

Romania

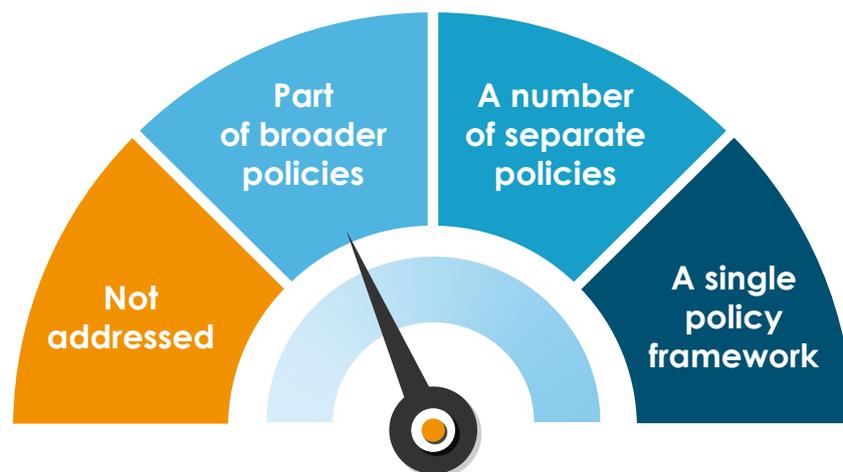
The Better Internet for Kids (BIK) Policy Map is a tool used to compare and exchange knowledge on policy making and implementation in EU Member States on the themes and recommendations of the European Strategy for a Better Internet for Children (or BIK Strategy) first set out by the European Commission 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 Romania, 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 as part of broader policies, principally through laws and regulations which address the four different pillars of the BIK Strategy. Some examples are given below.

However, due to the recent fusion of the former Romanian Ministry of Communications and Informational Society and the former Ministry of Transport into the new Ministry for Transport, Infrastructure and Communications, many current policies and activities are under consideration, including responsibilities for BIK-related topics.

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

- [The Digital Agenda for Romania 2014-2020](#).
- [The NGN Strategy for Romania](#).
- [The Sustainable Development of Romania](#).

Horizontal issues and strategies related with Pillar 1 have been also considered by other legal entities of the [Romanian government](#).

Pillar 2: Stepping up awareness and empowerment

- Initiatives have been developed during communication events and communication strategies associated with particular projects mentioned for Pillar 1. All these initiatives were possible due to the existing infrastructure which includes broadband access for schools, secured connections, technologies, data, lessons and qualified human resources designated to encourage all children to become aware of the importance of a safer internet.
- A [secure platform to collect information on children with disabilities](#) is planned to produce information on topics related to BIK topics.
- A [Guide on the first safe steps in digital life](#) follows some recommendations of the BIK Strategy.
- Comparable initiatives have been coordinated by CERT-RO, aiming at events developed together with schools, for example [A different way to go to school](#).
- The [RO-NET Project is facilitating better access via its broadband infrastructure for end users](#). RO-NET combines infrastructure with local assets, based on two network management centres, 3,265 km of fibre optic distribution network and four new distribution towers.

Pillar 3: Creating a safer environment for children online

- Due to the current restructuring of the competent bodies, Romania refers to the answers given during the [BIK Policy Map II project](#).

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

- The problem of child sexual abuse material (CSAM) has been introduced in a softly manner into the [Guide on the first safe steps in digital life](#).

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 Romania, more than one ministry, agency or body is responsible for coordinating policies addressing the topics of the BIK Strategy, with four to six ministries involved in the process. However, due to the recent restructuring the specific responsibilities for BIK-related policies are unclear.

2.2 Who is primarily in charge of policy coordination?

An important responsibility for coordination of BIK-related policies lies with the new Romanian Ministry for Transport, Infrastructure and Communications in all four pillars of the BIK Strategy. Due to the government's restructuring and the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the mechanisms for co-operation with other ministries and stakeholders are being reconsidered.

2.3 Data collection in the last three years

With regards to data collection to support policy making related to the BIK Strategy, Romania refers to the information stated during the [BIK Policy Map II survey in 2018](#).

2.4 Involvement of young people in policy making

The involvement of young people in policy making is described as one whereby no involvement takes place. However, during recent years, there have been organised events with children on BIK-related topics by the CERT-RO, with constant support and guidance from representatives of the former Ministry of Communications and Informational Society.

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

As of November 2019, the Romanian government has been represented by three different cabinets. Due to the COVID-19 situation, there have been no designated activities in Romania.

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

Pillar 2: Stepping up awareness and empowerment

Activities under Pillar 2 are led by [Save the Children Romania](#), a national non-governmental organisation established in 1990 with the purpose of promoting, defending and monitoring children's rights in Romania, in accordance with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). Since 2008, Save the Children Romania has been implementing the Safer Internet project and is currently coordinating all three components of the programme.

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 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 type="checkbox"/>
Activities or initiatives to match the Commission’s support for the national Youth Panels	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Industry funding and technical support for NGOs and education providers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Industry dissemination of awareness material either online or at the point of sale	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Initiatives to facilitate cooperation between helplines and law enforcement	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Initiatives to monitor the effective functioning of reporting mechanisms at a national level	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Pillar 3: Creating a safe environment for children online

Activities under Pillar 3 have been led by the former Ministry of Communications and Informational Society. No additional updates are available for 2020 due to the current reorganisation process as well as the COVID-19 pandemic. The CERT-RO, which has been coordinated by the former Ministry, has been involved in such activities.

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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Self-regulatory measures by industry about age-appropriate privacy settings	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 a government ministry or department. The Safer Internet Centre has a complementary role. Due to the existing reorganisation process, topics regarding Pillar 4 are being reconsidered.

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

4. Good practices

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

Awareness centre

The [Ora de Net](#) project promotes internet safety among Romanian children, parents, teachers and specialists by creating public awareness campaigns, by offering informative sessions, trainings, and by improving educational methods used in schools, and also by proposing public policies and better legislation in this field. The project also aims to combat illegal or harmful content and internet-related offences (child sexual abuse material (CSAM), grooming), to encourage the responsible use of the internet and new communication technologies by children, parents and teachers, and to influence decision making by bringing together key stakeholders in formulating and implementing realistic policies.

[ctrl_AJUTOR](#) is a counselling service which children, teenagers and parents can contact for help or advice when faced with a difficult situation online. ctrl_AJUTOR can be reached by telephone and online.

Hotline

The [esc_ABUZ](#) reporting service is a civil point of contact which provides its users with the opportunity to inform competent authorities, while keeping their anonymity, about child sexual abuse images they might encounter online. The hotline, esc_ABUZ, is a component of the Safer Internet project that was taken over by Save the Children in 2015, from its consortium partner FOCUS – Centre for Missing and Sexually Exploited Children. In October 2015, the Romanian hotline also became a member of INHOPE, a global network that brings together 46 member hotlines with the aim of leading the fight against child sexual abuse material (CSAM) online.

Youth Participation – Save the Children Romania

[Save the Children Romania](#) works closely with a group of young volunteers on developing youth-led campaigns. Such campaigns against hate speech and cyberbullying were implemented by the youth panellists. Young volunteers are also involved in consultation events, while their recommendations are taken into account when developing resources and campaigns, and also passed along to the relevant authorities. The volunteers are also involved in activities such as public events and campaigns, organising events in specific periods such as celebrating Safer Internet Day (SID), Europe Day, the national programme, International Volunteering Week, and so on. They develop partnerships with local authorities, schools, parents' associations, other NGOs and media for an increased impact of their activities at local level.