

DIGITAL-2026-BESTUSE-10-NETWORKSICs

Ensuring comprehensive geographical coverage of the Network of Safer Internet Centres (SICs)



DG CNECT G.3
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Information Session on Call 10

#DigitalEUProgramme



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Topic ID
Topic Title

DIGITAL-2026-BESTUSE-10-NETWORKSICs
Ensuring comprehensive geographical coverage of the Network of Safer Internet Centres (SICs)

Indicative budget

10 M

Type of action

Simple grant

Nr. of projects expected

Only one SIC per eligible country can be funded

Indicative duration of the action

18 months

Funding rate

50%

Call opening

21 April 2026

Call closing

1 October 2026



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New!

The maximum grant amount available for Safer Internet Centres in small, medium and large-size countries is the following:

- **EUR 1,175,000** per project for large-size countries with a population of **more than 20 million people**,
- **EUR 750,000** per project for medium-size countries with a population **between 6 million and 20 million people**,
- **EUR 450,000** per project for small-size countries with a population **less than 6 million people**.

Population figures on 1 January 2025 as published on the [Eurostat website](#) are to be considered the definitive reference source.



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Objectives (1/1)

Ensure comprehensive geographical coverage of the national Safer Internet Centres (SICs) network in eligible countries that **have not received EU funding** under call **DIGITAL-2025-BESTUSE-08-NETWORKSICs**.

To support age-appropriate digital services, with no one left behind and with **every child** in Europe **protected, empowered** and **respected online**.



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Objectives (1/2)

Support the implementation of the **Better Internet for Kids (BIK+)** **strategy** and the broader EU legal framework for child online protection and relevant key EC priorities including

- the implementation of the action plan against cyberbullying,
- age verification and age assurance,
- monitoring and support to mental health and well-being of children (e.g. related to addictive design and screen time)

Assist the Commission in the implementation and enforcement of the **Digital Services Act**, including by cooperating with the Digital Services Coordinators



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Scope

Ensure the continuation of the activities of **the three main strands** of a Safer Internet Centre:

- Raise **awareness** about online opportunities and risks for children and young people, including the organisation of **youth panel(s)** to engage directly with children
- Provide a **helpline** offering advice and support on issues related to children's use of digital technologies and services
- Operate a **hotline** to anonymously report and for tackling suspected child sexual abuse material (CSAM) according to the national legal environment



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SICs support to the action plan against cyberbullying

EU Safer Internet Centres will support the Commission in the implementation of the action plan against cyberbullying, in particular by:

- Expanding the **resources and the awareness raising activities** to prevent cyberbullying, with specific attention to adolescents, to gender and to vulnerable groups identified in the action plan;
- Contributing to **collect consistent and comparable data** on cyberbullying via the BIK Platform;
- Considering the **uptake and customisation of the online safety app** to improve easy reporting of cyberbullying, for which the Commission will make available a blueprint in 2027.

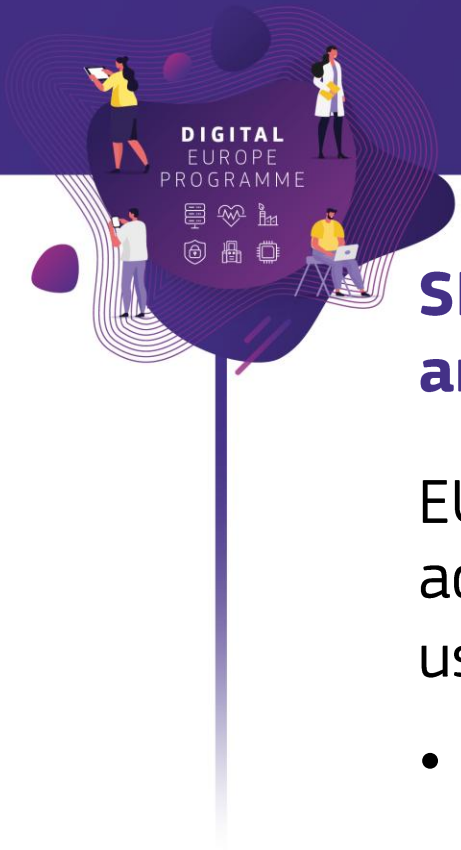


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SICs support to age assurance and age verification

EU Safer Internet Centres will support the Commission in the implementation of **age assurance (AA)** and **age verification (AV)** measures, in particular by:

- **Awareness raising and education:** providing guidance to parents, teachers, children on the importance of age-appropriate experiences, risks of underage access to harmful content
- **Developing resources:** creating toolkits, webinars, and campaigns to promote and explain age assurance and age verification



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SICs assistance to monitoring and supporting mental health and well-being of children

EU Safer Internet Centres will support the Commission in identifying and addressing **emerging risks on mental and physical health** related to the use of online technologies, in particular via

- **Awareness** raising and promotion of positive online experiences
- Offering **advice and help** to children, parents, carers, teachers related to online risks
- **Supporting the monitoring** of the impact of the digital transformation on children's well being in cooperation with the BIK platform



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SICs support to DSA implementation

EU Safer Internet Centres will support the Commission in the enforcement of the **Digital Services Act** based on the evidence they gather in regards children and young people's experiences and concerns. More specifically via:

- **Early warning mechanism** on online trends and harms
- **Quarterly reporting by helplines**
- **Surveys and consultations**, if planned
- A **mandatory annual survey** on children's and young people's experience on measures taken in response to the art 28 DSA guidelines
- **Yearly youth panel(s)** to consult young people about their views and experience on online platforms.



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Consortium Composition

Participation is open to all eligible entities as established by Article 18 of the Digital Europe programme that **have not received EU funding under the previous call DIGITAL-2025-BESTUSE-08-NETWORKSICs**

Safer internet Centres may be composed of one or more NGOs, government bodies/agencies, and/or private sector organisations



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Additional background

- [European strategy for a better internet for kids](#)
- [EU action plan against cyberbullying](#)
- [Digital Services Act](#)
- [Better internet for kids platform](#)



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