

## 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.



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Safer Internet Centres (SIC) usually offer three kinds of services:

1. a national awareness centre organised by the Insafe network
2. a helpline, also organised by Insafe
3. a hotline organised through the International Association of Internet Hotlines (INHOPE).

Safer Internet Centres also rely on advice of young people through youth panels. SICs are currently co-funded by the European Commission under the Connecting Europe Facility programme. They operate in EU Member States as well as in Iceland, Norway and the United Kingdom. Under the new financing framework, the actions will be funded through the Digital Europe Programme.

Safer Internet Centres co-operate and exchange resources and best practices at EU level through the portal [betterinternetforkids.eu](https://betterinternetforkids.eu), the EU hub for child online safety.

### What do awareness centres do?

- Raise awareness of online safety and of potential risks that young people may encounter online
- Observe emerging trends
- Run campaigns and develop information material for parents, children and teachers

- Organise information sessions and events, the biggest of which is the yearly Safer Internet Day, celebrated in over 170 countries worldwide in 2020
- Work towards empowering children, young people, parents, carers and teachers so that they are equipped with the necessary skills and strategies to benefit from the opportunities digital technology may bring

## **What do helplines do?**

Helplines give advice to young people, parents and carers on harmful content, contact and conduct online. They deal with issues such as cyberbullying, grooming and data privacy but also with relationship issues online.

## **What do hotlines do?**

Hotlines give members of the public a channel to report illegal content (such as child sexual abuse material) anonymously.

## **What do youth panels do?**

Youth panels aim to empower young people by giving them a joint platform to express and exchange their views and knowledge on online technologies. They can also share and innovate new resources, both at national and at European level. Youth panel members act as ambassadors towards for peers, giving advice on how to stay safe online.

## **What does the [betterinternetforkids.eu](https://betterinternetforkids.eu) platform offer?**

- Gives information on latest online trends and apps and the most recent technological developments
- Brings together experts and other relevant stakeholders around child online safety and provides them with guidance and capacity building opportunities and events, such as training meetings to Safer Internet Centres or the yearly Safer Internet Forum
- Coordinates the yearly flagship event Safer Internet Day
- Offers a repository of educational resources and videos, in all EU languages, helping children and young people, parents and teachers to discover the online world safely

# **Latest**

PRESS RELEASE | 08 February 2021

Safer Internet Day 2021: A better internet for children and young people

Last Tuesday, 9 February 2021, was Safer Internet Day. Launched in 2004 and promoted by the EU-funded network of Safer Internet Centres in Member States, the day was celebrated online in more than 170 countries worldwide. The theme

"Together for a better internet" is a call for everyone to join in making the internet a safer and better place, especially for children and young people.

DIGIBYTE | 11 February 2020

Safer Internet Day 2020: together for a better internet

Safer Internet Day 2020 wants to put everyone together, to strive for a better internet for all.

DIGIBYTE | 05 February 2019

Safer Internet Day: Commission announces next steps to keep children safe online

A new Expert Group on Safer Internet for Children will propose concrete actions to keep children safe when online.

DIGIBYTE | 20 November 2018

Three projects rewarded for keeping kids safe online

Three online campaigns highlighting the importance of staying safe online have been rewarded by the European Commission.

[Browse Better Internet for Kids](#)

## **Related Content**

### **Big Picture**

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.

### **Dig deeper**

Alliance to better protect minors online

The alliance to better protect minors online is a self-regulatory initiative designed to improve the online environment for children and young people.

## **See Also**

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 our children

Children need quality content online, as well as the skills and tools to use the internet safely.

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.

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