

Country profile 2026: Latvia

Introduction

According to the [Digital Decade 2025: Country reports](#), Latvia's digital landscape continues to place strong emphasis on digital public services and a rapidly evolving AI sector, despite being below the EU average in overall business digitalisation. The ICT sector is a significant economic driver, accounting for 6.5% of gross value added in 2022 and leading the EU in R&D personnel concentration. While only 59.2% of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) reached a basic level of digital intensity in 2024, the adoption of AI nearly doubled in a single year to 8.8%, supported by a tripling of venture capital investment in the field. Infrastructure remains a core strength; Latvia ranks as a frontrunner in Fibre-to-the-Premises (FTTP) with 91.5% coverage, and 5G reaches 96.1% of the population. Regarding human capital, 47.9% of the population possesses basic digital skills, which remains below the EU average and shows significant disparities by education and age. According to the [State of the Digital Decade Eurobarometer 2025](#), public sentiment is generally positive, with 75% of citizens reporting that digitalisation simplifies daily life, though there is a near-universal demand for increased protection of minors online. The government has launched strategic initiatives, including the "Black on White" disinformation resilience platform and a comprehensive cybersecurity strategy for 2023-2026.

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 - Latvia

- **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 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

- Regarding children's protection, in addition to last year's digital transformation, which is still underway, Latvia has implemented another measure this year: establishing the **National Electronic Mass Media Council (NEPLP)**. This is an independent, autonomous institution that represents the public interest in the field of electronic mass media and can indirectly help regulate a safer digital environment for minors.

- Regarding digital empowerment, Latvia has integrated it into the "Skola2030" (School2030) educational reform project, which emphasises critical thinking and digital competence in minors.
- To encourage participation, the [Latvian Safer Internet Centre](#) (Drossinternets.lv) facilitates a Youth Advisory Panel, enabling young people to influence policy discussions.
- Latvia addresses the digital environment for children primarily through the [Guidelines for the Protection of Children's Rights 2022–2027](#). This is a broad policy framework covering all aspects of children's welfare (health, justice, social security), with digital safety and participation treated as integrated components rather than a separate, dedicated "digital-only" policy.
- The empowerment and skill-building aspects of the BIK+ strategy are addressed within the [Digital Transformation Guidelines 2021–2027](#). This is a high-level national strategy for the country's overall digital shift, including specific goals for digital literacy and children's education.
- Because these issues are housed within broader policies, responsibility is shared across different entities, such as the Ministry of Welfare and the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development (VARAM), which aligns with the description of an "integrated" rather than "dedicated" approach. While the BIK+ strategy serves as a foundational guide for Latvian policy, its influence is often integrated into broader digital and child protection frameworks rather than being cited as a standalone, explicit reference.
- Existing legal frameworks, such as the [Law on the Protection of Children's Rights](#) (1998), prohibit violence and emotional harm (including cyberbullying), but these are general protections applied to the digital sphere rather than dedicated digital-specific rights. Most protections are derived from the Criminal Law and the [Electronic Communications Law](#), which focus on preventing illegal acts (protection) rather than outlining the positive rights of children to participate and be empowered in digital spaces.

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 - Latvia

- **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).
- **There is no current research on risks**, harms and well-being at the country level.
- **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 is no funding available** for research on children and the digital environment.
- **Policies undergo systematic and regular monitoring** and evaluation to assess the effectiveness of actions in different contexts (for instance, to take account of new technologies or emergent risks).

Key national research studies

- While the Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia (CSB) conducts an annual survey on **ICT usage in households**, this is a broader survey targeting the general population (ages 16–74). While it captures some data on

household internet access, it does not serve as a dedicated, nationally representative survey focused specifically on the nuanced digital behaviours and safety of children as envisioned by the BIK+ strategy. Consequently, Latvia continues to rely heavily on international longitudinal studies, such as EU Kids Online, which are conducted at multi-year intervals.

- Every major guideline or strategy must have an "interim" and a "final" impact assessment. For example, the Digital Transformation Guidelines are monitored by the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development (VARAM), which tracks specific KPIs and reports results to the government to determine whether adjustments are needed to address emerging risks such as AI or new social media trends.
- Latvia continues to implement EU legislation relevant to children’s online safety (for example, the Digital Services Act) through amendments to national law and institutional designations.

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 - Latvia

- **There is no specific leadership in policy development on this topic.**
- **Coordination occurs across relevant departments** and stakeholders through more informal arrangements.

- **There is a defined national action plan** on children and the digital environment with 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 - Latvia

- **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.
- **Members of the public are regularly and routinely consulted** as part of the policy development for BIK topics. There is broad, inclusive, and transparent engagement, with feedback actively shaping policy outcomes.
- **Children’s interests are considered indirectly** (for example, through analysis of existing surveys or data collections).

Stakeholder mechanisms

- Latvia has strengthened cooperation mechanisms in the digital policy area by implementing the EU’s Digital Services Act (DSA). In 2025, a Memorandum of Cooperation was signed among the [Patērētāju tiesību aizsardzības centrs \(PTAC\)](#) and other public institutions (including the [Child Protection Centre, CERT.LV](#), the Competition Council, Ministry of Culture and others), creating a structured framework for collaboration,

expert coordination, information exchange and joint action in implementing the DSA at the national level.

- This cooperation brings together multiple stakeholders to address digital policy implementation, including aspects relevant to online safety, as well as monitoring and response mechanisms under the DSA.

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 - Latvia

Implementing EU laws

- Latvia's Digital Services Coordinator ([PTAC](#)) has been designated and empowered under national law to implement the DSA, including protections for minors online.
- PTAC has taken specific actions at the national level, including cooperation agreements with other institutions relevant to child protection.

Addressing online harms

- According to the [Law on the Protection of Children's Rights](#), violence against children is prohibited.

Age assurance

- Latvia has incorporated the EU Digital Services Act (DSA) into its national legal framework, creating enforceable obligations on online platforms to protect minors and address systemic risks to children's rights, including exposure to harmful content and access restrictions. Under the DSA, age verification is identified in policy guidance as an appropriate and proportionate measure for restricting access to adult content (e.g., pornography, gambling, etc.) when platforms must protect minors' safety - though this is currently derived from EU regulation and guidelines, not from a separate Latvian age-verification law.
- In 2025, Latvia successfully completed a pilot project for the European Digital Identity Wallet application, showing progress toward national implementation. The full national EUDI Wallet (compliant with EU standards) is expected to be available by late 2026, and provisions for minors (aged 14+) are part of the planning. Latvia plans to make the EUDI Wallet available to minors (age 14 and older) in line with national identity card regulations and EU requirements.
- No formal national decision yet in Latvia to implement the EU age verification solution inside the national EUDI Wallet as of 2025. Latvia is participating in the broader EUDI Wallet development process, and

integration of age verification remains a planned future possibility as part of the national rollout by 2026.

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 - Latvia

Digital empowerment in formal education

- Basic digital skills are being taught (online safety, problem solving, data literacy); however, not about AI.
- Latvia has formal national measures on digital technology use in schools, including a mobile phone ban for younger students up to grade 6, codified in national law effective in 2025.
- Schools are required to adopt internal policies on device use and expected online behaviour.
- Awareness, digital literacy, and online safety support are provided through initiatives such as the Latvian SIC and other education partners, though some aspects are not yet fully embedded in formal curricula.

- Latvia has national/regional activities that provide teacher training on online safety, including SIC-led courses, webinars, ambassador programmes and specialised seminars.
- Online safety is not yet embedded as a compulsory component of pre-service teacher education or the national curriculum, but in-service training and external courses are actively offered
- In 2025, Latvia hosted the First Baltic IP Youth Camp, a regional innovation camp in Ratnieki that brought together young people from Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania to work on creative problem-solving, design thinking and innovation projects, strengthening their creative and digital competencies.
- The “radi!” initiative, supported by the Latvian Ministry of Culture and implemented by Creativity Lab, promotes cultural and creative industries, raising awareness and interest among young audiences about creativity, innovation and the use of digital technologies in creative work.
- The Latvian Safer Internet Centre (SIC) offers educational and awareness activities that build digital literacy and support creative uses of technology among children and youth through seminars, campaigns and awareness-building events. While the primary focus is on online safety, this work supports children’s confident and creative use of digital tools.
- The Digital Skills Community of Latvian regions (a digital innovation network) promotes digital skills and innovation across Latvia, contributing indirectly to environments where children and young people can develop and apply creative digital skills in their communities.

Digital empowerment and lifelong learning

- Local municipalities and organisations regularly run free online or in-person events about child safety in digital environments targeted at parents and families. For example, digital safety seminars organised by community centres (such as in [Ventspils](#)) offer parents practical guidance on internet habits, risks, and safer online behaviour.

- Initiatives like Tet’s digital safety campaigns emphasise the role of parents and educators in creating safe digital experiences for young children. These campaigns raise awareness among parents about the importance of early conversations about internet safety and encourage family engagement in digital learning.

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 - Latvia

Active participation

- The Jaunatnes starptautisko programmu aģentūra (JSPA) and Erasmus+ support training on youth civic participation, such as the “Dive into Youth Participation” programme, which brings together young leaders and youth workers to improve understanding of democratic engagement and to promote active roles in society.
- The MUNICIPALITY16+ project aims to strengthen youth civic participation skills locally, including awareness of municipal participation mechanisms such as participatory budgeting, civic councils, and collective submissions. It also develops tools such as a civic participation simulation game and a digital Participation Index to help young people assess and build their civic competencies.
- Projects such as “Youth Initiatives for a Better Future” and Nordic-Baltic civic engagement efforts engage young people across Latvia and neighbouring countries through workshops, summits, and collaborative

activities that empower them to propose and implement civic initiatives locally and regionally.

- The **National Youth Policy Programme** (e.g. the Jaunatnes politikas pamatnostādnes 2023–2025) includes measures to support youth participation in public life and decision-making.
- Latvia participates in **Digital Week** (All Digital Week), a national campaign with hundreds of events promoting digital skills, digital awareness and responsible use of digital technologies for citizens of all ages – including children and families. The 2025 edition included more than 250 events focused on digital skills, cybersecurity, and responsible technology use, which, in turn, support awareness of digital rights and responsibilities.
- Nordplus and **Baltic human rights education initiatives** are underway to expand human-rights guidance materials to include new themes related to digital technologies and digital rights, helping people (including youth and educators) better understand the rights implications of digital technology use.
- The **State Children’s Rights Protection Inspectorate’s campaigns**, such as “I Choose to Speak”, address online violence and encourage parents and the public – including children – to be aware of rights and safety issues in the digital environment. These activities go beyond just safety tips to highlight children’s rights and protections online.
- Digital skills and media literacy programmes (e.g., Riga TechGirls, StartIT, AUGT Foundation) engage children and youth in understanding their digital environment, thereby reinforcing rights-aware digital participation and critical engagement.

Addressing digital inequalities

- Latvia is implementing a significant investment under its **Recovery and Resilience Plan** to “close the digital divide for socially vulnerable learners and educational institutions”, which includes providing ICT equipment, improving access to learning content, and enhancing data transmission capacities in schools, especially targeting pupils from socially vulnerable groups. This programme is planned for completion by 2026.

- National events such as “Digitālā nedēļa” (Digital Week) include 200+ regional events featuring digital skills workshops and practical training, reaching a broad audience across urban and rural areas and helping reduce digital literacy gaps.
- Latvia implements national and regional activities beyond the SIC to promote positive digital content and services for children. These include:
 - Local digital skills and creative workshops for youth, helping them produce and share digital content.
 - Nationwide awareness events, such as Safer Internet Day and Digital Week, encourage children’s engagement with safe and constructive online content.
 - Digital skills and innovation initiatives under national strategies, supporting children’s abilities to create and access high-quality, positive digital services.

BIK+ index 2026: Latvia

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

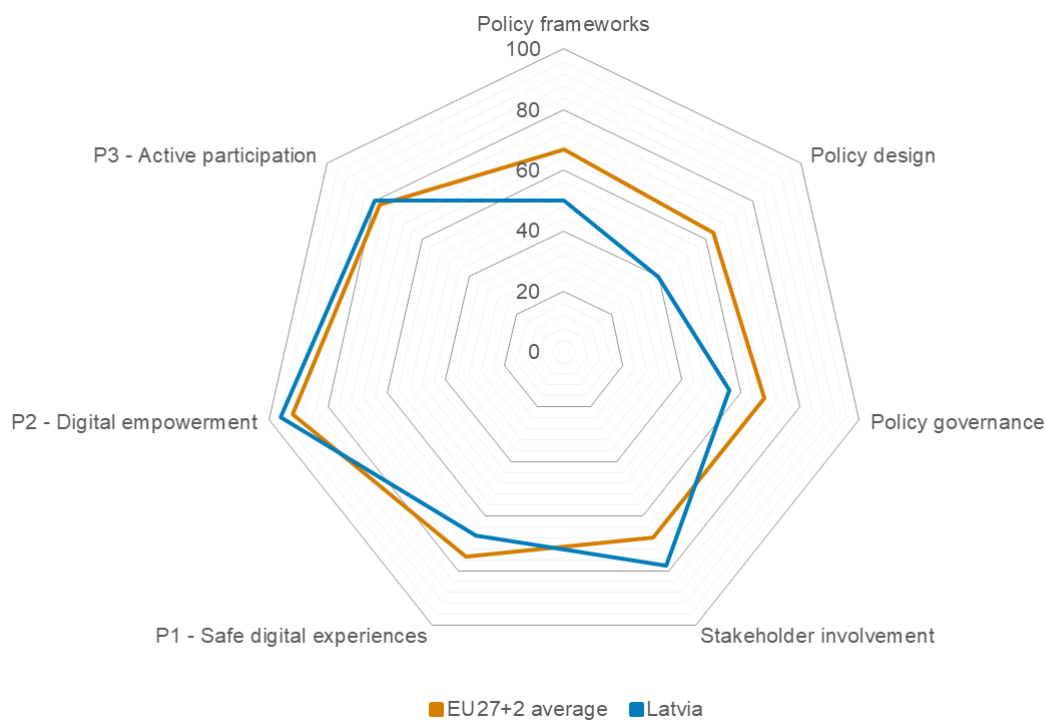


Figure 1: BIK+ index 2026: Latvia - EU27+2 average comparison