Creating a better Internet for kids

The strategy for a better Internet for children provides actions to empower young people as they explore the digital world.

Around one in three internet users is a child, and these children are accessing the Internet at ever-younger ages across a diverse range of devices. They are spending more and more of their time on the Internet, browsing social media, playing online games and using mobile apps. This frequently happens without adult supervision.

While the Internet offers many opportunities for learning, communication, creativity and entertainment, it also opens up certain risks to vulnerable users such as children.

Children can be exposed to harmful content and behaviour online, such as cyberbullying, sexual harassment, pornography, violence, or self-harm. Efficient responses are needed to prevent negative consequences for their cognitive, social and emotional development.

The Commission wants to ensure young people have a safe and stimulating environment online while engaging with new technologies and spending time online. Indeed, new technologies such as artificial intelligence, increased connectivity, and augmented and virtual reality will cause an important shift in the way children engage and interact in society.

The European strategy for a better Internet for children provides a set of complementary measures, ranging from funding, coordination and self-regulation to help create a safer online environment.

The Commission co-funds Safer Internet Centres in Member States (coordinated by Insafe), with the Better Internet for Kids portal as the single entry point for resources and sharing best practices.
across Europe. Their main task is to raise awareness and foster digital literacy among minors, parents and teachers. They also fight against online child sexual abuse material through its network of hotlines (INHOPE).

The Commission is facilitating the Alliance to better protect minors online, a self-regulatory initiative with leading ICT and media companies, civil society and industry associations tackling harmful online content and behaviour.

Awareness-raising is an essential element of online safety: every year, we celebrate Safer Internet Day, a worldwide event celebrated in around 170 countries, reaching millions of people across the globe through events and various activities.

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Insafe network of European Safer Internet Centres
PRESS RELEASE | 11 May 2022
New EU strategy to protect and empower children in the online world

The Commission has adopted a new European strategy for a Better Internet for Kids (BIK+), to improve age-appropriate digital services and to ensure that every child is protected, empowered and respected online.

PRESS RELEASE | 11 May 2022
Fighting child sexual abuse: Commission proposes new rules to protect children

Today, the Commission is proposing new EU legislation to prevent and combat child sexual abuse online.

PRESS RELEASE | 23 April 2022
Digital Services Act: Commission welcomes political agreement on rules ensuring a safe and accountable online environment

The Commission welcomes the swift political agreement reached today between the European Parliament and EU Member States on the proposal on the Digital Services Act (DSA), proposed by the Commission in December 2020.

PRESS RELEASE | 07 February 2022
Safer Internet Day 2022: together for a better internet

Tomorrow, 8 February, Safer Internet Day will be celebrated worldwide with the theme “Together for a better internet”.

Browse Better Internet for Children
Common EU rules guarantee a high standard of privacy online. The EU is committed to ensuring citizens, and particularly children, are safe online.

**Dig deeper**

Safer Internet Forum
The Safer Internet Forum is the key annual international conference on child online safety in Europe.

Safer Internet Day

Safer Internet Day promotes a safer and more responsible use of online technology by children and young people around the world.

A European strategy for a better internet for kids (BIK+)

Digital participation, empowerment and protection finely balanced in the new European strategy for a better internet for kids (BIK+).

Self-regulation for a better Internet for kids

Self-regulation is one of the instruments of the European strategy to create a better Internet for children.

Expert group on Safer Internet for Children

The expert group on safer Internet for children helps improve coordination and cooperation among EU Member States to keep children safe when using the internet.

Safer Internet Centres

Safer Internet Centres inform, advise and assist children, parents, teachers and carers on digital questions and fights against online child sexual abuse.

See Also

Digital privacy


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