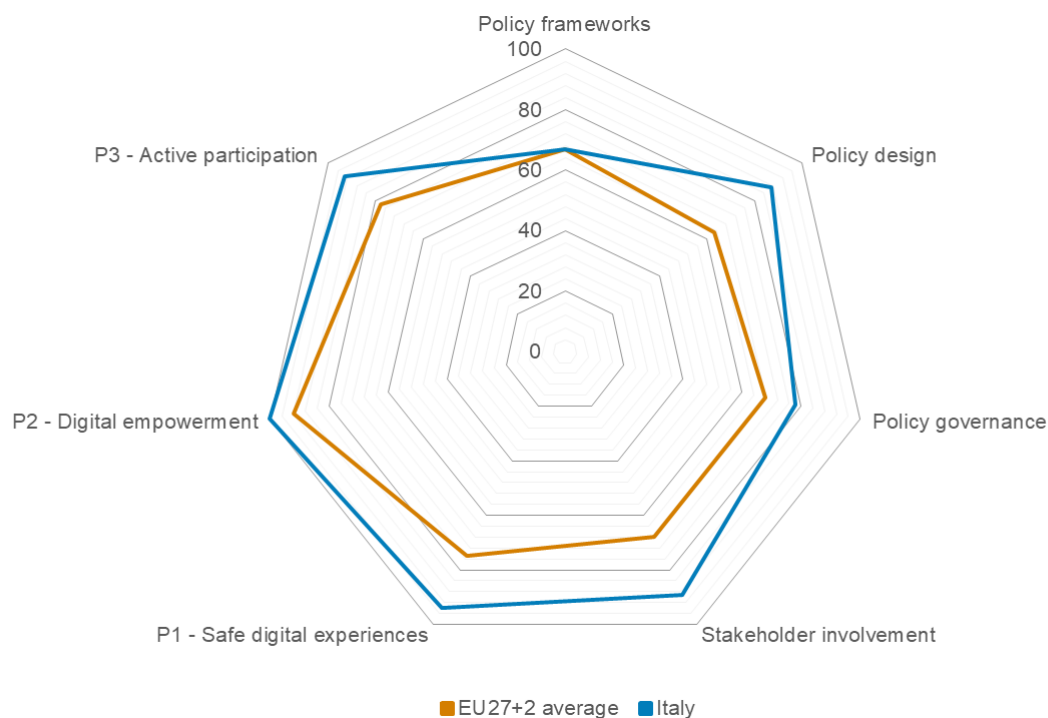


Figure 1: BIK+ index 2026: Italy - EU27+2 average comparison