

SHINING THE LIGHT ON BIK YOUTH

Recap of youth involvement in 2022

The European Year of Youth

The European Union chose 2022 as the European Year of Youth. It is important to give you the right skills and opportunities, so that you can build a better future.

Better Internet for Kids (BIK) always focuses on children and young people. In Europe, and the rest of the world, we want a safer and better internet for you, and give you the skills, knowledge and help to enjoy all the amazing opportunities in the online world.

WHAT HAPPENED IN 2022?

Safer Internet Day 2022

Vice-President Šuica and Commissioner Breton talked about children's digital rights and online safety with BIK Youth Ambassadors for Safer Internet Day.

But there's more: BIK Youth Ambassadors and Youth Panellists from all over Europe shared their views and opinions on the online world, on the importance of digital skills, and their ideas for a better internet for everyone in the future.



The new BIK+ strategy

In May 2022, the European Commission created a new European strategy for a better internet for kids (BIK+). With the strategy, we want to make sure that YOU – children and young people – are protected, empowered and respected whenever you go online, and that you can access and enjoy what the online world has to offer.

There is also a child-friendly version of the strategy that we created together with young people themselves. Check it out!

Listening to youth on important topics

BIK Youth representatives took part in a lot of events, for example:

- The Digital Assembly is an important annual event in Europe. In June, BIK Youth Ambassadors Sina 🇭🇺 and Dimitris 🇪🇪 talked about the new BIK+ strategy.
- Also in June, two BIK Youth Ambassadors - João Pedro 🇵🇹 and Kathrin 🇩🇪 - spoke in a webinar on the best ways to talk to young people about sensitive online issues.
- In December, at the annual Internet Governance Forum, Youth Panellist Marina 🇬🇷 and others spoke about how young people can help to spot and deal with fake news and misinformation.
- The past year was full of events! Many experts came together to discuss how to make the internet better for you, covering a range of topics... for example, how to make sure you can access high-quality online content and experiences, and how to keep you safe from advertising and financial risks on your favourite online apps or games.

Safer Internet Forum 2022: putting young people at the centre

This year's Safer Internet Forum was all about the new BIK+ strategy, and young people from all over Europe were the stars of this edition! They helped plan the event and made sure that the activities ran smoothly on the day. In preparation, 10 young people from different European countries participated in the SIF Advisory Group, planning the Forum and picking the people who would speak on the day. They also shared their thoughts on the new BIK+ strategy.

During the Safer Internet Forum, a group of 27 young people from 18 European countries talked with experts about things that are important to them, like harassment and hate speech, sexting, fake news, social media, and more. They told the experts that they want to create a better internet... "with or without you!".

Young people had a lot to say before the Forum started! Hear what they want the future of the internet to look like...

Find out more about how young people organised the 2022 edition of the Safer Internet Forum.



Want to know more about youth participation this year? Check out the BIK Youth corner.