

Slovakia

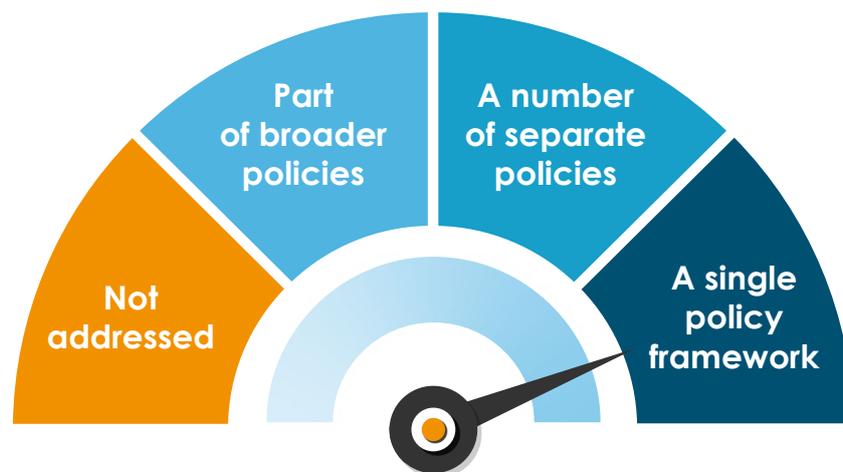
The Better Internet for Kids (BIK) Policy Map is a tool used to compare and exchange knowledge on policy making and implementation in EU Member States on the themes and recommendations of the European Strategy for a Better Internet for Children (or BIK Strategy) first set out by the European Commission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

- [National concept of children's protection in the digital environment.](#)

Pillar 2: Stepping up awareness and empowerment

- [National concept of children's protection in the digital environment.](#)

Pillar 3: Creating a safer environment for children online

- [National concept of children's protection in the digital environment.](#)

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

- [Paragraph 370 within Slovak Criminal law.](#)

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 Slovakia, 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. Each of the relevant ministries nominated representatives for a multi-stakeholder body which subsequently created the [National concept of children's protection in the digital environment](#).

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 and Pillar 3: Tools and regulation for an online safe environment, this is primarily overseen by the NGO eSlovensko.
- For Pillar 2: Stepping up awareness and empowerment, the Slovakian Ministry of Education, Research, Science and Sport is responsible.
- Under Pillar 4: Legislation and law enforcement against child sexual abuse and exploitation, this is overseen by the Slovakian Ministry of Internal Affairs.

There are no inter-departmental communication mechanisms beyond the inter-ministerial working group. Most of the cooperation is done voluntarily.

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 main body of BIK-related empirical insights in Slovakia is based on the EU Kids Online surveys. There is quantitative data available on some topics of children's use of the internet, collected as part of a broader survey, the [IT Fitness test](#), funded by various partners and especially the Digital Coalition.

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).

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 Slovakian Safer Internet Centre. Government ministries or departments play 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 the Slovakian Safer Internet Centre. Government ministries or departments play a complementary role.

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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Activities to support public-private partnerships in online safety	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Activities that challenge radicalisation and hate speech online	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
“Scaling up awareness activities and youth participation”			
National support for public awareness-raising campaigns	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Pillar 3: Creating a safe environment for children online

Activities under Pillar 3 are led by the [Slovakian Safer Internet Centre](#). Government ministries or departments play a complementary role.

The Slovak Safer Internet Centre (SK SIC) consists of three components: an awareness centre (Zodpovedne.sk; Responsibly in Slovak language), a helpline (Pomoc.sk; Help in Slovak language) and a hotline (Stoplevel.sk). The philosophy of SK SIC is reflected in its logo: it represents a child's hand as well as the World Wide Web symbol, while the colours intend to evoke the traffic lights analogy. The green represents the green light for responsible use of the internet and modern technologies; orange stands for the helping hand; red symbolises the stop sign for illegal content and conduct in the virtual space.

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 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 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 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 checked="" 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. A public agency has a complementary role.

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 checked="" 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 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 Slovakia:

Pontis Foundation

The Pontis Foundation links together companies, non-governmental organisations, state institutions, communities, and individuals to make positive changes in education, responsible entrepreneurship, and fight against corruption and poverty. It is supported by SK-NIC (responsible for the administration of the .sk top-level Internet domain).