

EN

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Answer given by Mr Micallef
on behalf of the European Commission
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The protection and empowerment of children online is a top priority for the Commission, as highlighted by the Commission President in the latest State of the Union address. The Digital Services Act (DSA) establishes strong safeguards for minors online, complemented by the Better Internet for Kids+ Strategy that strives to ensure that every child is respected, protected and empowered online, and the EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child. In July 2025, the Commission adopted guidelines under the DSA to ensure high levels of privacy, safety and security for minors.

The Commission plans to adopt an EU Action Plan against Cyberbullying to tackle online abuse by defining cyberbullying at EU level and promoting prevention, awareness, empowerment, reporting, and victim support.

These efforts align with the 2024 Recommendation on integrated child protection¹, which calls on Member States to adopt comprehensive anti-bullying strategies. Examples on how the Commission supports policymakers and educators include: guidelines on well-being and mental health at school², the Digital Education Action Plan³ which promote digital skills and safe online behaviour. Moreover, the Commission co-funds Safer Internet Centres and their helplines—where cyberbullying is the top concern—showing the Commission’s strong track record. Also, Erasmus+, the Citizenship, Equality, Rights and Values (CERV) programme, and the European Solidarity Corps fund initiatives that help educators, policymakers and young people address bullying.

The initiatives above are EU-wide, and many of their tools and frameworks can be adapted to rural and less developed settings.

¹ Commission Recommendation (EU) <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reco/2024/1238/oj/eng> of 23 April 2024 on developing and strengthening integrated child protection systems in the best interests of the child (OJ L, 2024/1238, 14.5.2024).

² <https://education.ec.europa.eu/news/supporting-wellbeing-at-school-new-guidelines-for-policymakers-and-educators>.

³ <https://education.ec.europa.eu/focus-topics/digital-education/actions>.