

Country profile 2026: Lithuania

Introduction

According to the [Digital Decade 2025: Country reports](#), Lithuania’s digital landscape is defined by high levels of mobile connectivity and highly developed public services, though it faces challenges in digital skills and in business technology adoption. Lithuania has achieved universal 5G coverage and maintains a mature e-Health system, though further public investment is needed to strengthen fibre rollout in rural areas where Very High-Capacity Network coverage stands at 78%. Within the digital economy, Lithuanian SMEs are below the EU average with a 66.3% basic digital intensity rate, and advanced technology adoption remains low, with only 8.8% of enterprises using AI. Low levels of digital skills remain a hurdle; only 52.9% of citizens possess basic digital skills – below the EU average – with pronounced disparities across generations and sparsely populated regions. According to the [State of the Digital Decade Eurobarometer 2025](#), public sentiment is largely positive, with 77% of citizens reporting that digitalisation eases daily life, yet there is a strong demand for security and protection. Specifically, 97% of respondents call for urgent action regarding children’s mental health and cyberbullying, while 95% support age-assurance mechanisms.

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 - Lithuania

- ***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.***
- ***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 include

- Law on Fundamentals of Protection of the Rights of the Child
- Law on the Protection of Minors Against the Detrimental Effect of Public Information
- Education Law of the Republic of Lithuania
- The Lithuanian Child Rights Protection and Adoption Agency is responsible for implementing laws and policies related to children's rights, both offline and online.
- Two emerging trends that have attracted government attention are cyberbullying and emotional support availability, and the use of technology in schools.

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 - Lithuania

- **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 children’s experiences 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.
- **Monitoring and evaluation are ad hoc, infrequent and not systematic.**

Key national research studies

- Besides the Child Welfare Council, there is a new Parliamentary commission, the **Suicide and Violence Prevention Commission** (Savižudybių ir smurto prevencijos komisija), which is gathering the data from various stakeholders to identify emerging trends. While this way of informing policy is an improvement on previous irregular or ad hoc approaches, further development in policy support is needed.

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 - Lithuania

- **Policy development sits across different ministries** with leadership officially distributed according to the area of specialisation.
- **There is no active or planned coordination.** Policies, guidelines, and programmes related to children and the digital environment are developed and implemented independently, resulting in a disjointed or incoherent policy landscape.
- **Government policy has yet to be developed into an implementable action plan at this point,** but this is under development.

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 - Lithuania

- **Stakeholders are involved through various existing groups or platforms across different government branches.** While opportunities for engagement exist, they are not centrally coordinated, and stakeholder participation may vary in consistency or influence.

- *Public consultation occurs, but **it is irregular, infrequent, or limited in scope.***
- ***Children's interests are considered indirectly** (for example, through analysis of existing surveys or data collections).*

Stakeholder mechanisms

- Since the establishment of the [Interagency Child Welfare Council](#), the participating ministries are more clearly defined. The Council is supervised by the Ministry of Social Security and Labour; the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport is still involved through the education aspect, as well as by directly co-funding the SIC LT; the Ministry of the Interior is also directly involved. Other ministries and agencies are involved on a smaller scale.
- The [Interagency Child Welfare Council](#) could serve as a multi-stakeholder forum to consistently engage relevant stakeholders. However, at this point, this council is still in its early stages.
- Numerous institutions have activities relevant to children's online safety, covering, for example, digital policy development or specific subjects such as consumer rights protection. The [Lithuanian Safer Internet Centre \(SIC\)](#), as an RRT member, is responsible for implementing certain child safety measures, such as combating the spread of child sexual abuse material (CSAM).
- Other relevant agencies include the [State Data Protection Inspectorate \(VDAI\)](#), the [Office of the Inspector of Journalistic Ethics](#), and the [State Consumer Rights Protection Agency \(VVTAT\)](#).

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 - Lithuania

Implementing EU laws

- The DSA is fully transferred into the national law “Informacinės visuomenės paslaugų įstatymas”. This designates the Communications Regulatory Authority of the Republic of Lithuania (RRT) - Digital Services

Coordinator; [Office of the Inspector of Journalist Ethics](#) – responsible for the articles of the [Digital Services Act \(DSA\)](#) associated with minors' protection; [State Data Protection Inspectorate](#) – responsible for the articles of DSA, related to the protection of personal data; [State Consumer Rights Protection Authority](#) - responsible for the articles of DSA, associated with the protection of consumer rights.

- Organisations have their obligations defined by law: VVTAT (State Consumer Rights Protection Authority), ŽEIT (Office of the Inspector of the Journalistic Ethics), RRT (Communications Regulation Authority of the Republic of Lithuania), VDAI (State Data Protection Inspectorate).

Addressing online harms

- The [Law on the Protection of Minors Against the Detrimental Effect of Public Information](#) addresses harmful online content. Art 4 defines harmful online content as follows: "Information that has a negative impact on minors is considered public information that may be harmful to the mental or physical health, physical, mental, spiritual or moral development of minors".
- Lithuanian Hotline is accepting reports about non-consensual image sharing and acts on them.

Age assurance

- There is a plan to comply with the DSA and implement a national age verification app and EUID wallet. So far, the age to be verified has not been decided, but consideration is being given to having various age categories, including: (13 (social networks, online services)); 18 (gambling, nudity, etc.); and 20 (alcohol purchase).
- SIC LT and the Lithuanian DSC are working with other partners to develop and release the national age verification app. No collaborations with other countries exist yet, but national partners are in touch with the team responsible for the age verification app on the EU level.

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 - Lithuania

Digital empowerment in formal education

- In Lithuania, each school is expected to set its own policy on phone use, while the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport provides a suggested model policy (available through the [formal education agency NŠA](#)). The decision-making process in many cases involved the municipalities as well as the parents and guardians of schools and kindergartens. In many cases, municipalities were involved, as were the parents and guardians of schools and kindergartens. In many cases, parents and guardians received online questionnaires about their preferences regarding kids' phone use in schools and kindergartens.
- The Ministry of Education, Science and Sport has issued [model guidelines for schools](#) to determine how to use digital technology.
- The main training activities for online safety are provided by the SIC LT, the [Digital Ethics Centre](#), and the [Kursuok platform](#). Launched by the Lithuanian Ministry of Education, Science and Sport, Kursuok is the national one-stop-shop platform for adult lifelong learning. It is designed

to help citizens aged 18–65 upgrade their skills to meet modern labour market demands

Digital empowerment and lifelong learning

- The SIC LT has a [Young Ambassadors programme](#) that acts on a national level, providing children an opportunity to meet their peers and learn about online safety.
- The Child Line, part of the SIC LT consortium, has a [Youth Advisors team](#) that receives training and various meetings. There are also other initiatives that teach young people about online safety, among other things such as the [Young Police Supporter group](#), which teaches the participants about various crimes that happen, including online crimes.
- Many regional libraries have organised events and initiatives to support parents. For example, the initiative titled "[Skaitmeninės pamokos apie švarų internetą](#)" (Digital Lessons on a Clean Internet) is an educational project led by the Marijampolė Meilė Lukšienė Education Centre in collaboration with the Digital Ethics Centre (Skaitmeninės etikos centras) and the Electronic Communications Regulatory Authority (RRT).
- [Paramos vaikams centras](#) (Children's Support Centre), a Lithuanian NGO, has been actively supporting parents. For example, the "[Tips for Parents on Children's Safety Online](#)" is an educational guide published by the Centre and serves as a practical roadmap for parents to help navigate the digital landscape with their children, moving away from strict prohibition toward active guidance and "digital mentorship."
- The national phone carriers have also been actively informing parents about online dangers. Examples include [TELE2](#) and [Telia](#). The Lithuanian branch of [Save the Children](#) (Gelbėkit vaikus) has also been supporting parents and carers on online safety and has produced a comprehensive [digital safety guide](#).

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 - Lithuania

Active participation

- Various organisations support civic education and active participation. Initiatives include the [Duke of Edinburgh programme](#), the [Lithuanian scouts](#), the [Young Police Supporters](#) (Jaunieji Policijos rėmėjai), the [Lithuanian Rifleman's Union - Young Riflemen](#). Addressing digital inequalities
- Many of these initiatives are focused on closing the digital divide and including participants from disadvantaged backgrounds. The regional libraries and elderships have decentralised local initiatives to provide connectivity to those who have a greater difficulty accessing it. SIC LT also works on these topics.
- [Kultūru ratas](#) (Circle of Cultures) is an educational project organised by the Lithuanian Centre of Non-formal Youth Education (LINESA) designed to foster intercultural dialogue, tolerance, and global citizenship among students. The initiative aims to broaden young people's horizons by introducing them to the diverse cultures, traditions, and histories of both the ethnic communities living in Lithuania and the wider world. By moving beyond textbook learning, the project encourages direct engagement and empathy.

Best practices

Example 1

The Safer Internet Centre Lithuania Young Ambassador programme

The [Young Ambassador programme](#) for children and young people (12-18 years old) that teaches the participants about online safety and encourages peer-to-peer learning. The programme builds a national network of educators and librarians who serve as local experts in digital safety. These ambassadors act as the primary bridge between the national "Safer Internet" initiative and their local communities, ensuring that critical information regarding online risks reaches students, parents, and fellow teachers. The programme is co-funded by the EU. The latest funding round has finished, but the next is expected to run until 2028.

Example 2

The Lithuanian Riflemen's Union - Young Riflemen programme

This [Young Riflemen programme](#) for children and young people (11-18 years old) teaches leadership, survival, problem-solving and how to avoid dangers. The Young Riflemen (Jaunieji šauliai) is the youth branch of the Lithuanian Riflemen's Union (Lietuvos šaulių sąjunga), a state-supported paramilitary civil self-defense organization. This programme is designed for Lithuanian citizens aged 11 to 18. The programme is funded by the Lithuanian government and private-sector donations.

Example 3

Duke of Edinburgh programme

The [Duke of Edinburgh's International Award \(DofE\)](#) in Lithuania is a globally recognised, non-formal education programme for youth aged 14 to 24. It is designed to empower young people to develop essential life skills, build physical fitness, and cultivate a sense of social responsibility through a structured, self-directed framework. The [leadership-based programme](#) for children and young people, usually aged 14-24, teaches participants how to reach their goals and overcome challenges. The programme is funded by the Lithuanian and British governments.

BIK+ index 2026: Lithuania

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

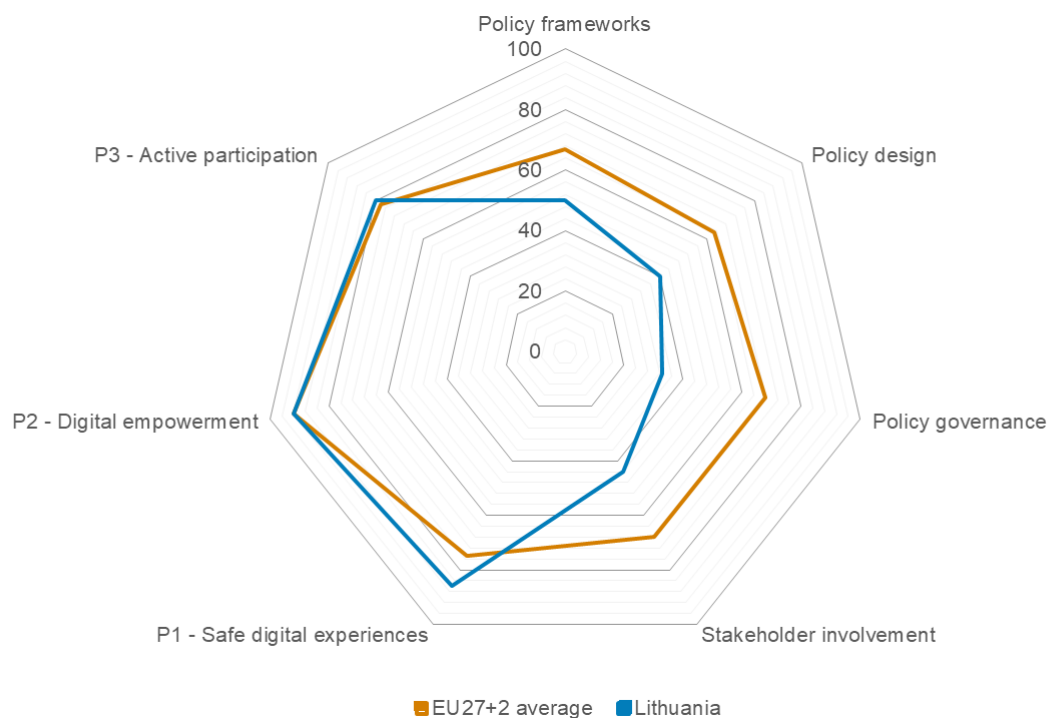


Figure 1: BIK+ index 2026: Lithuania - EU27+2 average comparison