

Poland

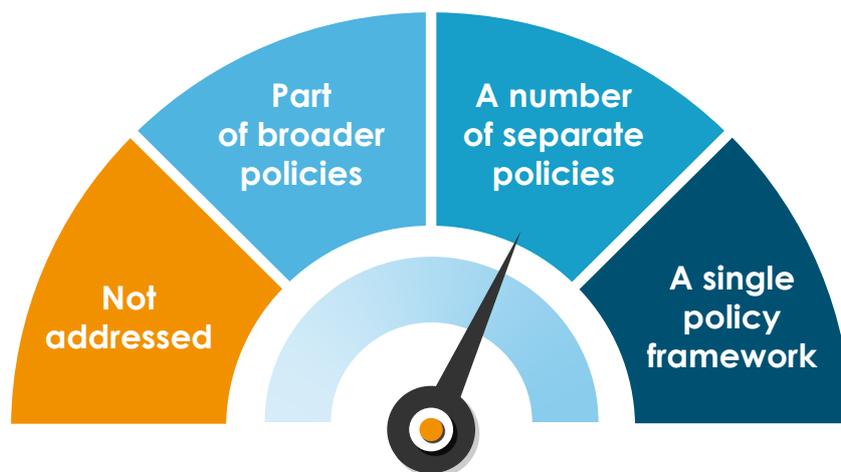
The Better Internet for Kids (BIK) Policy Map is a tool used to compare and exchange knowledge on policy making and implementation in EU Member States on the themes and recommendations of the European Strategy for a Better Internet for Children (or BIK Strategy) first set out by the European Commission 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 Poland, 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 a number of separate 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

- The [E-handbooks programme](#). This is the educational platform of the Ministry of Education and Science offering "E-textbooks for general education". Resources include: Polish language, history and society, history, social studies, nature, geography, biology, chemistry, physics, education for safety, mathematics, computer classes, and computer science. The set also includes textbooks for early childhood

education (grades I-III). In each grade, the content has been divided into four parts, according to the rhythm of the seasons.

- The [Polish Educational Network](#) (OSE) is a public telecommunications network programme that gives schools all over Poland the ability to connect to fast, free and secure internet. The programme was designed by the Ministry of Digitization, and its actions are implemented by the National Research Institute NASK – OSE operator.
- Action 3.4 of the [Digital Poland Operational Programme](#) – educational and information campaigns for the dissemination of benefits from the use of digital technologies.

Pillar 2: Stepping up awareness and empowerment

- The second revised and updated edition of the [Online Safety Standards for Educational Institutions](#) (January 2018) is the result of the work of a team of experts from NASK and the Janusz Korczak Higher School of Pedagogy in Warsaw. The document proposes an ordering of principles and procedures, and allows for proper orientation of preventive and corrective actions in relation to cyber problems. The proposed models of prevention and intervention fill the gap between science and practice of the current functioning of institutions, and their implementation to improve the safety of members of the school community, primarily children and young people, but also educational staff and parents.
- The [Cybersecurity Strategy of the Republic of Poland 2019-2024](#) was approved by the Council of Ministers on 22 October 2019, and was signed by Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki on 29 October 2019. The main goal of the Strategy is to increase the level of resistance to cyber threats and the level of information protection in the public, military and private sectors. Promotion of knowledge and good practices among citizens will also contribute to better protection of information. The document defines strategic goals and appropriate policy and regulatory measures that need to be implemented in order to make information systems, operators of essential services, operators of critical infrastructure, digital service providers and public administration resistant to cyber threats. It will also increase the level of national security.
- The Republic of Poland Cybersecurity Framework 2017-2022 announced in June 2017 aims to create the conditions for the safe use of cyberspace by citizens including: safer internet at school and education from the early stages, development of teachers' professional progress plans responding to safety education, prevention of cybercrime and public awareness raising
- Action 3.4 of the [Digital Poland Operational Programme](#) – educational and information campaigns for the dissemination of benefits from the use of digital technologies.

Pillar 3: Creating a safer environment for children online

- [Education Law Act](#), 14.12.2016.
- From 25 May 2018, the authority competent in the field of personal data protection is the [President of the Personal Data Protection Office](#).

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

- [Penal Code](#), 8 June 2010.
- [Act on the national cybersecurity system](#), 5 July 2018. The National Framework of Cybersecurity Policy of the Republic of Poland for 2017-2022 is a strategic document in a continued process of actions taken by the governmental administration, aimed at raising the level of cybersecurity in the Republic of Poland, including the Policy for the Protection of Cyberspace of the Republic of Poland adopted by the government in 2013. The National Framework document was prepared by a group composed of representatives of the Ministry of Digital Affairs, Ministry of Defence and Ministry of the Interior and Administration, and representatives of the Internal Security Agency, the Government Centre for Security and the National Security Bureau.

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 Poland, 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.

There are a few expert working groups composed of representatives of key players where all crucial issues related to child safety and the plans for strategies needed for the future are discussed. Other examples of government's or state institutions' cooperation in this regard are:

- The signing of the Declaration of Cooperation for the Safety of Children and Young People on the Internet by the Minister of Digital Affairs in October 2019. Its signatories are the Ombudsman for Children and representatives of state institutions, media, internet portals and telecommunications operators.
- The establishment of the Round Table for Fighting Harmful and Pathological Content on the Internet (October 2018) is the initiative of the Commissioner for Human Rights with the participation of YouTubers, representatives of government administration, media, scientists, NGOs' activists, prosecutors, policemen, and psychologists. As part

of this cooperation, in May 2019, the research report [Pathological content on the internet](#) was published by the Empowering Children Foundation in cooperation with the Commissioner for Human Rights and the support of Orange Polska. This is the first attempt to scientifically diagnose this phenomenon, describe its specificity, scale, its legal framework, and potential impact on young people.

- The signing of the Declaration of Cooperation within the project Online threats – prevention, response, which is devoted to internet addiction among children and teenagers. The declaration was signed in October 2019. Its signatories are the Marshal's Office of the Lesser Poland Voivodeship, NASK, Provincial Police Headquarters in Kraków and the Lesser Poland Teacher Training Centre.
- Appointment by the [Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Policy](#) (December 2019) of the Council of Family in an aim to improve the protection of children from access to pornography.

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.

- Under Pillar 1: High-quality content online for children and young people, this is primarily overseen by the [Ministry of National Education](#).
- Pillar 2: Stepping up awareness and empowerment, Pillar 3: Tools and regulation for an online safe environment and Pillar 4: Legislation and law enforcement against child sexual abuse and exploitation are primarily overseen by the [Ministry of Digital Affairs](#).

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:

- Central Statistical Office for Poland: [Społeczeństwo informacyjne w Polsce. Wyniki badań statystycznych z lat 2015-2019](#) (Information society in Poland. Results of statistical surveys in the years 2015–2019). The study doesn't refer to children as such, and the youngest people who were included in the survey were 16 years old.
- Empowering Children Foundation, 2019, [Problematyczne użytkowanie internetu przez młodzież](#) (Problematic internet use by young people).
- Pyżalski, J., Zdrodowska, A., Tomczyk, Ł., Abramczuk, K. (2019). [Polskie badanie EU Kids Online 2018. Najważniejsze wyniki i wnioski](#). Poznań: Wydawnictwo Naukowe UAM (Polish EU Kids Online 2018 survey. The most important results and conclusions). The study was conducted with a sample of 1,249 students aged 9 to 17. The study and publication was carried out in partnership with the Orange Foundation.

- Dbam o Mój Z @gow Foundation and University of Gdańsk, 2019, survey [Młodzi Cyfrowi](#) (Young people digital). The study was conducted on a sample of 50,135 students aged 12 to 19.
- NASK National Research Institute, 2019, [Nastolatki 3.0](#) (Teenagers 3.0). Respondents of the study were 1,173 students from 55 schools from all over Poland aged 13-17. The study was conducted by NASK.
- NASK National Research Institute, 2019, [Patostreamy w opinii polskich internautów](#) (Pathological online streams in the opinion of Polish internet users). Social research devoted to the description of the problem of pathostreams in areas such as the scale of occurrence, personal experience and assessment of the phenomenon. The results of the study allow a better understanding of the scale of the phenomenon, and thus finding effective and adequate methods to reduce its negative effects. Respondents of the study were 1,013 people aged 15+. The study was conducted by NASK.
- Pyżalski J. (red.) (2019). [Internet i jego młodzi twórcy – dobre i złe wiadomości z badań jakościowych](#), Warszawa: NASK. (Internet and its young creators - good and bad news from qualitative research). The qualitative research was done on the young people in age 13–18 (74 girls and 26 boys) who are active internet creators. The research was carried out by means of narrative interviews with a list of general instructions. The aim of the research was to recognise the experiences and beliefs of young internet creators – issues of initiating online creative activities, and motivation and practices related to online creativity, also in the context of broadly understood offline functioning. The report from the survey was issued as part of the Educational and information campaigns project for the dissemination of benefits from use of digital technologies, co-financed by the Digital Poland Operational Program 2014-2020. The project is implemented by the Ministry of Digital Affairs in cooperation with NASK National Research Institute.
- Empowering Children Foundation, 2019, [Patotreści w internecie](#) (Pathological content on the internet). The study consisted of two parts: qualitative and quantitative. As part of the qualitative study, four group interviews were conducted with teenagers aged 13-15 divided into age groups and by gender of respondents in two cities of different sizes. The quantitative survey was conducted on a national scale by means of an online survey on a sample of 400 13-15 year olds, representative in terms of gender and size of the town. The study was conducted by Puzzle Research on behalf of the Empowering Children Foundation with the support of Orange Poland.
- Tarkowski, A., Sitek, M., Strycharz, J., Vuorikari, R. and Castaño Muñoz, J., [Methodological guide for implementation and evaluation of open e-textbook programs](#), EUR 29683 EN, Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, 2019, ISBN 978-92-76-00669-5, doi:10.2760/949380, JRC115866. This publication is a Technical report by the Joint Research Centre (JRC), the European Commission's science and knowledge service. It aims to provide evidence-based scientific support to the European policymaking process.

- NASK National Research Institute, 2019, [Rodzice Nastolatków 3.0](#) (Parents of Teenagers 3.0). Parents of Teenagers 3.0 is a continuation of the project research Teenagers 3.0 (conducted by NASK in 2016); respondents of the study were the parents of the respondents in the previous study. The study was conducted on a representative sample by the PAPI method (Paper And Pen Personal Interview) in October 2018. The study was conducted on a sample of 513 parents, and the research covered four areas: use, digital identity and attitudes, privacy awareness, and cyber security. The report from the survey was issued as part of the Educational and information campaigns project for the dissemination of benefits from use of digital technologies, co-financed by the Digital Poland Operational Program 2014-2020. The project is implemented by the Ministry of Digital Affairs in cooperation with NASK National Research Institute.

2.4 Involvement of young people in policy making

The involvement of young people in policy making is described as one whereby young people are systematically and directly consulted and informed (e.g. through hearings, consultations or specific surveys). Relevant organisations involved in supporting youth participation in policy making include:

Consultations with children and young people are held on a regular basis by the [Polish Safer Internet Centre](#). They allow the Safer Internet Centre to design effective educational tools and media campaigns, and to evaluate the actions in progress. Such consultations are held during meetings of the youth panel and within the framework of the Congress of the Young Internet Users – a meeting of students from schools from the whole country.

In addition, the Safer Internet Centre organises a yearly (since 2016) [Digital Youth Forum](#) (DYF) event, the first such event in Poland. It is an event designed for youth, by youth and about youth on online safety and creative and innovative usage of new technologies as an alternative to risky online behaviours. Each year, there are over 400 participants (380 of which are teenagers aged 14–17). As a complement to the event there is a "Digital Youth" magazine for youth which also includes articles prepared by young people themselves.

Activities within the Polish Safer Internet Centre include:

- Congress of Young Internet Users which serves as the youth panel for the Polish Safer Internet Centre. It meets 3-4 times a year for consulting education materials on new trends and discussions, as well as participation in project events and in EU initiatives including the annual Safer Internet Forum.
- Digital Youth Forum – conference for youths with youths as speakers. Children are also involved in debates during the annual Safer Internet Day conferences.
- Other initiatives which youth are involved in include actions by the Ombudsman for Children and the Commissioner for Human Rights. They also take part in a Youth Parliament.

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 the [Ministry of National Education](#) with public agencies having a complementary role.

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Pillar 2: Stepping up awareness and empowerment

Activities under Pillar 2 are led by the [Ministry of Digital Affairs](#) with public agencies having a complementary role. Recent examples include:

- The Ministry of Digital Affairs [recommendations for distance teaching](#) by teachers during the COVID-19 crisis.
- [How to safely conduct online lessons? Guide for teachers and principals](#) prepared as an initiative of the Commissioner for Human Rights as a response to the COVID-19 crisis.

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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 the [Ministry of Digital Affairs](#) with public agencies having a complementary role.

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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Support industry in developing codes of conduct regarding inappropriate advertising	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Monitor implementation of codes of conduct at the national level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

Activities under Pillar 4 are led by the [Ministry of Digital Affairs](#) with NGOs and civil society organisations having a complementary role.

The National Cybersecurity Law of 2018 established public financing (grants) for [CSIRT NASK](#) and other public activities in the area of cybersecurity in Poland. CSIRT NASK is a one of the national Computer Security Incident Response Team in Poland situated in NASK National Research Institute. The Dyzurnet.pl Team – a point of contact for illegal content, including sexual abuse of children, operates as a part of CSIRT NASK.

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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

4. Good practices

The following are three selected examples of good practices in supporting children's use of the internet in Poland:

Digital Youth Forum

The [Digital Youth Forum](#) (DYF) is a youth event organised annually by the Empowering Children Foundation within the framework of the Polish Safer Internet Centre. It was inaugurated in 2016. The Forum is organised for young people and its aim is to inspire them in the field of safe and creative use of new technologies. It is connected with a wider Digital Youth project which includes an online portal and magazine. Each year, among the DYF's international speakers are people that owe their success and popularity to the internet and

new technologies. Many of them are still high school students themselves. They present their routes to success and offer the audience advice. In addition to the 400 young people from all over Poland gathered each year on site in Warsaw, thousands also participate remotely thanks to online streaming and the action called DYF in your school. Alongside presentations, an exhibition area is also created where young people can see and try various new technologies like VR (virtual reality) or robotics. The event is also accompanied by several contests for young people to encourage their active participation including, for example, a challenge to create their own mini-documentary from DYF. Each year, the event is co-organised within the partnership of different stakeholder such as, for example, the International Telecommunication Union, Orange Foundation, Google Poland, and Facebook Poland. Further information is available from the digitalyouth.pl website.

Mr File and Mr Folder on the trail of online problems

The stage performance Mr File and Mr Folder on the trail of online problems is organised by NASK within the framework of the Polish Safer Internet Centre. The theatre show targets elementary school children aged 7-9 and raises issues related to the risks associated with the abuse of new technologies by children. At the same time, the actors also try to show children the benefits that can result from a reasonable and balanced use of digital technology in everyday life. The performance is designed so that, through entertainment, fun and the interaction of the actors with the audience, children can better understand issues related to the problem of internet abuse. The theatre show includes multimedia effects and also musical elements. The stage performance has proved to be a very attractive and entertaining way of reaching children – young spectators of the performance have great fun, but also react vividly to the problems raised on the stage, which indicates that they follow and focus on the plot of the performance. The theatre show is designed to host a few hundred children at the same time which is a clear advantage of this educational form.

Educational and informational campaign for parents

In 2019 the Ministry of Digital Affairs, in cooperation with NASK, inaugurated the educational and informational campaign [Nie zagub dziecka w sieci](#) (Do not lose your child online). The main focus of the campaign is to assist parents, as well as foster-parents, in the process of accurate and effective companionship with children while they are using the internet. One of the action's undertaken was the signing the Declaration of Cooperation for the Safety of Children on the Web by the Ombudsman for Children, representatives of state institutions, media, internet portals and telecommunications operators on 1 October 2019. It's worth mentioning that since the beginning of the campaign, the Ministry of Digital Affairs and NASK have prepared various materials for parents and foster-parents. This includes a series of guides and videos materials, helpful in understanding, for example, what is sharenting, sexting and pathological content online (so called pathostreams). Promotion of the campaign continues via various media, at press meetings, conferences and during other particular events. The campaign is part of a project called Educational and information campaigns for the dissemination of benefits from the use of digital technologies. The project has existed since 2017 and is financed from European Funds under the Operational Programme Digital Poland 2014-2020" (action 3.4.). The project leader is the Ministry of Digital Affairs, and the partner is NASK National Research Institute.