

***with skills for  
the Digital Decade***



**Thursday, 23 November 2023**  
(hybrid format – Brussels, Belgium and online)



Welcome to Safer Internet Forum 2023.....	3
Agenda .....	5
Safer Internet Forum 2023 – a youth-led edition .....	9
<i>The SIF Youth Advisory Group 2023</i> .....	10
<i>The BIK Youth Panel 2023</i> .....	12
Meet the other Forum speakers and contributor.....	13

# Welcome to Safer Internet Forum 2023

## **EMPOWERING YOUTH** *with skills for the Digital Decade*

The **Safer Internet Forum (SIF)** is a key annual international conference in Europe where policy makers, researchers, law enforcement bodies, youth, parents and carers, teachers, NGOs, industry representatives, experts and other relevant actors come together to discuss the latest trends, opportunities, risks and solutions related to child online safety and making the internet a better place.

This year's edition will take place in a hybrid format in Brussels, Belgium and online on **Thursday, 23 November 2023** with a theme of **Empowering YOUTH with skills for the Digital Decade**.

The European Union has designated 2023 as the [European Year of Skills](#): a year which “puts skills centre-stage”, highlighting the critical importance of equipping people with the competences they need to succeed in an increasingly digitised world. This designation seeks to support the EU’s ambitious [Digital Decade plans for 80 per cent of all adults to have basic digital skills by 2030](#). The subsequent [European Declaration on Digital Rights and Principles for the Digital Decade](#) set out a specific priority that “Children and young people should be protected and empowered online”. As part of this communication, the European institutions commit to “providing opportunities to all children to acquire the necessary skills and competences to navigate the online environment actively, safely and make informed choices when online.”

Furthermore, the [EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child](#) is a major policy initiative put forward by the European Commission to better protect all children, to help them fulfil their rights and to place them right at the centre of EU policymaking. The [European strategy for a better internet for kids](#) (also known as the BIK+ strategy) represents its digital arm and is built around three key pillars:

- **Safe digital experiences to protect children** from harmful and illegal online content, conduct, contact and risks as young consumers and to **improve their well-being online** through a safe, age-appropriate digital environment, created in a way that respects children’s best interests.
- **Digital empowerment** so all children, including those in situations of vulnerability, acquire the necessary skills and competences to make sound choices and express themselves in the online environment safely and responsibly.
- **Active participation, respecting children** by giving them a say in the digital environment, with more child-led activities to foster innovative and creative safe digital experiences.

Throughout 2023, we are increasingly seeing the impact of the Digital Services Act (DSA): a new set of European rules to make sure that all users, and especially children, young people and vulnerable users, are included and safe online. Moreover, the DSA seeks to ensure that all organisations that provide online platforms and services protect the rights of all users, limit risks, and stop the spread of harmful or illegal content. Alongside this, under the BIK+ strategy, a comprehensive EU Code of Conduct on age-appropriate design is being developed. This will build on the regulatory framework provided in the DSA and assist with its implementation to ensure the privacy, safety and security of young users online.

Within the framework of the European Year of Skills and these other policy provisions, Safer Internet Forum 2023 will specifically focus on pillars two and three of the BIK+ strategy, exploring **digital empowerment** and **active participation/respect** as it relates to children and young people. Moreover, the Forum will seek to discuss and showcase initiatives related to the development of digital skills for children, parents and teachers, while also paying particular attention to the needs of vulnerable users.

**The event is being organised in a youth-led manner, with young people playing an active role in the planning, preparation and delivery of the Forum.**

**We take this opportunity to thank the members of the SIF Youth Advisory Group, BIK Youth Panel and other youth contributors for their dedication and commitment to helping to create a safer and better internet for their peers, and young people across the globe.**

As is typical of the Safer Internet Forum, participants will have the opportunity to participate in deep dive discussions, across two sessions, each focusing on the pillars of the BIK+ strategy. Discussions will further explore some of the opportunities and challenges as they relate to **protecting, empowering** and **respecting** children and young people online, and how these can be addressed by various stakeholders.

The first deep dive session will pose the question: **What are the skills that children and young people need to thrive online?** Table discussions will focus on the following:

- Mental health and well-being
- The metaverse and immersive environments
- Generative AI
- Girls and ICT careers
- Content creation
- Civic participation

The second deep dive session will consider **effective ways to foster digital skills**, specifically:

- Formal, informal and non-formal learning
- Working with professionals who support vulnerable users
- Peer-to-peer and child-adult approaches
- The role of industry in helping to foster digital skills
- Working with parents

**Please browse the full agenda on the following pages.**

As participants in Safer Internet Forum 2023, we hope that you will find it to be both a thought-provoking and inspiring opportunity. Whether joining onsite or online, we encourage you to use the event to:

- keep informed of emerging trends and issues, especially as they relate to the rights of all children and young people to be protected, empowered and respected in the digital environment.
- be aware of the skills needed for young people to function and thrive in the ever-digital world.
- facilitate knowledge, experience and good practice sharing.
- identify opportunities to collaborate with others on new ideas, resources and projects.
- contribute to the implementation of the European strategy for a better internet for kids (BIK+) and ongoing policy work in this field.

We look forward to working with you today, and in the future, to continue the mission of creating a Better Internet for Kids. Find out more at [www.betterinternetforkids.eu](http://www.betterinternetforkids.eu).

A Forum report, presentations, and session recordings (where available) will be made available after the event and progressively published at [www.betterinternetforkids.eu/sif](http://www.betterinternetforkids.eu/sif).

**Safer Internet Forum (SIF) 2023** is organised by European Schoolnet on behalf of the European Commission in the framework of the EC's Better Internet for Kids (BIK) initiative, with funding provided by the [Digital Europe Programme \(DIGITAL\)](#).

In case of queries, please contact the Safer Internet Forum Secretariat at [saferinternetforum@betterinternetforkids.eu](mailto:saferinternetforum@betterinternetforkids.eu).

# Agenda

**Thursday, 23 November 2023**

Please note: all times are in Central European Time (CET).

<b>08:30 - 09:30</b>	<b>Arrival and registration</b> <p><i>Onsite and online registration will both open at 08:30 CET. The meeting will start promptly at 09:30 CET, so ALL participants are encouraged to register in good time.</i></p>
<b>09:30 - 09:45</b>	<b>Opening videos and welcome address</b> <p>Children and young people are at the heart of the Better Internet for Kids (BIK+) strategy, and therefore it makes sense that their voices set the stage for Safer Internet Forum 2023. In an opening video address, participants will hear from children and young people – from across Europe and beyond – on why they need skills to prepare and empower them for the Digital Decade.</p> <p>The video will be followed by a welcome from BIK Youth representatives who will further set the scene for the day, along with a welcome from the European Commission and video addresses from Dubravka Šuica, European Commission Vice-President for Democracy and Demography, and Thierry Breton, European Commissioner for Internal Market. Discussion will reflect on current EC priorities as they relate to the BIK+ strategy, with a particular focus on skills, children and young people.</p> <p><b>Chairs:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ruth, SIF Youth Advisory Group, Austria</li> <li>• Adrián, SIF Youth Advisory Group, Spain</li> </ul> <p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dubravka Šuica, European Commission Vice-President for Democracy and Demography</li> <li>• Thierry Breton, European Commissioner for Internal Market</li> <li>• June Lowery-Kingston – Head of Unit ‘Accessibility, Multilingualism &amp; Safer internet’, DG CONNECT, European Commission</li> </ul> <p><i>Online participants will follow a live stream of this session within the virtual meeting environment. Closed captioning will be provided for this session.</i></p>
<b>09:45 - 10:15</b>	<b>Keynote session:</b> <p><b>Life online: the skills and competences needed to thrive</b></p> <p>This keynote session will consider some of the key challenges and solutions of life online today. The keynote speaker, Professor Amanda Third, will reflect on innovative and emerging technologies and will attempt to demystify what these might mean for future skills development, especially for young and more vulnerable users.</p> <p><b>Chairs:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ruth, SIF Youth Advisory Group, Austria</li> <li>• Adrián, SIF Youth Advisory Group, Spain</li> </ul> <p><b>Keynote speaker:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Professor Amanda Third, Western Sydney University, Australia</li> </ul> <p><i>Online participants will follow a live stream of this session within the virtual meeting environment. Closed captioning will be provided for this session.</i></p>

10:15 – 10:45	<p><b>Plenary panel discussion</b></p> <p>An interactive panel discussion, hosted by BIK Youth representatives, will discuss the political priorities for ensuring children and young people are sufficiently skilled, focusing also on the impact of technology on mental health and well-being, artificial intelligence (AI), and emerging technologies (such as the metaverse).</p> <p><b>Chairs:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Selma, SIF Youth Advisory Group, Czech Republic</li> <li>• Ingeborg, SIF Youth Advisory Group, Norway</li> </ul> <p><b>Panellists:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Renate Nikolay, Deputy Director General, DG CONNECT, European Commission</li> <li>• Lúcia Azevedo, Portuguese Safer Internet Centre</li> <li>• Ann Becker, Video Games Europe</li> </ul> <p><i>Online participants will follow a live stream of this session within the virtual meeting environment. Closed captioning will be provided for this session.</i></p>
10:45 – 11:15	<p><b>Coffee break</b></p>
11:15 – 11:45	<p><b>Panel discussion:</b></p> <p><b>Life online – the voices of young influencers</b></p> <p>Participants will hear from influential young people who will share their personal experiences of what they have done to address relevant challenges and overcome adversity in the fast-moving online space, while helping to promote skills development among their peers.</p> <p><b>Chairs:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emily, SIF Youth Advisory Group, Cyprus</li> <li>• Guilherme, SIF Youth Advisory Group, Portugal</li> </ul> <p><b>Panellists:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kate Grant, Model, Ireland</li> <li>• Deirdre Grant, Mother of Kate Grant, Ireland</li> <li>• Tereza Kráčmarová, Fakescape Association, Czech Republic</li> <li>• Bianca Adam, Content creator, Romania</li> </ul> <p><i>Online participants will follow a live stream of this session within the virtual meeting environment. Closed captioning will be provided for this session.</i></p>
11:45 – 12:45	<p><b>Interactive youth session:</b></p> <p><b>Being a teen online in 2023</b></p> <p>This session will be led by BIK Youth representatives who will provide participants with a better understanding of what online life is like for teenagers in 2023. They will share their thoughts and experiences about life online, how well prepared they think they are for it, and what they think needs to change. This will be followed by opportunities for further discussion as well as a chance to learn from the young people themselves, offering some child-adult hacks and tips.</p> <p>Building on these interventions, a youth-led interactive debate will then take place where BIK Youth representatives will exemplify pillars two and three of the BIK+ strategy (<b>safe digital experiences</b> and <b>digital empowerment</b>), while identifying the key priorities to be addressed.</p> <p><i>Online participants will follow <u>part of this session</u> via a live stream within the virtual meeting environment. Closed captioning will be provided for this session.</i></p>
12:45 – 13:45	<p><b>Lunch break</b></p>



As is typical of the Safer Internet Forum, participants will have the opportunity to participate in deep dive discussions across two afternoon sessions. The deep dives will focus on the skills that children and young people need in order to thrive online and the most effective ways to foster these skills.

**13:45 – 14:45**

### Deep dive session 1:

#### What are the skills that children and young people need to thrive online?

This session will provide an opportunity for participants to identify and discuss the skills that children and young people need to have in order to have safe and healthy online experiences, focusing on the following topics:

1. Mental health and well-being
2. The metaverse and immersive environments
3. Generative AI
4. Girls and ICT careers
5. Content creation
6. Civic participation

Both onsite and online participants will hear from several experts (via a video presentation for onsite participants, and via a panel discussion for online participants) who will share their thoughts on the skills that children and young people need in order to be able to participate fully and safely in online life.

#### ONSITE parallel sessions

##### Chairs:

- Marianna, SIF Youth Advisory Group, Greece
- Karl, SIF Youth Advisory Group, Ireland

Following the video introduction, onsite participants will move into roundtable discussions which will be co-facilitated by table leaders and BIK Youth representatives. Each table will have a mix of participants from different backgrounds and disciplines: academia, industry, Safer Internet Centres, policymakers, and young people.

#### ONLINE session

*Online participants will follow a panel discussion via a live stream within the virtual meeting environment. Participants will be able to ask questions and contribute to the discussions using the online chat facilities.*

##### Panellists:

- Mitch Prinstein, American Psychological Association (video only)
- Steven Vosloo, UNICEF Innocenti
- Steve Muller, Ministry of the Economy, Luxembourg
- Amanda Timberg, Google
- Ana Radišić, Content creator, Croatia
- Veronica Ștefan, digitalcitizens.net (video only)

**14:45 – 15:45**

### Deep dive session 2:

#### Effective ways to foster digital skills

Now that the first deep dive discussions have identified the skills that children and young people need, participants will discuss the best ways to ensure that children and young people acquire and develop these skills and competences, focusing on the following topics:

1. Formal, informal and non-formal learning
2. Working with professionals who support vulnerable users
3. Peer-to-peer and child-adult approaches
4. The role of industry in helping to foster digital skills
5. Working with parents

	ONSITE parallel sessions	ONLINE session
	<p><i>Onsite participants will move tables to participate in deep dive session 2 on the basis of the session choice provided at the point of registration (session choice and table locations are provided on the participant badge).</i></p> <p><b>Chairs:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alide Kristine, SIF Youth Advisory Group, Estonia</li> <li>Theodora, SIF Youth Advisory Group, Romania</li> </ul>	<p><i>Online participants will follow a panel discussion via a live stream within the virtual meeting environment. Participants will be able to ask questions and contribute to the discussions using the online chat facilities.</i></p> <p><b>Panellists:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Andy Demeulenaere, Belgian Safer Internet Centre/Mediawijs</li> <li>Sarah Achahbar, Criminologist, The Netherlands</li> <li>Signe Sandfeld Hansen, Danish Safer Internet Centre (helpline)</li> <li>Bojana Bellamy, Centre for Information Policy Leadership (CIPL) (video only)</li> <li>Aur�lie Callet/Cl�mence Prompsy, Kidz et family, France</li> </ul>
15:45 – 16:15	<b>Coffee break</b>	
16:15 – 16:45	<p><b>Next steps</b></p> <p>The BIK+ strategy identifies actions for different stakeholders, but what does this mean in real terms? What key actions will different participants take as a result of the day’s discussions?</p> <p>The final session of the day will look to the future and consider the next steps. Taking the form of a panel discussion, it will explore the views of BIK Youth representatives, policymakers, teachers, and Safer Internet Centres. Keynote speaker, Professor Amanda Third, will also join the panel.</p> <p><b>Chair:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Manuela Martra, Deputy Head of Unit ‘Accessibility, Multilingualism &amp; Safer Internet’, DG CONNECT, European Commission</li> </ul> <p><b>Panellists:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Matthias Jax, Austrian Safer Internet Centre</li> <li>Professor Amanda Third, Western Sydney University, Australia</li> <li>Oleksandra Voychyshyn, Zolishchyky State Gimnasia, Ukraine</li> <li>Selma, SIF Youth Advisory Group, Czech Republic</li> </ul> <p><i>Online participants will follow a live stream of this session within the virtual meeting environment. Closed captioning will be provided for this session.</i></p>	
16:45 – 17:00	<p><b>Closing remarks from the European Commission and official close of Safer Internet Forum 2023</b></p> <p><i>Online participants will follow a live stream of this session within the virtual meeting environment. Closed captioning will be provided for this session.</i></p>	
17:00 onwards	<b>Networking reception for onsite participants</b>	



**SAFER INTERNET FORUM 2023**

# **A YOUTH-LED EDITION** ⚡

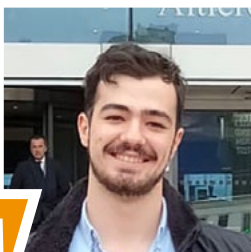
This year's Safer Internet Forum (SIF) has been organised in a youth-led manner, with young people playing an active role in the planning, preparation and delivery of the Forum.



# The SIF Youth Advisory Group 2023

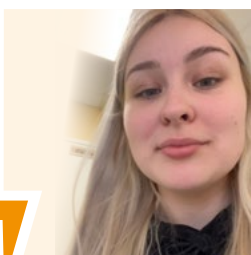
The SIF Youth Advisory Group is formed of 10 young people from various European countries. Over recent months, they have worked collaboratively at preparatory meetings aimed at sharing their respective views on the three main pillars of the BIK+ strategy and shaping the development of the Forum's agenda.

Meet the SIF Youth Advisory Group members here:



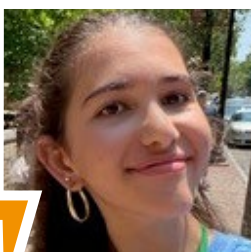
**Adrián** *(he/him)*

My name is Adrián and I come from Spain. I assisted the Safer Internet Forum as a BIK Youth Ambassador in 2020 and 2022 and, this year, I will be part of the SIF Youth Advisory Group. I believe that the opinion of children and young people is the most important thing to take into consideration when it comes to improving their rights on the internet. That's why I believe that companies, policymakers, and the rest of the people and organisations that are responsible for what happens in the digital world, must listen to what the young people have to say.



**Alide Kristine** *(she/her)*

Hello, my name is Alide and I'm from Estonia. I'm currently 15 years old. I'm interested in politics and psychology. My favourite after-school activities are singing and talking with friends. I have been a BIK Youth Ambassador for more than two years now. My mission is to make the internet better for kids, not only in Europe but around the world.



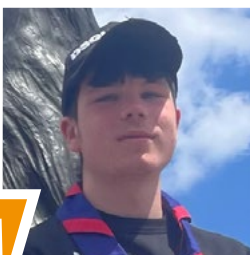
**Emily** *(she/her)*

Hi, I'm Emily and I am 17. I'm from Larnaca, Cyprus and I have been involved with internet safety for three years now, in the Cyprus Cyber Safety Youth Panel, and the BIK Youth Panel and Safer Internet Forum 2022. I am currently a BIK Youth Ambassador, and I am passionate about finding ways to make the internet – something which has become an integral part of our everyday lives – safer for all users, no matter their age. I am grateful for the opportunity to collectively strive to improve, develop and evolve!



**Guilherme** *(he/him)*

Hello, my name is Guilherme, I'm from Madeira, Portugal, and I'm 14 years old. I was part of the Safer Internet Forum last year, where I participated in the BIK Youth Panel. I'm also part of my school's Digital Leaders programme, where we produce lots of videos, texts, and podcasts regarding internet safety, as well as various other matters. I'm looking forward to meeting again this year, this time as part of the SIF Youth Advisory Group.



### **Karl** *(he/him)*

My name is Karl, and I am 19 years old. This is my second year of being involved with Better Internet for Kids, and I have also been involved in the Irish Safer Internet Centre for over six years now. I have a great interest in internet safety for youth users. I am happy and excited that I get to take part in the Safer Internet Forum because I know that my voice can help to make changes.



### **Ingeborg** *(she/her)*

Hello, my name is Ingeborg, my pronouns are she/her, and I'm from Norway. I'm 15 years old and I play the flute. I'm an active member of the Youth Panel at Kors På Halsen in Norway. I work at an after-school programme for 10-year-olds so it's very important for me that they are protected and stay safe online.



### **Marianna** *(she/her)*

I am Marianna, I am 15 years old, and I have been a part of the BIK Youth Panel for the past four years. I believe that the internet is a very useful tool and we shouldn't be afraid to use it. Unfortunately though, the internet can be tricky: that's why we need to be informed, especially as young people. This is the reason I am so passionate about internet safety because we must not let our fear of the unknown take something so beneficial from us.



### **Ruth** *(she/her and they/them)*

Hi, my name is Ruth, and I am 17 years old. I am in my last year of school and I'm looking forward to graduating soon. I joined the Austrian Safer Internet Youth Panel in 2018 but, having a parent leading it, I've been part of it for most of my life and really enjoy the work we do there. I'm very excited to be a part of the Safer Internet Forum for the second time and am very much looking forward to seeing what my future in safer internet issues will bring.



### **Selma** *(she/her)*

Originally from the Czech Republic and now a student at Sciences Po Paris, I'm dedicated to addressing crucial issues—from inclusion to children's online rights. Engaging in diverse initiatives, I've elevated my advocacy to the European stage, participating in many conferences and initiatives such as EuroDIG or the Claim the Future Conference in the European Parliament. Currently also serving as the Czech EU Youth Delegate, I believe that intergenerational dialogue is crucial, especially when it comes to children's safety and rights on the internet.



## Theodora *(she/her)*

Hi! My name is Theodora, I'm 19, and I'm from Romania. My passion lies in advocating for the rights of children, women, and minority groups; a commitment I uphold through active participation in various activism and volunteering activities in my community. I've been working as a BIK Youth Ambassador for two years and now I'm part of the SIF Youth Advisory Group. This year I am proud to have the opportunity to make the voice of young people heard in creating a safer internet where we can enjoy technology to connect, learn and grow, without fear of harassment, cyberbullying, and harmful content.

## The BIK Youth Panel 2023

Each year, a Better Internet for Kids (BIK) Youth Panel is organised prior to and during the Safer Internet Forum (SIF). Drawn from national youth panels convened by Safer Internet Centres across Europe, BIK Youth Panellists are encouraged to voice not just their personal opinions and challenges, but also those of their peers whom they are representing at a European level.

Since the beginning of September, through a series of online meetings, BIK Youth Panellists have been actively preparing their contributions to this year's Forum by sharing their respective perspectives on better and safer internet issues with their peers, agreeing on key themes, and preparing awareness materials on these topics.

In the days preceding this year's Forum, a group of 30 BIK Youth Panellists from 22 European countries have come together, face-to-face in Brussels, to finalise their work which they will present throughout the course of the day. Together with the SIF Youth Advisory Group, they will also lead various deep dive discussions, to ensure that their voices can inform the perspectives of the various stakeholders participating in the Forum, and influence ongoing work in this field.

**We take this opportunity to thank the members of the SIF Youth Advisory Group, BIK Youth Panel and other youth contributors for their dedication and commitment to helping to create a safer and better internet for their peers, and young people across the globe.**

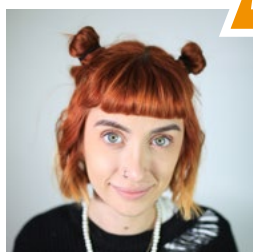
## Meet the other Forum speakers and contributors



### Sarah Achahbar

#### Criminologist, the Netherlands

Sarah Achahbar, a 28-year-old criminologist – also currently finalising studies in sexology – is recognised as an expert in the realm of online sexual misconduct (of marginalised groups) in the Netherlands. Her dedication lies in transitioning societal taboos into discussable topics. With a specialised focus on (online) sexual misconduct, and women's and men's emancipation, Sarah conducts training sessions and workshops, aiming to facilitate open conversations within migrant and LGBTQI+ communities. Her efforts extend to providing education on online sexual misconduct among (bi-cultural and LGBTQI+) youth, fostering awareness and empowerment, and advising policymakers.



### Bianca Adam

#### Content creator, Romania

Bianca Adam has been a content creator for over 10 years and she's the biggest female YouTuber in Romania. Her community, on all platforms, counts over 3.5 million followers. Over the years she has had a radio show, has been a participant in the biggest TV project in Romania (*America Express*), and she's currently the presenter of her own YouTube shows called *Romania Express* and *Hunt of objects*. These two series also have their own mobile game, called *The Hunt*, launched at the beginning of last year.

Besides being an active partner of Save the Children Romania, over the years Bianca has been involved in countless donation projects, social causes, tree plantings, supporting the LGBTQI+ community, as well as being one of the most vocal content creators on the topic of therapy, personal development and anxiety, even making a mini-documentary on this subject.



### Lígia Azevedo

#### Portuguese Safer Internet Centre

Lígia Azevedo holds a degree in Educational Mathematics and a Master's degree in Science Education with a specialisation in Educational Informatics. Her professional experience includes being part of an ICT Competence Centre team in 2006, where she developed national and European initiatives and provided teacher training. Since 2008, Lígia has been a member of the Educational Resources and Technology Team at the Directorate-General for Education, where she has been involved in several national initiatives within the framework of the SeguraNet Awareness Centre, as well as in European Digital Citizenship initiatives. She is the coordinator of the SeguraNet School Awareness Centre. Additionally, she is a member of the coordination team for national initiatives in Digital Citizenship Education, including School Without Bullying | School Without Violence, Digital Academy for Parents, and Digital Leaders. She was part of the working group responsible for the national Cybersecurity Strategy and is currently a member of the working group of the public-private consortium of the Portuguese Safer Internet Centre.





## Ann Becker

### Video Games Europe

Ann Becker is the Senior Vice President, Policy and Public Affairs at Video Games Europe (VGE) (formerly the Interactive Software Federation of Europe – ISFE). Prior to joining Video Games Europe, Ann held several senior positions in the media and entertainment sector, including Senior Adviser to the European Publishers Council in Brussels; Director for the IP, Media, Entertainment & Sports practice at Hill + Knowlton Strategies in Brussels. Earlier in her career, Ann represented the French media group Lagardère SCA towards the European institutions in the field of publishing, TV and radio broadcasting, retail and sports rights.

Ann is a Swedish national, who holds an MA in EU & US Copyright Law from King's College, University of London and an MA in Regional Economic Development and International Cooperation from the University of Paris.



## Bojana Bellamy (video contribution)

### Centre for Information Policy Leadership

Bojana Bellamy is the President of Hunton Andrews Kurth LLP's Centre for Information Policy Leadership (CIPL), a preeminent global privacy and data policy think tank located in Washington, DC, London and Brussels. At CIPL, Bojana works with global business and technology leaders, regulators, policy and lawmakers to shape global data policy and practice, and develop thought leadership and best practices for responsible and trusted use of data in the 4<sup>th</sup> Industrial Revolution. With more than 25 years of experience and deep knowledge of global data privacy and cybersecurity law, compliance and policy, Bojana has a proven industry record in designing strategy, and building and managing data privacy compliance programmes.

Bojana was the recipient of the 2019 International Association of Privacy Professionals' (IAPP) Vanguard Award, which recognises privacy professionals for outstanding leadership, knowledge and creativity in the field of privacy and data protection. In 2021, Politico recognised Bojana in its inaugural list of top Tech28 people shaping digital policy and technology in Europe and beyond. She was also one of 20 privacy experts to participate in the transatlantic *Privacy Bridge Project* from 2014-2015 which sought to develop practical solutions to bridge the gap between European and US privacy regimes.

Currently, Bojana sits on a number of advisory and industry boards, including the Mercedes-Benz Advisory Board for Integrity and Sustainability, the Internet Commission Advisory Board, the OECD's Privacy Guidelines Expert Group and the Thomson Reuters' Practical Law Data Protection Consultation Board, as well as the Advisory Board of the Tech, Law and Security Program (TLS) at the American University Washington College of Law. She also was selected as a member of the Global Privacy Assembly Reference Panel. Bojana participates in many industry groups and is a regular speaker at corporate and governmental events and conferences.

Prior to joining CIPL, Bojana served for 12 years as the Global Director of Data Privacy at Accenture, and worked for eight years as Principal Consultant with Privacy Laws & Business consulting and auditing projects for private and public sector clients in the UK and abroad.





## Thierry Breton *(video message)*

### European Commissioner for Internal Market

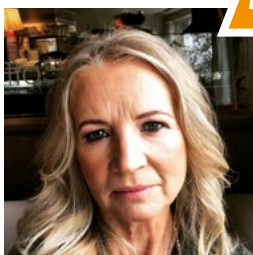
Thierry Breton has been the European Commissioner for the Internal Market since 2019. He is responsible for industry, digital, defence and space, as well as tourism, services and audiovisual. From 2009 to 2019, Mr Breton was CEO of a major European digital technology company, chairing in parallel the French National Research and Technology Association. In 2008-2009, he taught governance in Boston, USA, at Harvard Business School. In 2005, he was appointed Minister for Economic Affairs, Finance and Industry of France, a post which he held until 2007. Prior to this, he ran a number of large companies in the IT and telco sector. An engineer in computer science, Thierry Breton began his career as a tech entrepreneur.



## Andy Demeulenaere

### Belgian Safer Internet Centre/Mediawijs

Andy Demeulenaere has headed the team of Mediawijs, the Flemish Knowledge Centre for Digital and Media Literacy, since 2015. Mediawijs is responsible for coordinating and stimulating media literacy and digital inclusion in the Flemish Community in Belgium, and is part of the Belgian Safer Internet Centre's awareness centre and EDMO (European Digital Media Observatory) BELUX. Cyberbullying, online hate speech and disinformation rank high on their agenda, just like grabbing the opportunities of digital media to create, inform and learn. Andy has a broad background in youth work, education and media literacy, and is involved in several European networks on digital and media literacy.

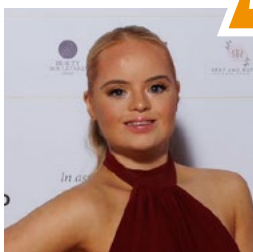


## Deirdre Grant

### Mother of Kate Grant

*"Hi, my name is Deirdre. I'm a mum to four grown-up children and I'm immensely proud of each one. My husband and I raised our children to reach THEIR full potential, supporting them on their way. Kate was treated no differently."*

*"Kate was born with Down Syndrome. She is the most famous one in the family; if you had told me that when she was born, I would have thought it absurd. At the time, expectations of people with a learning disability were that they couldn't contribute anything worthwhile to society. Well, Kate soon turned this around as she broke through the glass ceiling reaching HER FULL potential as she models and advocates for inclusion and diversity for people with disabilities."*



## Kate Grant

### Model

*"Hi, I'm Kate. I am 25 years old, and I am the first official model in Ireland who has Down Syndrome. My journey has been a challenging one as I was changing society's preconceptions of people with disabilities. I believe 'Different is beautiful, not less'. With this belief and determination, I trailblazed my way, bringing awareness of inclusion and diversity to the modelling world and beyond."*



## Kidz et family

### France

Aurélie Callet and Clémence Prompsy are clinical psychologists. Their friendship led them to create their own psychologist's office. A few years later, the practice – near Paris, in France – has grown to approximately 10 people. They have written three books and have edited a toolbox for kids who find themselves easily bored when alone. Ultimately their job is to take care of kids, teenagers and their parents.



## Matthias Jax

### Austrian Safer Internet Centre

Matthias Jax, a renowned expert in social networks, data privacy, and digital skills, is a prominent figure in European IT and education. He leads the EU project Safer Internet Centre Austria, dedicated to promoting safe digital media use among children, youth, and caregivers.

As a Steering Committee member of Insafe's Safer Internet network, Matthias shapes EU measures to protect young internet users. He advises on implementing the Better Internet for Kids+ strategy.

Since 2023, he's been part of the EU BIK+ Child and Youth Consumer Protection Task Force, aiming to safeguard young people from manipulative online marketing and enhance digital safety.

Matthias is also a speaker and lecturer at institutions like the Virtual University of Education, Salzburg University of Education, and the University of Vienna, where he shares his expertise in digitalisation in education.

Overall, Matthias' work raises awareness about digital challenges, promotes a positive digital media landscape, and ensures online safety, making him a key figure in European digital education.



## Tereza Kráčmarová

### Fakescape Association

Tereza Kráčmarová is a media literacy educator and has been the president of the Fakescape Association for more than five years. She also has experience with game-based education and gamification thanks to an internship in Estonia, and with communication with youth during a traineeship in the Youth Outreach Unit of the European Parliament.



## June Lowery-Kingston

**DG CONNECT, European Commission**

June Lowery-Kingston is Head of Unit Accessibility, Multilingualism & Safer Internet, and Deputy to the Director for Data at the European Commission's Directorate General for Communications Networks, Content & Technology (DG CONNECT). She has worked for the EU institutions in Luxembourg for over 25 years in a wide variety of fields including publications, finance, logistics, and digital inclusion. Her current responsibilities include web accessibility, language technology, and online safety for children. Her work aims to promote a better internet for children by protecting and empowering children online, under the BIK+ strategy. As Equality Coordinator in DG CONNECT, she also maintains an overview of the implementation of the Union of Equality within the DG. She is passionate about her job, and about making the digital world safer for children, and more accessible, inclusive and multilingual for all.



## Manuela Martra

**DG CONNECT, European Commission**

Manuela Martra is Deputy Head of Unit Accessibility, Multilingualism & Safer Internet, in the Directorate for Data at the European Commission's Directorate General for Communications Networks, Content & Technology (DG CONNECT). She has worked for the EU institutions in Luxembourg for over 20 years, most of them devoted to support a safer and better internet for children. She is very committed to ensuring, through a multi-stakeholder approach, that citizens, in particular the most vulnerable ones, benefit in full from the digital transformation.



## Steve Muller

**Ministry of the Economy, Luxembourg**

Steve Muller is a cybersecurity enthusiast whose goal is to make technology understandable for everyone. To this end, he has given numerous awareness trainings and talks in schools, organisations, companies and at conferences. He is currently working for the Ministry of the Economy Luxembourg as a cybersecurity specialist.



## Renate Nikolay

**DG CONNECT, European Commission**

Renate Nikolay is now Deputy Director General in DG CONNECT. From November 2014 to November 2022, she served as Head of Cabinet of Věra Jourová, now Vice-President for Values and Transparency and before Commissioner for Justice and Consumers. Renate Nikolay has been working on matters such as rule of law, media freedom or disinformation. She also played a key role in the adoption of the data protection reform, the negotiations on an EU-US data transfer arrangement, the establishment of the European Public Prosecutor and the Code of Conduct with platforms on online hate speech.

Between 2011 and 2014, she led the Unit of interinstitutional and international relations in DG Justice dealing with legislative files and international negotiations such as the ones with the US on data protection in law enforcement. Prior to that, she was advisor in the Cabinet of the first High Representative/Vice President Cathy Ashton where she led on the relations with the European Parliament in setting up the European External Action Service and on relations with Asia, in particular China.

From 2004-2009 she was member of the Cabinet of the Trade Commissioners Peter Mandelson and Baroness Cathy Ashton where she was part of the negotiating team in the trade talks in the multilateral trade round of the World Trade Organisation (the Doha Round) and the EU-South Korea Free Trade Agreement which was finalised in 2009. She started her career in the European Commission in the Directorate General for Trade in November 2003 dealing with the accession negotiations of Vietnam to the World Trade Organisation and the Trade Policy Committee with the Member States. Prior to that she was a diplomat in the German Permanent Representation in Brussels and worked as private Secretary to the German G7 Sherpa in the German Ministry of Economics. She holds a law degree (Erstes und Zweites Staatsexamen) from the Free University in Berlin and a Master's as a Fulbright Scholar in Washington DC. She was also an Erasmus Scholar in France/Grenoble.



## **Mitch Prinstein** *(video contribution)*

### **American Psychological Association**

Mitch Prinstein, PhD, ABPP is the Chief Science Officer of the American Psychological Association (APA), and at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill he serves as the John Van Setters Distinguished Professor of Psychology and Neuroscience, and the Co-Director of the Winston National Center on Technology Use, Brain, and Psychological Development.

For over 25 years, and with continuous funding from the National Institutes of Health, Mitch's research has examined interpersonal models of internalising symptoms and health risk behaviours among adolescents, with a specific focus on the unique role of off- and on-line peer relationships in the developmental psychopathology of depression and self-injury. At APA, Mitch is responsible for leading the association's science agenda and advocating for the application of psychological research and knowledge in settings including academia, government, industry, and the law.

Prior to APA, Mitch served as the Director of Clinical Psychology at UNC and Yale University, the Director of Graduate Studies in the Department of Psychology and Neuroscience, and the Assistant Dean for Honors Carolina. He is a board-certified clinical psychologist and scientist who has been studying child and adolescent mental health, publishing over 200 scientific manuscripts and 12 books. He is regularly featured as an expert in psychological science in consultation to government agencies and non-profit associations, as a repeat witness testifying before the US Senate, in two TEDx talks, and within hundreds of media appearances around the world in outlets such as The New York Times, NPR, the Times (UK), and CNN, ABC, CBS, and NBC.



## Ana Radišić

Inspiratio d.o.o.

Ana Radišić is a graduate lawyer and has been in the media world for over 15 years. Ana is a TV host, editor, creative producer, and author of numerous projects. Over the past three years, she has mainly focused on her entrepreneurial journey, which she builds through her podcast. Ana has hosted over 120 people from various segments of public and social life in her podcast, all of whom inspire others by example. She was the first in Croatia and the region to create a six-hour live podcast where she hosted almost 20 people. In addition, every year, on the first day of summer, which is also the birthday of her podcast, Ana organises a celebratory event where a special edition of the podcast is recorded with numerous guests.

In collaboration with the Center for Safer Internet and A1 Croatia, Ana was part of the #BoljiOnline campaign, which promotes safety in the online world and the responsibility of each individual. Moreover, she also attended The School of Responsible Influencing, where she learned how to behave in the online world, the commitment she has towards her followers, and how to handle certain situations.

As an entrepreneur, she is driven by pushing her limits, trying new things, and setting new trends, as she believes that bravery always pays off. In her free time, Ana enjoys music, books, spending time in nature, and sports are an essential part of her daily life.



## Signe Sandfeld Hansen

Danish Safer Internet Centre

Since 2015, Signe Sandfeld Hansen has specialised in how young people bring their vulnerability in play online, and how it can be both positive and negative. She is part of the counselling team at the Center for Digital Youthcare, where she supports young people through text messages and a Q&A mailbox on the platform, [Cyberhus.dk](https://cyberhus.dk). She is also the counselling manager at the platform [Gruppechat.dk](https://gruppechat.dk), where young people can come together in digital communities to discuss difficult topics such as self-harm, loneliness, or family issues. All services are relevant for – and co-created with – the youth. She is also responsible for the work with the Danish Safer Internet Centre's online Youth Panel. Signe holds a Master's degree in Psychology from Aarhus University.



## Veronica Ștefan *(video contribution)*

[digitalcitizens.net](https://digitalcitizens.net)

Veronica Ștefan is a professional with more than 17 years of experience, working intensively at the intersection of education, policy and new technologies. She has been engaged in a variety of international initiatives, from research to public policy, capacity building or project management, while providing expertise for different stakeholders such as the Council of Europe, UN agencies, European Union bodies, as well as many other national and international private and public entities.



Her recent activity includes contributions to digital policies, research on the social impact of artificial intelligence (AI) and new technologies, and the development of digital competences for educational and youth actors. Since 2017, she has been working as an expert for various Council of Europe initiatives related to AI.

Veronica is originally from Romania, where she has founded a series of non-profits, including the first Romanian Digital Think-Tank, and was actively involved in shaping the agenda of the first Romanian Presidency of the Council of the European Union (2018-2019).



## **Dubravka Šuica** *(video message)*

### **European Commission Vice-President for Democracy and Demography**

Since December 2019, Dubravka Šuica has been Vice-President of the European Commission in charge of Democracy and Demography. Mrs Šuica is a Croatian politician from the city of Dubrovnik where she served for two terms as its first female mayor and was awarded the 2006 World Mayor Award. Dubravka Šuica entered politics in the 1990s as a Member of the Croatian Democratic Union and served as a Member of the Croatian Parliament and Vice-Chair of the EU Integration Committee. Between 2004 and 2009 she was a Board Member of the Union of the Association of Towns and Municipalities of the Republic of Croatia.

For ten years, she was the Vice-President of Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe. From 2013 to 2019, Dubravka Šuica served as a Member of the European Parliament and Vice-Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee. In June 2019, Šuica was elected as the first Vice-Chair of the EPP Group in the European Parliament. Since 2012, she has been the Vice-President of EPP Women.



## **Professor Amanda Third**

### **Western Sydney University, Australia**

Professor Amanda Third (PhD) is Professorial Research Fellow in the Institute for Culture & Society, Co-Director of the Young and Resilient Research Centre at Western Sydney University, and a Faculty Associate in the Berkman Klein Center for Internet and Society at Harvard University (2020-2023).

An international expert in youth-centred, participatory research, Amanda's work investigates the intersections between children's and young people's technology practices and their mental health and well-being, focusing on marginalised groups and rights-based approaches. She has led child-centred projects to understand children's experiences of the digital age in over 70 countries, working with partners across corporate, government and not-for-profit sectors, and children and young people themselves.

She led the children's consultations for and co-authored the UNCRC General Comment 25 on Children's Rights in relation to the Digital Environment, as part of a team led by Prof. Sonia Livingstone (LSE).



She is a Program Co-Leader in the Centre for Resilient and Inclusive Societies, and lead author of *Our rights in a digital world: A snapshot of children's views from around the world* (5Rights Foundation, 2021); *Young and online: Children's perspectives on life in the digital age* (UNICEF, 2017) and *Young people in digital society: control/shift* (Palgrave, 2019).



## Amanda Timberg

Google

Amanda Timberg has dedicated her career to improving life chances for people through employment and education opportunities. She is currently the Director of Education at Google. In this role, she develops and delivers transformative, people-centred programmes that unlock the creative and economic possibilities of computing for those historically underrepresented in tech. Before Google, Amanda spent fifteen years in education charities in the UK and the US, including Teach First and Teach for America, working to develop and equip teachers and leaders to make an impact towards educational equity. She started her career teaching at a primary school in Compton, California and also worked in the Superintendent's Office of the Los Angeles Unified School District in southern California. She holds an MSc in Voluntary Sector Management from Bayes Business School.



## Steven Vosloo

UNICEF Innocenti

Steven Vosloo is a technology, policy and innovation specialist at UNICEF Innocenti – Global Office of Research and Foresight. He works at the intersection of children, emerging tech, and policy, covering issues such as children and artificial intelligence (AI), digital disinformation, the metaverse, neurotechnology, and digital equality. With over 20 years of experience in innovating digital technologies for social good, he has been head of mobile in the Innovation Lab, Pearson South Africa, led the mobile learning programme at UNESCO, and held the prestigious fellowship for 21st Century Learning at the Shuttleworth Foundation.



## Oleksandra Voychyshyn

Zalishchyky State Gimnasia, Ukraine

Oleksandra Voychyshyn is a headteacher at Zalishchyky State Gimnasia, a Microsoft Showcase School, in Ukraine. She is an eTwinner, SELMA (Social and Emotional Learning for Mutual Awareness) Ambassador, Microsoft Innovative Educator Expert (MIEE), Microsoft and Intel® Skills for Innovation (SFI) Trainer, Skype Master Teacher, Global Learning Mentor, and Safer Internet Day Supporter.



# Safer Internet Day 2024

**Tuesday**  
6 February

Together for a better internet

[www.saferinternetday.org](http://www.saferinternetday.org)



European  
Commission

**INHOPE**

ins@te