

Country profile 2026: Spain

Introduction

According to the [Digital Decade 2025: Country reports](#), Spain's digital landscape in 2025 is defined by world-class infrastructure and high individual proficiency, though with some challenges in the macroeconomic contribution of the ICT sector. Spain is a top EU performer in connectivity, with fibre-to-the-premises (FTTP) and Very High-Capacity Network (VHCN) coverage reaching approximately 95% of households, while 5G availability covers 96% of the population. Levels of digital skills are high, with 66% of the population possessing basic digital skills, exceeding the EU average, but with lower-than-average gender and rural digital divides.

According to the [State of the Digital Decade Eurobarometer 2025](#), public sentiment is broadly positive, with 70% of citizens agreeing that digitalisation simplifies daily life, though there is high demand for increased cybersecurity (81%) and protection against disinformation (83%). Strategically, Spain's transformation is guided by the "España Digital 2026" framework and specialised plans for SME digitalisation, digital skills, and public administration.

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 - Spain

- ***This topic is an important and emerging policy priority*** partially covered in national/regional laws, regulations and policies.
- ***The topic of children and the digital environment is covered by broader policies*** rather than in separate dedicated policies.
- ***The BIK+ strategy is very important*** in national policies on children and the digital environment (for instance, it is explicitly referenced in national policies)
- ***National/regional policies and policy documents*** explicitly recognise children's rights in the digital environment.

Key developments and policy frameworks

- In 2025, Spain made a major step forward in explicitly recognising children's rights in the digital environment within its national legal and policy framework, in line with the rights-based approach promoted by BIK+. In March 2025, the Government approved and sent to Parliament the [Draft Organic Law on the protection of minors in digital environments](#), and the bill was formally published and advanced in parliamentary procedure during 2025.
- The Bill is currently under parliamentary consideration in the Congress of Deputies, which sets out measures to strengthen safeguards for minors in digital services (including measures related to access to harmful content and age-related protections).
- This emerging framework should also be read alongside existing Spanish legislation, notably [Law 13/2022, of 7 July, General Audiovisual Communication](#), which already provides for age-verification obligations in relation to certain harmful audiovisual content, and [Organic Law 8/2021, of 4 June](#), on the comprehensive protection of children and adolescents against violence, which strengthened the broader child-protection approach applicable to digital environments. Together, these instruments show that Spain's approach increasingly combines sector-specific regulation with a broader child-protection framework applicable to digital environments.

- Spain also promoted targeted digital-skills policies for children in vulnerable situations through the **CODI (Digital Skills for Children)** programme led by the Ministry of Youth and Childhood, explicitly aimed at reaching large numbers of children and adolescents at risk of exclusion.

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 - Spain

- Quantitative data on some aspects of children’s digital activity** is collected regularly as part of broader surveys.
- Some but not all aspects of children’s experiences of risks**, harms and digital well-being are included in regular surveys.
- Information is regularly gathered** to inform policies on children and the digital environment. However, this relies primarily on third-party sources, and there are limited opportunities to commission new data on children's digital activity.
- Existing 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

- BIK-related topics continue to attract sustained attention from both researchers and key organisations, resulting in several recent and relevant contributions.
- Notable resources include [Infancia Digital](#), which presents the statistical data collected by the National Observatory of Technology and Society, and the latest [UNICEF report](#) on the impact of technology on children and adolescents, which provides an up-to-date overview of emerging trends and challenges.
- Recent academic research has focused on the effects of digital environments on young people’s mental health and self-perception. In this regard, [Vizcaíno-Verdú, Feijoo and Sádaba \(2024\)](#) analysed teenagers’ perceptions of advertising influencers and their psychological effects, while [a subsequent study](#) by the same authors (2025) examined the relationship between digital body image, satisfaction and overall well-being.
- In parallel, [other recent studies](#) have addressed online risks, including the growing exposure of children and adolescents to online scams and related digital threats.

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 - Spain

- **One central body** (e.g., the central ministry office, public agency, or regulatory authority) is officially mandated to lead and develop policies, guidelines, and programmes relating to children and the digital environment, consulting with other departments as needed.
- **Coordination occurs across relevant departments** and stakeholders through more informal arrangements.
- **One or more programmes of action 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 - Spain

- **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

- In Spain, a **national strategy process** was actively advanced in 2025 to provide a structured policy framework on children and the digital environment. The Ministry of Youth and Childhood moved the Strategy into an operational design phase by launching a public consultation in October 2025 to collect civil society inputs. The strategy, as a formal public policy instrument, was expected to be adopted in Q1 2026.
- This is expected to be adopted in Q1 2026 to support the implementation of the proposed Organic Law for the protection of children in digital environments.

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 - Spain

Implementing EU laws

- In 2025, the main “advance” was not the creation of a new rating system, but the strengthening of child-protection policy that directly affects how games are accessed and monetised by minors. In particular,

on 25 March 2025, the Government sent to Parliament the [Draft Organic Law on the protection of minors in digital environments](#), which includes default parental control functionality on internet-connected devices used to access digital services and content, and a specific provision to prohibit minors' access to and activation of certain "loot boxes" (random reward mechanisms), with further regulatory development foreseen.

- [CNMC](#) is the State-wide media regulator. As such, it implements the obligations under the AVMSD and national legislation. In particular, CNMC supervises the compliance of video-sharing platforms established in Spain and video-on-demand providers regarding the protection of minors.
- In early 2025, the Government of Spain advanced the [legal adaptation to the DSA](#), confirming the CNMC as Spain's DSC and clarifying complementary roles, such as the Spanish Data Protection Agency (AEPD), for provisions linked to advertising and the profiling of minors.
- This legislative development also complements Spain's broader institutional adaptation to the [Digital Services Act](#), particularly regarding the protection of minors and the responsibilities of national authorities in supervising online services. In this respect, the designation of the CNMC as Spain's Digital Services Coordinator has helped to clarify the supervisory architecture applicable to online intermediary services and platform obligations affecting minors.
- CNMC's activities are legally supported and restricted by its [governing legislation](#) and the sectoral normative framework it is tasked with supervising. Legislation enabling the enforcement of the DSA is still pending.
- In parallel, the CNMC consolidated its [public-facing DSA information](#) and guidance work, explicitly highlighting the protection of users, especially minors, under the DSA.
- CNMC and INCIBE, as SIC, have initiated and are currently implementing procedures to ensure seamless cooperation. The SIC (through INCIBE/IS4K) reinforced its role as an implementation and outreach partner by actively disseminating DSA child-safety measures,

signposting CNMC resources, and committing to support understanding and practical uptake of DSA protections in educational and family settings (e.g., through the “[DSA for YOUTH](#)” campaign content published in 2025). The CNMC also participates in a working group with regional media authorities in Spain, where child protection in media services is also discussed.

Addressing online harms

- Pornographic and explicit violent content are always considered harmful. Other than that, the definition can encompass a wide range of instances, and it is not restricted. i.e., the Media Act states: "Article 89.1.e) Establish and operate age-verification systems for users in relation to content that may harm the physical, mental or moral development of minors, ensuring in all cases that minors are prevented from accessing the most harmful audiovisual content, such as gratuitous violence or pornography."
- Since the creation of the [legislative proposal for the protection of minors in digital environments](#) in 2024 and the publication of the [expert group's report](#) at the end of 2024, this issue has been part of the public and political debate, highlighting the need for structural solutions, including legislative measures. This issue can also be understood in the context of [Organic Law 8/2021, of 4 June](#), on the comprehensive protection of children and adolescents against violence, which explicitly recognises forms of violence and abuse carried out through digital technologies and strengthens mechanisms for reporting, protection and response in cases involving minors. This broader legal framework helps explain why online harms are increasingly seen not only as content-related risks, but as matters of child protection.
- CNMC has developed forms and templates for receiving complaints regarding the media or digital obligations of service providers. The subject matter of these complaints may relate to the protection of minors.
- Some recent events have highlighted the need to reflect on this issue. At present, educational institutions are obliged, under the regulations

established by the autonomous communities, to implement specific protocols in cases that may involve cyberbullying. However, it has become evident that these measures do not always work in every case where they are needed.

- The [Spanish Safer Internet Centre](#) actively collaborates to support key European policy measures, including the EU Action Plan against Cyberbullying. Through its coordinated awareness-raising activities and youth panel activities, helpline and hotline services, and close cooperation with public authorities, civil society and industry stakeholders, the SIC contributes to the prevention, early detection and response to cyberbullying affecting children and adolescents.

Age assurance

- The [Spanish Media Act](#) provides in its article 89.1.e) these mechanisms for video-sharing platforms. "Establish and operate age-verification systems for users in relation to content that may harm the physical, mental or moral development of minors, ensuring in all cases that minors are prevented from accessing the most harmful audiovisual content, such as gratuitous violence or pornography".
- Beyond [Article 89.1.e of the Spanish Media Act](#), increasingly, age verification is framed as a proportionate and privacy-conscious safeguard, aimed at protecting minors without requiring unnecessary collection of personal data. This is particularly relevant to ongoing discussions on harmonised EU age-verification solutions and to Spain's own legislative and policy developments in this field.

Supporting digital well-being

- The Media Act (in particular, articles 94, 99, and 124) and its implementing regulation set out the obligations in influencer marketing. Dark patterns are still not regulated. This area should also be considered in light of [Organic Law 8/2021, of 4 June](#), which adopts a comprehensive child-protection approach and explicitly addresses risks of violence, exploitation and harm in digital environments. This approach was further reinforced by the [Mental Health Action Plan 2025–2027](#), which establishes a strategic focus on child and adolescent mental health and

supports prevention and early intervention where digital experiences may contribute to distress or harm.

- The Royal Decree 444/2024, of April 30, regulates the requirements to be considered a user of special relevance on video-sharing platform services, in development of [Article 94 of Law 13/2022](#), of July 7, General Audiovisual Communication, paves the way for implementing measures that help ensure transparency in content generated by influencers.
- In 2025, this was reinforced through the work of the Mental Health Commissioner (Ministry of Health), who led the [Mental Health Action Plan 2025–2027](#), a policy instrument designed to operationalise the strategy across the SNS and support implementation with the regions. Importantly for children and adolescents, the Plan includes a dedicated strategic line on perinatal, childhood and adolescent mental health, reflecting a prevention-and-early-intervention approach for these age groups.
- In 2025, broader child well-being policy also progressed through the [Mental Health Action Plan 2025–2027](#), developed via the Ministry of Health’s Mental Health Commissioner and including a specific strategic line on perinatal, childhood and adolescent mental health – a relevant foundation for prevention and early intervention when digital experiences contribute to distress or harm.

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 - Spain

Digital empowerment in formal education

- In 2025, online safety continued to be addressed in Spain within the existing competence-based curriculum approach, mainly through the development of learners’ digital competence as a cross-curricular component delivered through subjects and school-wide activities.
- This educational approach is consistent with [Organic Law 8/2021](#), which requires public authorities to promote the safe and responsible use of the internet among children and adolescents, as well as among families, educators and professionals working with minors. It also reflects a broader understanding of digital empowerment in Spain, extending beyond technical skills to include prevention, protection and informed participation in digital environments.
- What was notably reinforced in 2025 was the system-level enablement for schools to teach these aspects consistently, especially through the National Institute for Educational Technologies and Teacher Training (INTEF) led [Teacher Digital Competence framework](#) and accreditation ecosystem (Competencia Digital Docente, MRCDD, which provides a shared national reference and supports regional education authorities’ accreditation, certification, and recognition procedures.
- In 2025, this was operationalised via ongoing accreditation pathways and calls, including those managed in the Ministry’s scope (e.g., [“Acreditación de la competencia digital 2025”](#)), which resulted in more than 621,000 teachers accredited. In parallel, regional administrations continued running their own 2025 accreditation processes aligned with the framework (illustratively, [multiple 2025 rounds published by La Rioja region](#)).

- In 2025, training in basic digital skills remained a core, curriculum-embedded component of Spain's education system, implemented under the competency-based LOMLOE framework as a transversal "digital competence" developed across subjects and stages. In practice, this curriculum-embedded approach covers the areas referenced in the question (information/data literacy, communication and collaboration, digital content creation, online safety, and problem-solving), while 2025 developments particularly strengthened capacity around AI literacy (including generative AI) through targeted measures for schools and teachers.
- The National Institute for Educational Technologies and Teacher Training (INTEF) continues structured professional development on AI for teaching practice. For instance, guidelines such as the document "[Guidelines for the integration of artificial intelligence into teacher training](#)", tutored online courses on designing learning situations with AI, and the 2025 edition/continuation of the MOOC "Una IA para Aprender".
- In Spain, education competences are highly decentralised, and 2025 saw several regional updates that set expectations for safe and pedagogically justified use of digital technologies in schools, including smartphone restrictions and measures to prevent/handle online harm.
- Two notable examples are the regulations developed in 2025 by Madrid and Murcia Autonomous Regions. Madrid approved [Decree 64/2025 \(23 July 2025\)](#), which regulates and limits the use of digital devices in publicly funded schools. It prohibits students' use of mobile phones throughout the school day, allowing only duly justified cases under each school's coexistence rules, while removing individual device use in Early Childhood and Primary education and discouraging the assignment of assessable homework that requires digital devices. The decree also requires schools to embed "appropriate use" measures into their educational projects and allows awareness-raising actions for students and families.

- In September 2025, through the “LIBRE” Digital Strategy Order, Murcia explicitly aims to limit passive technology consumption in the classroom, in line with the School Digital Plan. More info:
- INTEF reported ongoing work in 2025 to strengthen teacher capacity for responsible technology use through strategic guidance for teacher training in the digital domain (including updated approaches linked to ethical and responsible technology integration).
- In addition, INTEF continued to expand [open online training pathways](#) (MOOC/NOOC/SPOOC) and renewed its Formación Abierta offer with a new platform, maintaining a national catalogue of courses relevant to safer digital practice (including courses addressing the “risks and opportunities” of emerging technologies in home contexts).
- As part of the [Programme to improve digital competence in the education system](#), more than one million teachers have received training in digital skills, and more than 600,000 have certified their digital teaching competence against the reference framework for digital teaching competence.

Digital empowerment and lifelong learning

- Currently, there is a significant social discussion about the harm technology causes to children, which limits debate about its positive uses.
- However, new national incentives highlighted and scaled school practice, such as the [2025 National Awards for educational experiences](#) fostering students’ digital competence, alongside regional/school initiatives that explicitly include computational thinking, robotics and “good use” of AI (e.g., STEAM/Code Escuela 4.0 implementations).
- Besides that, [Eurobot Spain 2025](#) served as a hands-on, creativity-driven framework where young people design, build and programme robots to solve themed challenges, combining engineering design with teamwork and innovation mindsets.
- Finally, [European Schoolnet’s Scientix](#) continued to provide STEM/STEAM community resources, and in 2025 introduced a new community tool

that further enables educators (including in Spain) to share and scale creative digital practices in schools, while the European Schoolnet held **EMINENT** in Madrid in collaboration with the Spanish Ministry of Education and Vocational Training, reinforcing national visibility and transfer of innovative, creativity-oriented digital education practices that can subsequently be adopted across regions.

- In 2025, beyond the activities of Spain’s national Safer Internet Centre, several additional national programmes and public initiatives supported parents in fostering online safety and strengthening children’s digital skills. First, the Ministry of Youth and Childhood continued the roll-out of the **Digital Skills for Children (CODI) programme**, implemented in cooperation with regional and local actors and aimed at reducing digital exclusion among children and adolescents in vulnerable situations; this contributes to family support indirectly by equipping minors with core competences and promoting safer, more empowered participation in the digital environment.
- In parallel, the Ministry of Education’s INTEF maintained dedicated resources and short online trainings for families, including MOOCs such as “**Children and online safety**”, which provide practical guidance for parents on privacy, responsible internet use and children’s online well-being.

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 - Spain

Active participation

- The **Child Friendly Cities (CFC) Programme** of UNICEF Spain is an initiative led by UNICEF in more than 30 countries, including Spain since 2001, that supports local authorities in fulfilling their commitment to children's rights. To date, with the collaboration of the Spanish Federation of Municipalities and Provinces, it has a presence in all Autonomous Communities and has 342 recognised local governments, where nearly 50% of children and adolescents residing in Spain already live. A key requirement for this is the establishment of stable structures that guarantee the right of children and adolescents to be heard on municipal matters that concern them and to have their opinions considered.

Addressing digital inequalities

- Spain has national programmes implemented in collaboration with the Autonomous Communities to reduce the digital divide and address inequalities that can limit children's online participation. On the skills side, the Ministry of Youth and Childhood promotes the Digital Skills for Children (CODI) programme, funded under Spain's Recovery, Transformation and Resilience Plan, specifically targeting children and adolescents in vulnerable or at-risk situations, with age-tailored training pathways (9–11, 12–13, 14–17) and a clear inclusion objective.
- A good number of children's organisations are very active, and similarly, organisations in the technology industry are focusing on this issue.

Best practices

Example 1

CODI – Digital Skills for Children (Spain)

CODI is a nationwide programme that provides free digital skills training for children and adolescents aged 9–17 in vulnerable or at-risk situations, delivered with the Autonomous Communities and social-sector implementing partners. It uses age-tailored pathways (9–11, 12–13 and 14–17) and can combine in-person and online activities outside school hours. The programme is funded under Spain’s Recovery, Transformation and Resilience Plan (EU NextGenerationEU) with a €220 million budget and an intended scale of up to 950,000 participants in 2025.

Example 2

Programme to Improve Digital Competence in the Education System (#CompDigEdu – INTEF/MEFPD)

A nationwide [cooperation programme](#) implemented with the Autonomous Communities to strengthen digital competence across the education system, focusing on teacher digital competence development and accreditation, and supporting schools to design, implement and evaluate their Digital School Plans (Plan Digital de Centro).

It is part of Spain’s Recovery and Resilience Mechanism (NextGenerationEU), Component 19, with a dedicated budget of €296.7 million. 2025 highlight: [INTEF reported](#) strong delivery results, including 24,470 training actions, 661,366 teachers accredited in digital competence, and 22,936 Digital School Plans published, meeting the programme targets.

Example 3

Experiencia INCIBE (INCIBE/IS4K)

A nationwide, free, experiential [cybersecurity awareness programme](#) for children, families and schools, delivered through a travelling roadshow (truck + escape room + workshops) and a modular stand that can be booked by schools during school hours. It promotes safer, more responsible online behaviour (privacy, cyberbullying prevention, parental mediation, etc.),

aligned with BIK+ prevention objectives. 2025 highlight: INCIBE continued large-scale school engagement, reporting more than 76,200 minors reached during the 2024–2025 school year through the roadshow/stand, and launched the “Back to school – Vuelta al cole cibersegura 2025” campaign to support educators and families.

BIK+ index 2026: Spain

The BIK+ index has been developed to provide an aggregated at-a-glance overview of the levels of implementation across the two dimensions, BIK policies and BIK+ actions, in Spain compared to the EU27+2 average. Values are shown in per cent.

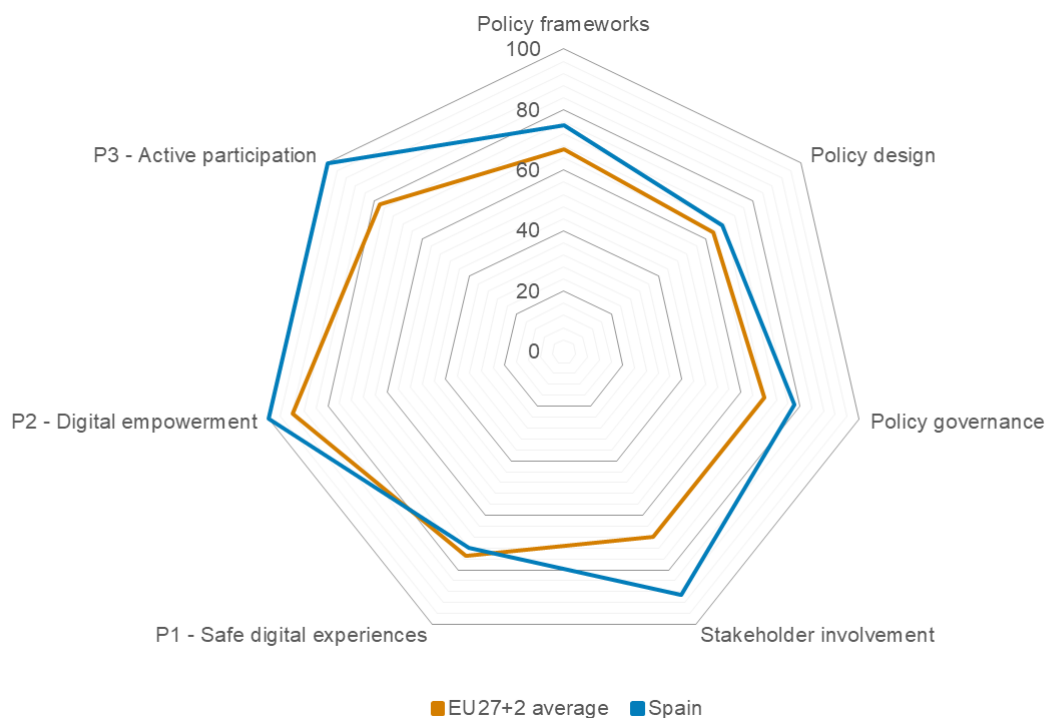


Figure 1: BIK+ index 2026: Spain - EU27+2 average comparison