

Lithuania

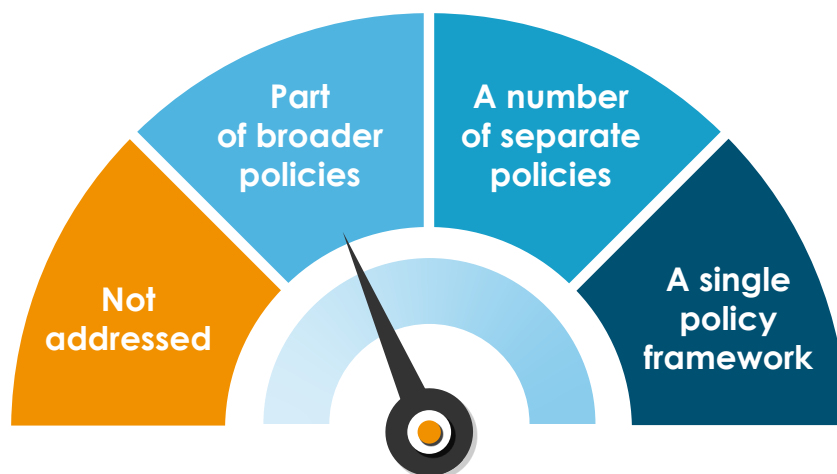
The Better Internet for Kids (BIK) Policy Map is a tool used to compare and exchange knowledge on policy making and implementation in EU Member States on the themes and recommendations of the European Strategy for a Better Internet for Children (or BIK Strategy) first set out by the European Commission in May 2012. The third BIK Policy Map report (2020) examines the implementation of the BIK Strategy in 30 European countries, including all EU Member States, Iceland, Norway and the United Kingdom.

For each country in the BIK Policy Map study, we outline findings for Policy frameworks, Policy making and Policy implementation, and conclude by providing a selection of good practices.

Download the full [BIK Policy Map report](#) from the Better Internet for Kids website.

1. Policy frameworks

Policy frameworks refer to the organising principles and long-term goals for policies, guidelines, decisions and other statements made at the national level in the course of putting into practice the BIK Strategy.



In Lithuania, the European Strategy for a Better Internet for Children has featured in national policy debates on the subject of children's use of the internet. This topic is covered in part of broader policies, principally through laws and regulations which address the four different pillars of the BIK Strategy. Some examples are given below.

Pillar 1: High-quality content online for children and young people

- There is no existing policy in this area in Lithuania.

Pillar 2: Stepping up awareness and empowerment

- Republic of Lithuania Law on Education (25/6/1991) and internet regulations section were introduced on 18/10/2016. This Law establishes the goals of education of the Republic of Lithuania, the principles of the education system, the structure of the education system, the basics of educational activities, educational relations, and the obligations of the state in the field of education.
- Republic of Lithuania General Programme for Basic Education (21/2/2011) states the information technology secondary education programme is designed to continue the development of information communication and general competencies, which started in the basic school, more widely and to deepen the scope of information and communication technologies.
- Strategic Directions of Public Information Policies for 2019-2022 (19/2/2019) aims to form and coordinate a public information policy based on clear state priorities, to promote the dissemination and availability of high-quality and reliable public information, public media and information literacy, a transparent, independent and resilient public information environment, and to ensure non-discriminatory, balanced and consistent state support and tax policy.
- Implementation of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania (13/3/2017).

Pillar 3: Creating a safer environment for children online

- Republic of Lithuania Law on the Protection of Minors Against Detrimental Effect of Public Information (10/9/2002), internet regulations introduced since 10/03/2010. This Law establishes the criteria of public information, whichever could cause physical, mental or moral detriment to the development of minors, the procedure of making available to the public and dissemination thereof and also, the rights, obligations and liability of producers, disseminators and their owners, journalists and institutions regulating their activities.
- Republic of Lithuania Law on Fundamentals of Protection of the Rights of the Child (14/03/1996), internet regulations were introduced on 01/01/2020. The purpose of this Law is to improve the legal protection of children within the country, through establishment of principles in defence of the rights and freedoms of the child, co-ordinated with the Constitution of the Republic of Lithuania and international law norms and principles.

Pillar 4: Legislation and law enforcement against child sexual abuse and exploitation

- Republic of Lithuania Law on the Protection of Minors Against Detrimental Effect of Public Information (10/9/2002), internet regulations introduced since 10/03/2010. This Law establishes the criteria of public information, whichever could cause physical, mental or moral detriment to the development of minors, the procedure of making

available to the public and dissemination thereof and also, the rights, obligations and liability of producers, disseminators and their owners, journalists and institutions regulating their activities.

- Republic of Lithuania Law on Fundamentals of Protection of the Rights of the Child (14/03/1996), internet regulations were introduced on 01/01/2020. The purpose of this Law is to improve the legal protection of children within the country, through establishment of principles in defence of the rights and freedoms of the child, co-ordinated with the Constitution of the Republic of Lithuania and international law norms and principles.
- Republic of Lithuania Law on Education (25/06/1991) and internet regulations section were introduced on 18/10/2016. This Law establishes the goals of education in the Republic of Lithuania which including the following: the principles of the education system, the structure of the education system, the basics of educational activities, educational relations, and the obligations of the state in the field of education.

2. Policy making

Policy making refers to the general process by which policies are developed within each country, including how coordination and oversight is managed, the extent to which the policy agenda is informed by an evidence base, and whether there are arrangements for young people to be involved in the policy process.

2.1 How are policies coordinated?

In Lithuania, more than one ministry, agency or body is responsible for coordinating policies addressing the BIK Strategy with four to six ministries involved in the process.

- The [Ministry of Education, Science and Sport](#) of the Republic of Lithuania participates in implementing the children rights protection policy in the field of public education policy, works with education law, including education about internet and media, cyberbullying, and so on.
- The [Ministry of Social Security and Labour](#) of the Republic of Lithuania participates in the process of the children rights protection policy making and oversees policy coordination and implementation in cooperation with the Prosecutor's Office.
- The Police Department and other authorities act on matters concerning children rights protection.
- The [Ministry of the Interior](#) of the Republic of Lithuania is the institution coordinating the Police Department.
- The [Ministry of Justice](#) of the Republic of Lithuania is involved in the process of the children rights protection policy making within the regulatory scope of the Ministry, ensuring children rights protection in the authorities and institutions that are within its scope of management.

2.2 Who is primarily in charge of policy coordination?

Responsibility for coordination of BIK-related policies varies by each respective pillar of the BIK Strategy.

- The Ministry of Education, Science and Sport of the Republic of Lithuania has the main responsibility for Pillar 2: Stepping up awareness and empowerment.
- The Communications Regulatory Authority of the Republic of Lithuania (RRT) has a key role in policy coordination for Pillar 3: Tools and regulation for an online safe environment.
- In Pillar 4: Legislation and law enforcement against child sexual abuse and exploitation, the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Lithuania has the primary responsibility for policy coordination.

Inter-departmental communication mechanisms include the formal written agreement between the [Communications Regulatory Authority](#), the Police Department and the Office of the Inspector of Journalist Ethics. The Advisory Board of the Safer Internet project acts as a channel of communication among stakeholders and the [Lithuanian Safer Internet Centre](#).

2.3 Data collection in the last three years

Data collection to support policy making related to the BIK Strategy includes national and regional surveys with quantitative data specifically focused on children's use of the internet, quantitative data on some topics of children's use of the internet collected as part of a broader survey, and qualitative research specifically focused on children's use of the internet. Examples include:

- The [EU Kids Online 2018 Lithuania](#) study, part of the pan-European network, examines the internet usage, risks and opportunities among children aged 9-17 and one of their parents.
- [Quantitative analysis of public opinion of parents and teenagers use of internet 2018](#); public opinion and market research commissioned by Spinter Research, Education Information on behalf of the Technology Center with 808 parents and teenagers on their views on the internet.
- The [e-children project](#) (2018-2020) covers information from scientific studies which aim to analyse screen-based media use in children.

2.4 Involvement of young people in policy making

The involvement of young people in policy making is described as one whereby young people's interests are considered indirectly (for example, through analysis of existing surveys or data collections). Relevant organisations involved in supporting youth participation in policy making include:

- The Parliament of the Republic of Lithuania and Ministry of Education, Science and Sport of the Republic of Lithuania routinely consult with youth organisations such as the Parliament of Students.

3. Policy implementation

Policy implementation refers to the involvement of the relevant stakeholders in the delivery of initiatives and the spread of activities as envisaged under each of the four pillars of the BIK Strategy.

Pillar 1: High-quality content online for children and young people

Activities under Pillar 1 are led by public agencies. Government ministries have a complementary role. Examples include:

- The [National Agency for Education](#) ensures high-quality education by providing information, counselling, qualification improvement and conducting education monitoring and education research, developing the education content, and coordinating its implementation.
- The [Lithuanian public broadcaster](#), including Lithuanian radio and television, provide educational TV shows and activities for children.
- Other groups of stakeholders implement activities in their working fields.
- Universities and research centres support in providing educational content and approaches for educators.

Summary of Pillar 1 actions:

	Introduced in the last 12 months	Existent before last year	Not available
Initiatives to stimulate the production and visibility of quality content for children	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Initiatives to encourage children's creativity and to promote positive use of the internet	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Initiatives to implement standards for quality online content for children	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other relevant activity (please specify)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Pillar 2: Stepping up awareness and empowerment

Activities under Pillar 2 are led by public agencies. Government ministries have a complementary role. Examples include:

- The [National Agency for Education](#) and the [Safer Internet Centre](#) are leaders in the field in providing training on internet safety for both teachers and children.
- The [Lithuanian public broadcaster](#), including Lithuanian radio and television, support raising awareness about safer internet for kids.
- [Guidelines of General Programme Renewal](#), 2019.
- The National Agency for Education prepared [recommendations for parents and teachers about safe conduct during distance learning](#).
- [Advice for teachers and parents about safer internet for kids](#).
- The [Safer Internet Centre](#) supports the network of partners, represented by various organisations from private and public sectors, and organises periodical meetings.
- Training for Safer internet ambassadors: lectures about safety online for children, fake news, children protection from dangerous content, protection of personal data, gaming and other important topics.
- Educational informal activities in public libraries, mostly during Safer Internet Week (there is a network of 1,200 libraries in the country).
- The eSafety Label programme for schools is available in the national language (developed by EUN, administrated by the Safer Internet Centre).

Summary of Pillar 2 actions:

	Introduced in the last 12 months	Existent before last year	Not available
"Teaching online safety in schools"			
Strategies to include teaching online safety in schools	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Activities to reinforce informal education about online safety	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Activities to provide for online safety policies in schools	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Activities to ensure adequate teacher training in online safety	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Activities to support public-private partnerships in online safety	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
“Digital and media literacy activities”			
Activities to support young people’s technical skills required to use online media content and services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Activities to encourage critical thinking around media industries and evaluating content for truthfulness, reliability	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Activities that encourage interaction, engagement and participation in the economic, social, creative, cultural aspects of society through online media	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Activities that promote democratic participation and fundamental rights on the internet	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Activities that challenge radicalisation and hate speech online	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
“Scaling up awareness activities and youth participation”			
National support for public awareness-raising campaigns	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Involvement of children when developing national campaigns	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Involvement of children when developing legislation with an impact on their online activities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Activities or initiatives to match the Commission’s support for the national Youth Panels	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Industry funding and technical support for NGOs and education providers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Industry dissemination of awareness material either online or at the point of sale	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
“Simple and robust reporting tools for users”			
Mechanisms for reporting content and contacts that may be harmful for children such as cyberbullying or grooming	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Initiatives to facilitate cooperation between helplines and law enforcement	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Initiatives to monitor the effective functioning of reporting mechanisms at a national level	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Pillar 3: Creating a safe environment for children online

Activities under Pillar 3 are led by public agencies. NGOs and civil society organisations have a complementary role. Examples include:

- The [Communications Regulatory Authority](#) of the Republic of Lithuania (RRT) with the [Hotline](#) and [Safer Internet Centre](#) are leaders in creating a safe environment for children online. Other institutions play a complementary role in this field.
- The [Office of the Inspector of Journalist Ethics](#) supervise age restrictions according to the Republic of Lithuania Law on the Protection of Minors Against Detrimental Effect of Public Information. In Lithuania, the age requirement for Google is 14 years and 13 years for Facebook.
- The [Communications Regulatory Authority](#) of the Republic of Lithuania (RRT) publish information about parental control tools and parental involvement into kids safety on the internet. RRT is also responsible for the testing and approval of filtering software to be installed in public places where minors might be present, such as libraries, computer classes in schools, internet cafes, and so on. (Law on the Protection of Minors Against the Detrimental Effect of Public Information, Article 7, part 3).
- A Specification of the procedure for marking and dissemination of public information which has a detrimental effect on the development of minors APPROVED BY Resolution No. 1121 of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania of 21 July 2010 (recast of Resolution No. 942 of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania of 21 September 2016). Producers, disseminators of public information and participants thereof, broadcasters of television programmes, journalists and other persons responsible for the content of public information must determine by themselves, whether the information intended to be disseminated is attributable to the category of public information which has a detrimental effect on the development of minors pursuant to the criteria specified in subparagraphs 1-21 of paragraph 2 of Article 4 of the Law on the Protection of Minors Against the Detrimental Effect of Public Information.
- There are few state institutions responsible for the implementation of the Specification provided above. Internet users can complain to the appropriate institution when the requirements of the Specification are not met.
- According to Code of Ethics of Lithuanian Journalists and Publishers, since December 2019, social media users have to be informed about advertisements.

Summary of Pillar 3 actions:

	Introduced in the last 12 months	Existent before last year	Not available
“Age-appropriate privacy settings”			
Activities to ensure the implementation of EU legislation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Self-regulatory measures by industry about age-appropriate privacy settings	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Awareness-raising activities regarding age-appropriate privacy settings	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
“Wider availability and use of parental controls”			
Activities to promote the availability of parental control tools	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tests and certification for parental control tools	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Efforts to support industry implementation of parental control tools	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
“Wider use of age rating and content classification”			
Activities to promote the adoption of age rating and content classification among relevant stakeholders	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
A complaints process for the effective functioning of such systems	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
“Online advertising and overspending”			
Activities at the national level to ensure that legislation regarding online profiling and behavioural advertising is observed	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Support industry in developing codes of conduct regarding inappropriate advertising	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Monitor implementation of codes of conduct at the national level	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Pillar 4: Fighting against child sexual abuse and child sexual exploitation

Activities under Pillar 4 are led by government ministries, NGOs and civil society organisations have a complementary role. Examples include:

- The [Ministry of Social Security and Labour of the Republic of Lithuania](#) cooperates with the Prosecutor's Office, the Police Department, the State Child Rights Protection and Adoption Service, the Communications Regulatory Authority of the Republic of Lithuania (RRT) and the Safer Internet Centre on matters concerning fighting against child sexual abuse and child sexual exploitation.
- The [Communications Regulatory Authority](#) of the Republic of Lithuania (RRT) initiated creation and adoption of the Memorandum on a clean internet environment of the electronic information hosting service providers operating in Lithuania (hereinafter referred to as the Memorandum). The purpose of the Memorandum is to create such environment for cooperation of the hosting service providers and the RRT, where notice and take down (NTD) procedures would be implemented smoothly.

Summary of Pillar 4 actions:

	Introduced in the last 12 months	Existent before last year	Not available
Increased resources for law enforcement bodies that fight against child abuse material online	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Effective safeguards in place to ensure democratic accountability in the use of investigative tools to combat child sexual abuse	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Activities to support the functioning and visibility of hotlines at the national level	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Activities to support the improvement of cooperation between hotlines and industry for taking down child abuse material	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

4. Good practices

The following is an example of good practice in supporting children's use of the internet in Lithuania:

BŪTENT!

The festival of discussions, [BŪTENT!](#) ("Makes Sense!"), is an annual assembly in a cosy open-air area of Birštonas with a festival-type atmosphere, where people from political, business, academic, cultural and non-governmental organisations discuss important topics for the development of the state, share ideas and forge new collaborations. This festival belongs to a Nordic tradition of open democracy festivals. In 2019, the festival joined forces with other democracy festivals in the Nordic countries, the Baltic region and Europe to establish the

International Democracy Festivals Association. Each festival, organised in nine different countries, works as a platform for democratic discussion between civil society, business, politics, NGOs, science, culture and media. The festival usually includes more than 70 hours of enriching discussions and events, many interesting meetings and heartfelt conversations, along with special programmes for families and children. The aim is that visitors not only listen to and engage in discussions, but also spend time in a comfortable and meaningful way. One of the goals of BŪTENT! is to show that important decisions cannot be made without including a diversity of opinions and various community groups. This high-level discussion culture helps society to agree on a country's development priorities and determines higher-quality decisions. This festival cherishes an open space for discussions in Lithuania and contributes to the creation of a democratic, united and progressive society, it fosters a culture of discussions and listening, as well as respect for others' opinions and views. Every year, the Safer Internet project participates in this festival with various activities for adults and children.