

Country profile 2026: France

Introduction

According to the [Digital Decade 2025: Country reports](#), France's digital landscape is defined by high-quality infrastructure, though its business sector lags in digital integration. While the country has high levels of connectivity with 88% coverage for Very High-Capacity Networks and fibre-to-the-premises, alongside 94% 5G coverage, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) continue to fall behind the EU average in digital intensity. Artificial Intelligence adoption among French firms nearly doubled to 9.9% in 2024, yet it remains notably below the broader European average. On the human capital side, 59.7% of French citizens possess basic digital skills, exceeding the EU average. However, significant demographic divides persist; digital skills are higher among the young and highly educated than among seniors and those with less formal education. According to the [State of the Digital Decade Eurobarometer 2025](#), public sentiment remains supportive of the digital transition, with high demand for state action against disinformation and cyberbullying. France has notably promoted child online protection by proposing higher age limits or outright restrictions on social media platforms.

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 - France

- ***This topic is an important and emerging policy priority*** partially covered in national/regional laws, regulations and policies.
- ***There are separate, dedicated policies*** which address the topic of children and the digital environment (protection, empowerment, and participation).
- ***The BIK+ strategy informs national policies*** but is not the main influence.
- ***National/regional policies and policy documents*** explicitly recognise children's rights in the digital environment.

Key developments and policy frameworks

- No major legislative or policy changes have occurred since the last submission. Recent developments have mainly consisted of intensified political and parliamentary discussions on age verification mechanisms and platform regulation, including the publication of a [parliamentary report on TikTok](#), but have not resulted in new binding measures.
- In addition to the policies and initiatives covered in this questionnaire, one of the most salient developments in 2025 in France has been the intensifying national debate on social media use by minors and the pursuit of higher age limits or outright restrictions on social media platforms. This debate reflects broader concerns about children's safety, well-being and digital rights, and has shaped policy discussions not only domestically but also at the European level.
- Throughout 2025, French policymakers, including the Minister for Digital Affairs and AI, Clara Chappaz, have publicly advocated for stronger age limits on social media access, specifically arguing that children should not be allowed on social media before age 15 unless strict age verification and parental consent requirements are in place. This stance aligns with the government's broader protective policy priorities in the digital environment, including concerns about exposure to harmful content, the impact of algorithmic design and addictive features on mental health, and difficulties in enforcing existing age restrictions.

- France is actively debating and advocating heightened age limits for social media use (e.g., under age 15), with prominent public advocacy driven by the Ministry for Digital Affairs and the President’s office. Technical and legal frameworks around age verification are being explored at the national and EU levels, with pilot tools underway. These discussions highlight the national focus on child safety and digital well-being, even if they have not yet resulted in fully enforceable national bans or age-based rules implemented in 2025.

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 - France

- **Surveys of children’s digital activities** are undertaken, but only irregularly (for instance, the EU Kids Online survey data from 2020 is the only available source on a national level).
- **Surveys of risks, harms, and digital well-being** are undertaken on an ad hoc and irregular basis.
- **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.

- **There are occasional special initiatives** to gather evidence about children and the digital environment
- **Policies are regularly monitored and evaluated**, but not always systematically.

Key national research studies

- A **parliamentary investigation into TikTok** was conducted in 2024–2025, focusing on the platform’s impact on minors, including exposure to harmful content, algorithmic amplification, addictive design features and data protection concerns. The investigation relied on hearings with experts, civil society organisations, public authorities and platform representatives, as well as the analysis of existing national and international research. While this inquiry contributed to public and political understanding of online risks to children, it was a one-off initiative and did not establish a systematic, recurring national data-collection mechanism on children’s digital experiences.
- While expert groups and parliamentary inquiries have continued to examine aspects of children’s digital environment, no central or dedicated government-supported research fund or programme has been established since the last submission
- Monitoring and evaluation activities have continued on an ad hoc and policy-specific basis, including post-implementation reviews and one-off expert or parliamentary initiatives, but no systematic evaluation framework dedicated to children and the digital environment has been introduced since the last submission.

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 - France

- **Policy development sits across different ministries** with leadership officially distributed according to the area of specialisation.
- **Coordination occurs across relevant departments** and stakeholders through more informal arrangements. While lacking a centralised coordination body, this approach still facilitates reasonably effective collaboration and alignment of efforts.
- **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).

Key developments since 2025

- Since 2025, the respective roles and responsibilities of key regulatory actors around children’s online safety have become more clearly defined, notably through the implementation of the EU Digital Services Act (DSA) and the French SREN Law. **ARCOM** has been formally designated as France’s Digital Services Coordinator and is responsible for supervising compliance with platform obligations related to the protection of minors, including age verification for access to adult content, content moderation standards, and risk mitigation measures. ARCOM also coordinates with other national authorities and the European Commission in overseeing very large online platforms.
- In parallel, the operationalisation of DSA-related mechanisms has clarified the roles of trusted flaggers and recognised reporting entities, thereby contributing to the identification and prioritisation of illegal or

harmful content affecting minors. While these mechanisms strengthen enforcement capacity and regulatory oversight, they function primarily as compliance and supervision tools rather than as instruments of strategic policy coordination.

- Overall, these developments have contributed to greater role clarity and regulatory capacity, particularly in the enforcement of child protection measures online. However, leadership on policy development remains distributed across multiple ministries and authorities according to their respective areas of competence, and no single body has been mandated to provide overarching coordination for children’s digital policy.
- Notably, increased policy attention has been given to excessive screen use and mental health. The government has reinforced its [Plan d’actions pour un usage raisonné des écrans](#), complemented in 2025 by expanded public guidance under the “[Je protège mon enfant dans son usage des écrans](#)” initiative, which promotes age-appropriate digital habits, prevention of overexposure and parental awareness of online risks. These actions explicitly acknowledge links between screen time, addictive design patterns and children’s psychological well-being, but do not include formal monitoring frameworks or national KPIs.
- Regarding cyberbullying and online harassment, national efforts have continued through recurring awareness campaigns, regulatory actions and education-based initiatives coordinated by ARCOM and the Ministry of Education, including the annual [National Day to Combat Harassment](#) and strengthened reporting and support mechanisms for minors. These measures address online violence and harmful behaviours, but are implemented through programme-based actions rather than a unified national strategy with clearly assigned responsibilities and performance indicators
- There is continued progress through sector-specific legislation, regulatory measures, and prevention programmes addressing cyberbullying, excessive digital use, and mental health impacts, but government policy has not yet been translated into a comprehensive national action plan dedicated to children and the digital environment,

with structured timelines, clear accountability mechanisms, and measurable 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 - France

- **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.**
- **Public consultation occurs, but it is irregular, infrequent, or limited in scope.**
- **Children are listened to directly in the policy development process but are not formally involved in decision-making.**

Stakeholder mechanisms

- Public consultation on BIK-related issues continues to occur irregularly, with recent processes such as the TikTok psychological impact survey and EU DSA guidelines consultation reflecting opportunities for public input, but no systematic, ongoing public consultation framework has been established at the national level.
- A national **online public consultation** was launched in 2025 as part of the **French Parliament’s inquiry into the psychological impact of TikTok on young people**. This nationwide survey, open to French adults and minors (directly or via parents), invited contributions on social media use and its effects, with the aim of informing the parliamentary commission’s report.

This process drew tens of thousands of responses and contributed to the assembly's deliberations on youth digital risk and platform accountability.

- In France, children and young people are occasionally consulted directly in policy development processes related to the digital environment, but they are not formally involved in decision-making. Direct consultation has primarily taken place through ad hoc mechanisms, such as parliamentary hearings, focus groups and expert-led consultations. For example, the [Screen Commission](#), established in 2024, conducted consultations with young people to gather their perspectives on screen use and digital practices. In addition, youth experiences have informed legislative debates through hearings and testimonies during the development of the Children's Image Rights ("sharenting") Law 2024, which addressed young people's concerns regarding privacy, consent and long-term control over their digital identity. Policies related to data protection, including the right to erasure, have similarly drawn on consultations and awareness initiatives reflecting adolescents' online experiences.
- More recently, parliamentary and expert processes addressing online safety and platform regulation, including the parliamentary investigation into TikTok, have relied on hearings with experts, civil society organisations and youth-focused stakeholders to reflect adolescents' experiences of online platforms. However, these forms of involvement remain consultative and episodic, and no permanent or institutionalised mechanisms exist to ensure children's systematic participation in digital policymaking.

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 - France

Implementing EU laws

- France has an established legal and regulatory framework governing the rating and classification of video games and online games through the Pan-European Game Information (PEGI) system. PEGI is the official age-

rating system used in France and applies to both physical and digital video games, including online and app-based games.

- The system provides age classifications and content descriptors designed to inform consumers and protect minors from inappropriate content. While PEGI operates as an industry-led system at the European level, it is formally recognised within the French regulatory framework for the protection of minors, with oversight and enforcement supported by national authorities. Compliance with PEGI ratings is mandatory in practice for publishers and distributors operating in the French market, including major online platforms and app stores.
- The standard classification system used in France (ages 3, 7, 12, 16, 18) includes content descriptors (violence, fear, sexual content, gambling, drugs, etc.) and applies to physical games, online games, and mobile app stores. PEGI is the recognised reference system in France for age-rating video games and forms part of the broader national approach to protecting minors in media and digital content. Age ratings are required to be displayed at point of sale and on digital distribution platforms.
- The adoption of binding age verification standards and the strengthening of ARCOM's enforcement powers constitute concrete national-level action under the DSA framework. The Digital Services Coordinator at ARCOM ([Autorité de régulation de la communication audiovisuelle et numérique](#)) has implemented specific, concrete measures at the national level to strengthen the protection of minors in the digital environment.
- Key Actions include age verification standards for adult content (9 January 2025). ARCOM adopted and enforced a binding technical standard for age verification systems applicable to online services distributing pornographic content. Platforms must prevent minors from accessing adult content available online in France. Legislative support is provided through the [SREN Law](#) adopted in 2024.
- Since the entry into force of the Digital Services Act (DSA), structured cooperation mechanisms are emerging, particularly through the designation and activation of Trusted Flaggers and through coordinated awareness-raising activities. e-Enfance / 3018 and Point de Contact were

officially designated by ARCOM as France's first Trusted Flagger under the DSA. As a Trusted Flagger, 3018 and Point de Contact work in close operational alignment with ARCOM by reporting illegal content affecting minors; supporting the implementation of DSA provisions related to child protection; informing the public, families and young people about new rights and reporting mechanisms under the DSA.

Addressing online harms

- Article 226-2-1 of the French Penal Code criminalises the non-consensual recording, transmission, or dissemination of images or videos of a sexual nature involving a person in a private setting. This applies regardless of whether the images were initially obtained with consent and provides a clear legal basis to combat "revenge porn".
- Article 226-8-1 of the French Penal Code (introduced in 2024) specifically targets the creation and distribution of non-consensual intimate deepfakes and extends protection to situations where the image is fabricated but realistically depicts a person.

Age assurance

- France has a national legal and regulatory framework that requires age assurance, including age verification mechanisms, to restrict minors' access to adult (over-18) online content. This obligation is primarily grounded in national legislation adopted in 2024 and has been operationalised through binding regulatory standards and enforcement actions in 2025, marking a clear shift from policy intent to concrete implementation. Key developments include the [SREN Law \(2024\)](#), which introduced stricter obligations for online services distributing adult content, including requirements to prevent minors' access through effective age verification measures. The law also clarified platform liability for harmful online content and strengthened the national regulator's enforcement powers.
- In its role as France's Digital Services Coordinator, ARCOM adopted a [binding technical standard for age verification systems](#), which entered into force in January 2025. This standard requires adult content providers to: implement robust and reliable age verification solutions;

use privacy-preserving technologies, including so-called “double anonymity” mechanisms, ensuring full compliance with GDPR principles relating to data protection and minimisation.

- ARCOM is empowered to: issue formal notices to non-compliant services; impose administrative sanctions; order the blocking of access to non-compliant websites within France. Under the [SREN Law](#) and in its capacity as Digital Services Coordinator, ARCOM is responsible for supervising the compliance of pornographic websites with age verification requirements. The technical reference framework adopted in 2025 requires these services to deploy effective age verification systems that prevent minors’ access while ensuring strong privacy safeguards, notably through GDPR-compliant, privacy-preserving solutions.
- France is actively developing the European Digital Identity (EUDI) Wallet, building on its national digital identity application [France Identité](#), and is among the Member States most advanced in piloting the EUDI Wallet at the EU level. While the wallet is operational for adults, its availability for minors is still under development, in line with EU-level recommendations and ongoing technical and legal work.

Supporting digital well-being

- [Law of 9 June 2023 regulating commercial influence \(loi encadrant l’influence commerciale\)](#) establishes a clear legal framework for influencer marketing in France. It requires transparency of commercial partnerships and advertising content and prohibits certain forms of promotion (e.g. gambling, harmful products) when targeting minors. The law applies across social media platforms and online environments and explicitly aims to protect vulnerable audiences, including children and young people, from misleading or covert advertising practices.
- [France’s Consumer Code](#), implementing EU consumer protection legislation, prohibits misleading, aggressive, and exploitative commercial practices, including those that exploit consumers’ vulnerabilities, including those linked to age. These provisions apply to digital environments and online interfaces, including practices that may

resemble or constitute dark patterns, such as deceptive choice architecture or pressure tactics.

- Since the last Policy monitor, France has reinforced its focus on children’s mental health and well-being online through the work of the [Presidential Screen Commission in 2024](#) and the implementation of new digital regulation measures under the [SREN Law](#) and the Digital Services Act. Furthermore, it continued this work through the parliamentary investigation on TikTok’s effects on young people's mental health.

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 - France

Digital empowerment in formal education

- Online safety continues to be reinforced through teacher training activities on online safety, which have continued through national awareness structures and regional initiatives, but a fully systematic and compulsory framework has not yet been established.

Digital empowerment and lifelong learning

- Key national initiatives supporting parents include interministerial and government-led initiatives such as [Parents, parlons numérique](#) (interministerial label), and a government-backed initiative that brings together experts to support parents in understanding children’s digital use. It focuses on guidance, prevention, and empowerment rather than prohibition. [Internet Sans Crainte / Safer Internet France](#) contributes as an expert member.
- The official government website [Je protege mon enfant.gouv.fr](#) provides parents with practical tools and advice on online safety, cyberbullying, harmful content, and parental controls. It acts as a centralised entry point for families seeking support and information.
- Anti-bullying and child protection programmes such as the [PHARE anti-bullying programme](#) (Ministry of National Education and Youth) include a strong parental component addressing cyberbullying and online harassment. Parents are targeted through information campaigns, guidance materials and school–parent cooperation. Expert committees include online safety specialists.

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 - France

Active participation

- France has demonstrated growing recognition of children’s digital rights through legislation, international advocacy and regulatory debates. Nevertheless, dedicated national or regional awareness-raising activities explicitly promoting children’s rights in the digital environment, beyond SIC-led actions, remain under development, rather than fully established.

Addressing digital inequalities

- At present, France does not have specific national or regional initiatives explicitly dedicated to stimulating the production and visibility of positive digital content and services for children. Public policy action in the digital environment continues to focus predominantly on risk mitigation, restriction and regulation, rather than on actively supporting or promoting positive, child-friendly digital ecosystems. This imbalance has become more visible in recent years, as national debates have increasingly centred on the harmful effects of social media on children’s mental health and promoted proposals to restrict or ban access to social media for minors or stricter regulation of platforms, age verification and screen time. While these debates have strengthened protective measures, they have not been accompanied by parallel policies to encourage the creation, dissemination, or visibility of positive digital content for children as an alternative to harmful online environments.

BIK+ index 2026: France

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

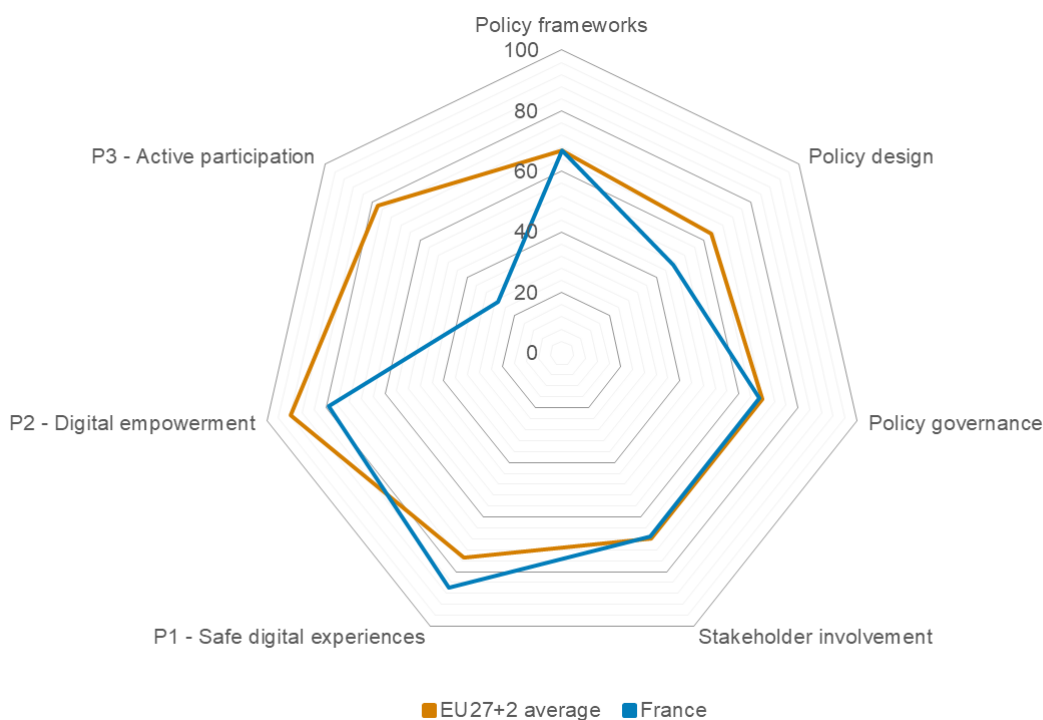


Figure 1: BIK+ index 2026: France - EU27+2 average comparison