

# Good practices

## Better Internet for Kids (Europe)

In 2022, the European Commission adopted the **Better Internet for Kids** (BIK+) agenda, which aims to improve age-appropriate digital services to ensure that every child is protected, empowered, and respected online. It consists of three pillars: safe digital experiences, digital empowerment, and active participation. In 2024, the **first evaluation** of the BIK+ strategy took place, involving children and young people, teachers and educators, parents and caregivers, and other stakeholder groups. The report highlights the successes and challenges of the strategy since its adoption, as well as outlining several actionable steps such as empowering children and young people through co-design, breaching the digital divide, and addressing adult concerns about children's exposure

to risks online, among others. As part of the same initiative, every February the European Union also promotes the celebration of a **Safer Internet Day**, with participating countries and organisations setting their own focus, often addressing topics such as artificial intelligence, social media, digital well-being, cyberbullying, safety by design, or video games. Events range from school workshops, webinars, and youth activities to awareness-raising campaigns, resource launches, and social media actions that encourage positive online behaviour.





## Guidelines on the protection of minors online (Europe)

In July 2025, the European Commission published a set of **guidelines on the protection of minors** under the Digital Services Act (DSA), developed to ensure a safe online experience for children and young people. The guidelines set out a non-exhaustive list of proportionate and appropriate measures to protect children from online risks such as grooming, harmful content, and problematic and addictive behaviours, as well as cyberbullying and harmful commercial practices. The guidelines will apply to all online platforms accessible to minors, except for micro and small enterprises. Key recommendations include setting minors' accounts to private by default, empowering children to block and mute any user, and default disabling of features that encourage excessive use or introducing measures to improve moderation and reporting tools. The European Union also recommends the use of effective age verification

methods to restrict access to adult content such as pornography and gambling. In common with the DSA, the guidelines adopt a risk-based approach, recognising that online platforms may pose different types of risks to minors, depending on their nature, size, purpose, and user base. The guidelines can be downloaded in the **24 EU official languages**; a **family-friendly version** is also available.



## EU Youth Dialogue

The **EU Youth Dialogue** is an official dialogue mechanism to enable the opinions, views and needs of young people and youth organisations to be taken into account by decisionmakers when defining European Union (EU) youth policies. It supports the implementation of the **EU Youth Strategy** 2019–2027 and encourages cooperation between EU countries with respect to all issues concerning young people. The dialogue with policymakers and other dialogue activities take place in 18-month work cycles, with each cycle focusing on a different theme set by the Council of Youth Ministers. The EU Youth Dialogue aims to cater to all young people, including those with fewer opportunities and those who may not currently be involved and active within the initiative. In every Member State, the process is organised by national working groups responsible for conducting consultations and activities with young people, youth organisations and policymakers. The Council of the European Union takes the lead role with regard to steering the implementation of the EU



Youth Dialogue, in close cooperation with the European Commission and the respective national agencies, as well as with the **European Youth Forum** and other youth civil society representatives within a coordination group.



## U-Report (global)

**U-Report** is the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) global community, where young people can find trusted information and take action in their community through social media, messaging apps or SMS, in a cost-free, accessible initiative. The United Nations agency leads U-Report to run polls on topics from health and climate change to life online and artificial intelligence, helping governments to update school curricula, improve health information, and support emergency responses. Among other tools, it offers the opportunity to explore chatbots – developed in collaboration with UNICEF experts – that become simple, private and available digital tools for learning about rights, health and well-being, navigating life online, and making informed choices. The community is active in more than 90 countries and includes a range of activities such as volunteering, awareness-raising sessions, community events, and other UNICEF opportunities to support. U-Report also contains a blog section, **Voices of Youth**, where children and

young people from around the world share real-life stories, opinions, experiences and personal reflections in posts covering a diverse range of topics from climate action and education to sports, disability rights, and social change.

**Do you want  
your opinions  
to be heard  
at the  
United  
Nations?**

 **U Report** by UNICEF



**United Nations  
Youth Office**

## Strong Cities Network (global)

**Strong Cities Network** is an independent global network of cities and sub-national authorities dedicated to addressing all forms of hate, extremism, and polarisation at the local level. Launched in 2015, its vision is to catalyse more involvement and elevate the role of mayors and other local leaders in preventing these phenomena and negative future scenarios by, for example, leveraging local youth councils. The network is hosted by the **Initiative for Strategic Dialogue**, an independent organisation dedicated to safeguarding individual rights, democratic processes, national security, and public safety against the rising tide of authoritarianism and extremism globally. The Council of Europe also promotes the **Intercultural Cities Programme**, which supports cities and regions to review and adapt their policies through an intercultural lens, and develop comprehensive intercultural strategies that manage diversity as an advantage to society as a whole. In a similar way, the **Spanish Network of Intercultural Cities** (RECI) connects a group of Spanish cities and territories committed to the promotion of diversity management policies based on interculturalism.





## **Barcelona Anti-Rumour Strategy (Catalonia)**

The **Barcelona Anti-Rumour Strategy** is one of the pillars of the Barcelona Interculturality Plan 2021–2023 developed by Barcelona City Council. The first edition of the plan was created in 2009 to address the challenges of managing the coexistence of people in a culturally diverse city. The strategy seeks to generate intercultural tools and resources to transform discriminatory practices and narratives. Through communicative and educational channels and the creation of participatory spaces, it aims to dismantle negative imaginaries and diverse forms of racism present in the city. The training approach is broad, from formal training sessions – which includes anti-rumour training, through artistic or experiential activities – to materials and resources (brochures, videos, merchandise, and infographics) for training or awareness-raising activities. The strategy relies on the active involvement of local entities, facilities, and public services, as well as individuals, in activities ranging from simply receiving information to getting involved in action platforms. The **Barcelona Anti-Rumour Network** brings together organisations and neighbours committed to the task of raising awareness and dismantling misconceptions about cultural diversity. More information can be found in ***A practical guide for anti-rumour agents. How to fight rumours and stereotypes about cultural diversity in Barcelona***. This network has expanded internationally and is referenced by the **Intercultural Cities Programme** of the Council of Europe.



## Versembrant (Catalonia)

**Versembrant** (Verse-sowing) is an educational proposal aimed at secondary school pupils in Catalonia, in the spirit of a travelling community school. It is an initiative that fosters critical awareness among young people through urban art and hip hop. The initiative is shaped through rap workshops, musical production and visual arts, and also offers training and tools to the educational community (mothers, fathers, teachers, legal guardians and educational leisure organisations, among others). The aim is to boost artistic creativity among young people and their capacity for reflection and critical thinking in situations of discrimination (such as sexism, homophobia, racism and the rise of the far right) and other current topics of interest that have a special impact on young people, such as drug use, social media, bullying and gender roles. Among other initiatives, Versembrant promotes the “From Catalan poetry to urban music” competition (adapting poems in Catalan to urban music hits) and “Debates in the classroom”, a debating and critical-thinking league addressing hate speech, as a response to manipulative messages and discriminatory attitudes among adolescents, especially on social media. On their website you can consult the 2025–2026 [educational dossier](#) containing the full updated offer of workshops and projects for schools and Catalan local councils.



## Bróders (Spain)

**Bróders** is a Spanish programme that seeks to build alternative masculinities among young people, aiming to change the way young men communicate and participate online, enabling them to ask for support in an anonymous, safe, and collective way. Bróders is a website that targets young men (aged 14 to 25), offering them a space to talk, share concerns, and reach out for help. The goal is to offer an anonymous space where young men can express themselves, reflect on their feelings, and discuss issues that affect them, acknowledging that such places are hard to find, especially when it comes to spaces free of violence and judgment. The project combines technology, human support, and community, and has established itself in Spain as a benchmark for the promotion of egalitarian masculinities and digital participation. It mainly provides an anonymous forum moderated by project staff; a support chat as a confidential channel for speaking directly with a member of a volunteer team; professional support for more personalised follow-up; and a topics section

with different resources addressing issues such as relationships, sexuality, identity, or aesthetics.

This social initiative is a programme coordinated by **Iniciativa Social Foundation**, in collaboration with **Laintersección**.

