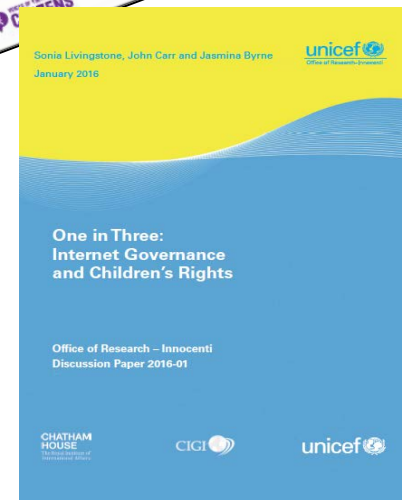
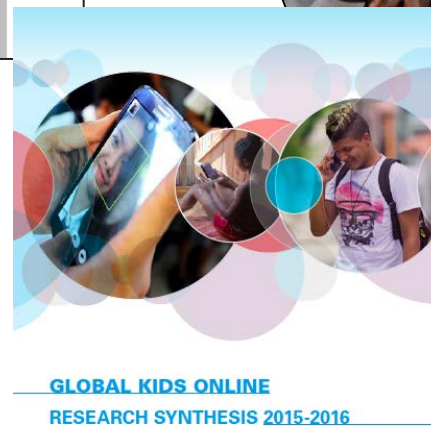
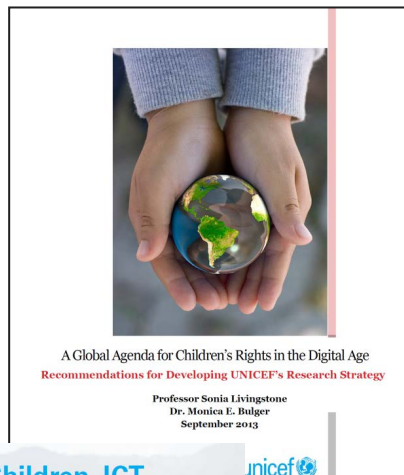
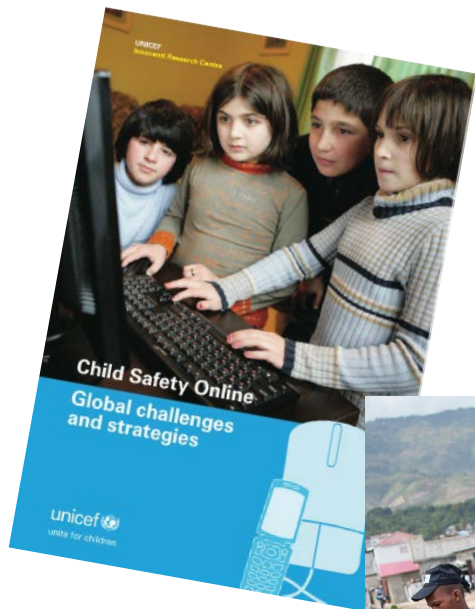


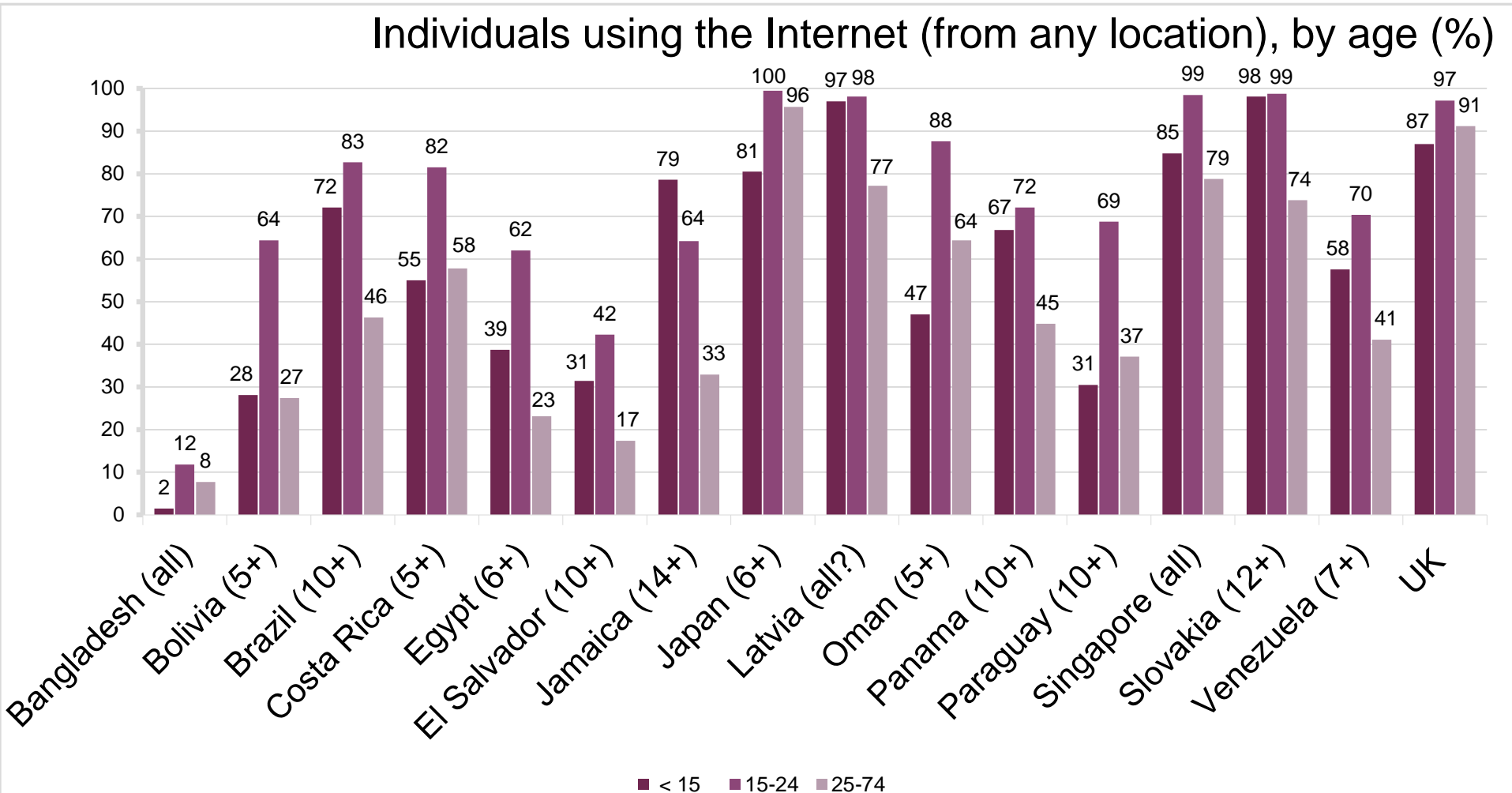
CHILDREN'S RIGHTS IN THE DIGITAL AGE



Jasmina Byrne UNICEF Innoenti

Around 1 in 3 internet users <18 yrs

<https://ourinternet.org/publication/one-in-three-internet-governance-and-childrens-rights/>



Convention on the Rights of the Child

- **Provision** (e.g., for education, health care and an adequate standard of living)
- **Protection** (e.g., from abuse, exploitation and harmful substances)
- **Participation** (e.g., listening to children's views and respecting their evolving capacities)
- **Guiding principles:** best interest of the child, non-discrimination, survival and development and participation



INTERCONNECTEDNESS OF RIGHTS

Children's rights apply equally offline and online

Risks	Opportunities
Grooming, sexual abuse and sexual exploitation including child pornography	Education and learning
Bullying and harassment	Information and digital literacy
Advertising and marketing	Participation, voice and agency

Age, offline vulnerabilities and socio-economic status matter

Global Kids Online – an overview



A collaborative effort:

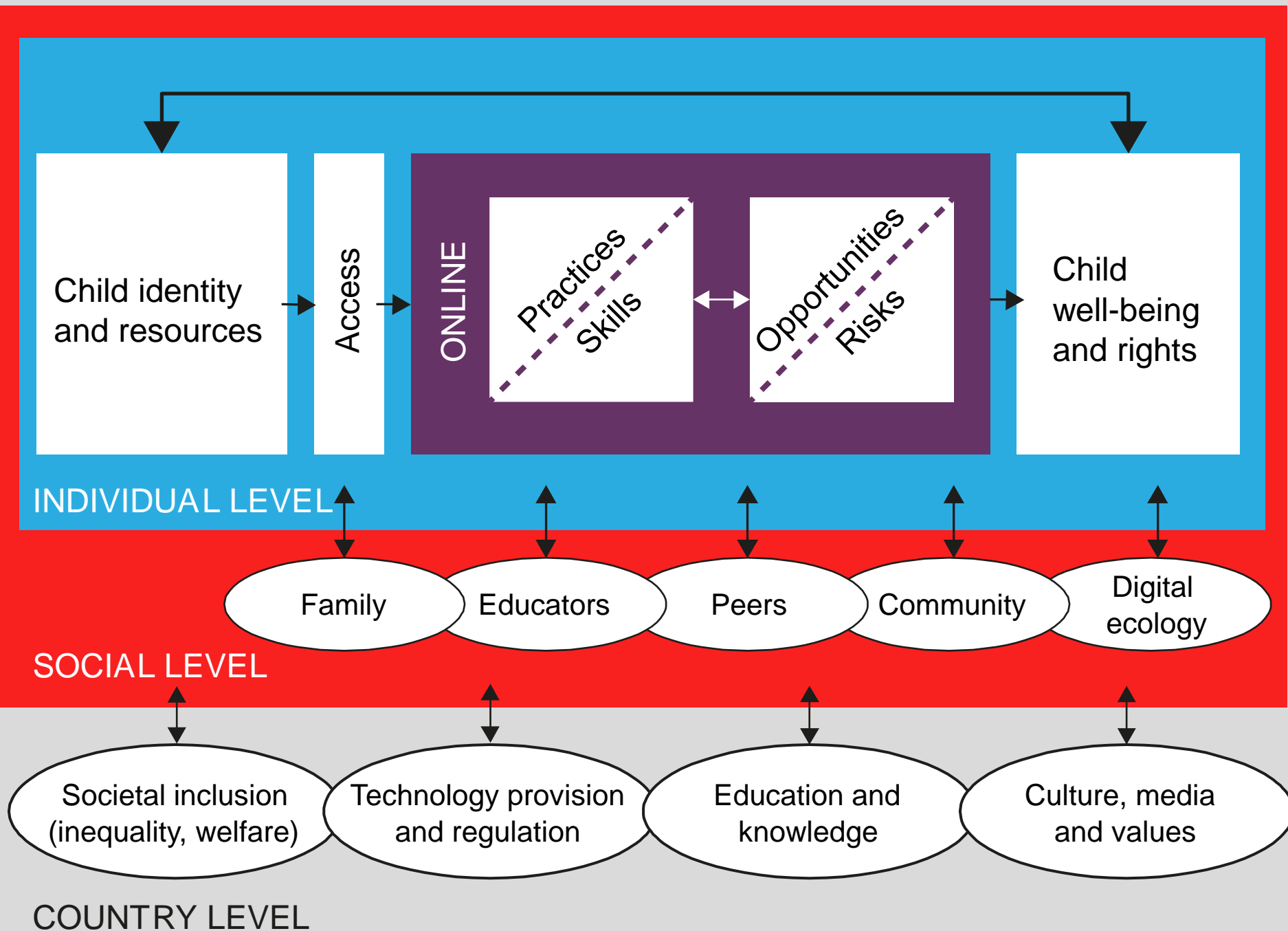


THE LONDON SCHOOL
OF ECONOMICS AND
POLITICAL SCIENCE

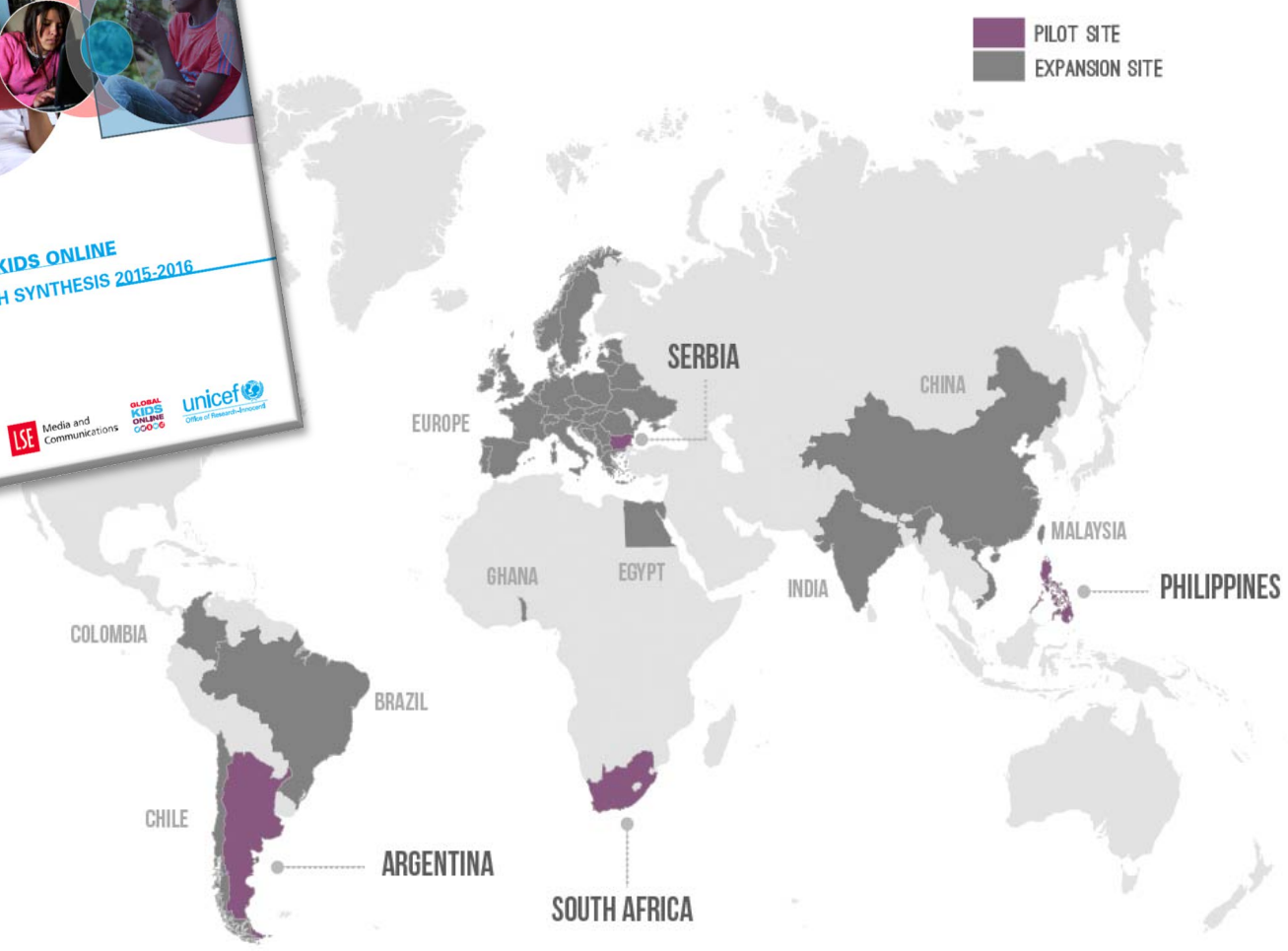
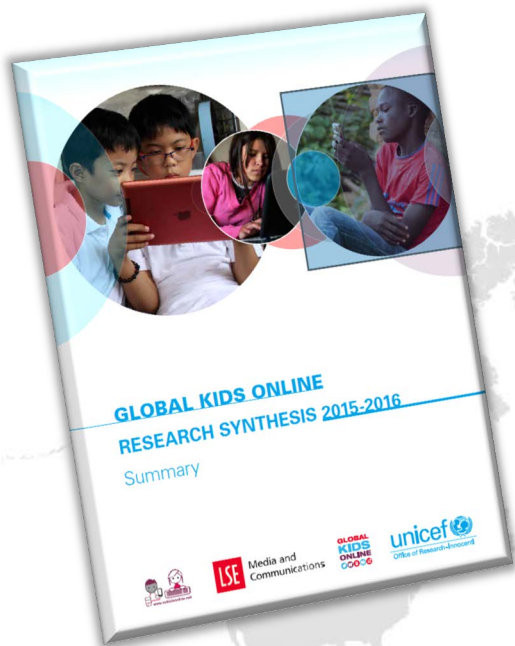


An international research project which aims to:

- *Build and test a research framework and a toolkit for comparative research on children's online experiences worldwide (9-17 year olds)*
- *Create a global network of researchers / experts and build national capacity.*
- *Understand children's digital experiences in their individual and contextual diversity.*
- *Contribute to the evidence base for policy makers and practitioners to strengthen children's rights in the digital age; maximizing their opportunities to benefit while minimizing risk of harm.*

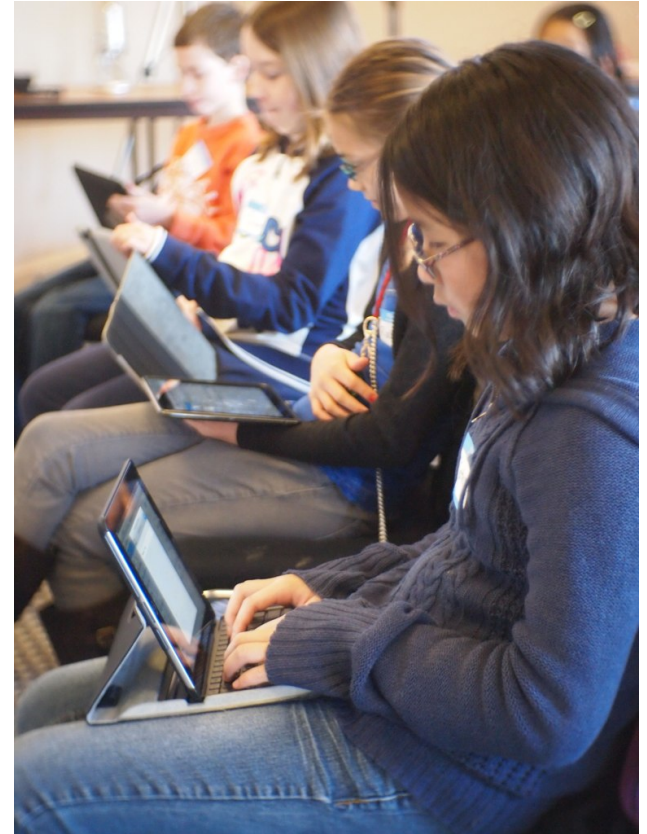


Global Kids Online – the network



Research questions

- When and how does use of the internet contribute positively to children's lives – providing diverse opportunities to benefit that may contribute to their well-being?
- When and how is use of the internet problematic in children's lives – amplifying the risk of harm and potentially undermining their well-being?



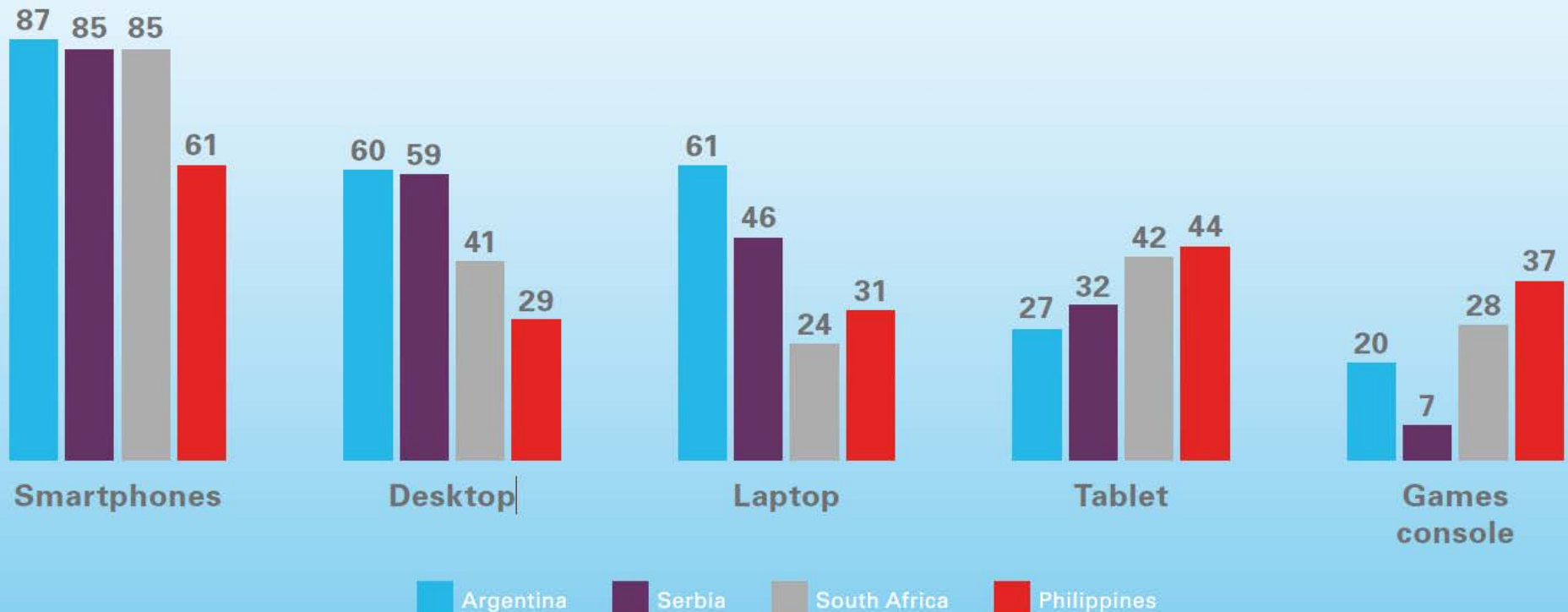
How do children go online?



A lot of the children ... take their phones everywhere, even into the toilet. How can you get your hands on it? They sleep with it under their pillows.

(Parent focus group, Western Cape, South Africa)

Figure 1: When you use internet, how often do you use any of these to go online?
(% who use the device at least monthly, by country)



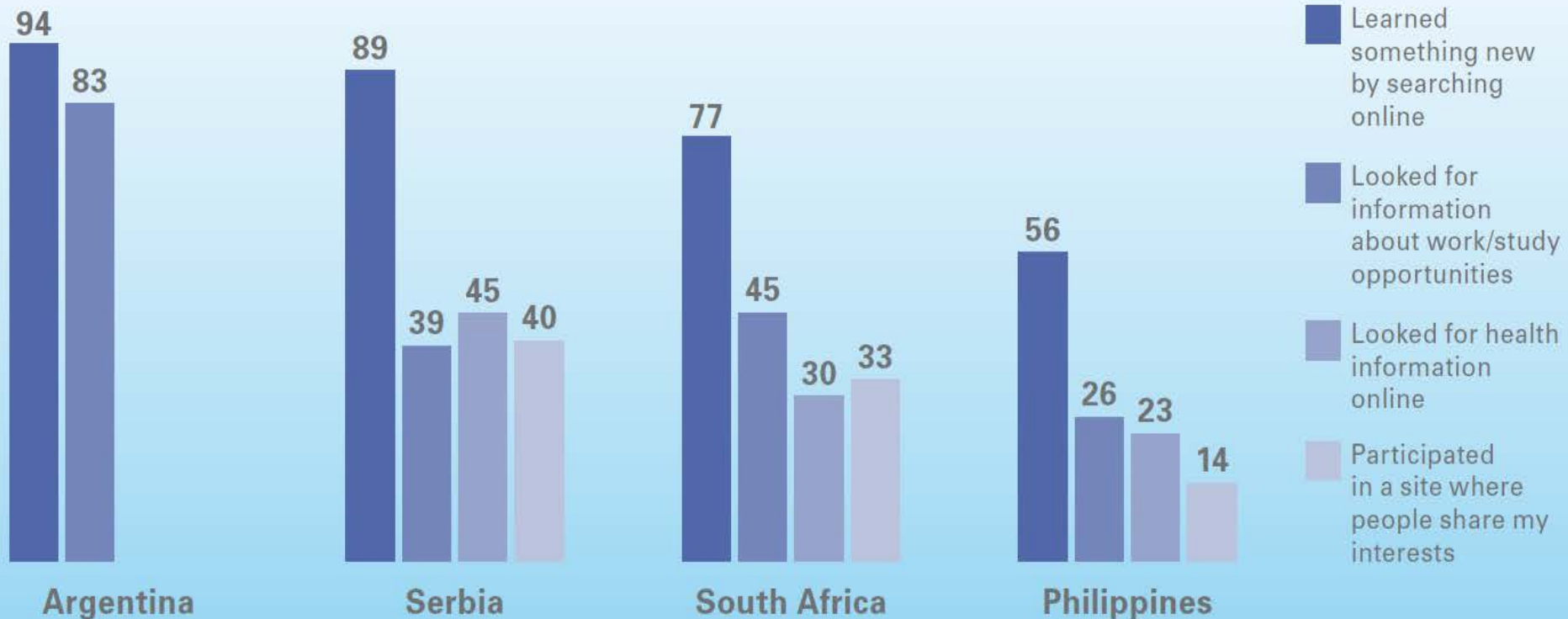
What opportunities do children gain?



It was funny: I was saying that I had some health problem and they asked me if I had visited doctor, I said no, I had visited the internet.

(Girl, 15 years old, Serbia)

Figure 2: How often have you done these things online in the past month?
(% responding 'At least every week' or more often, by country)



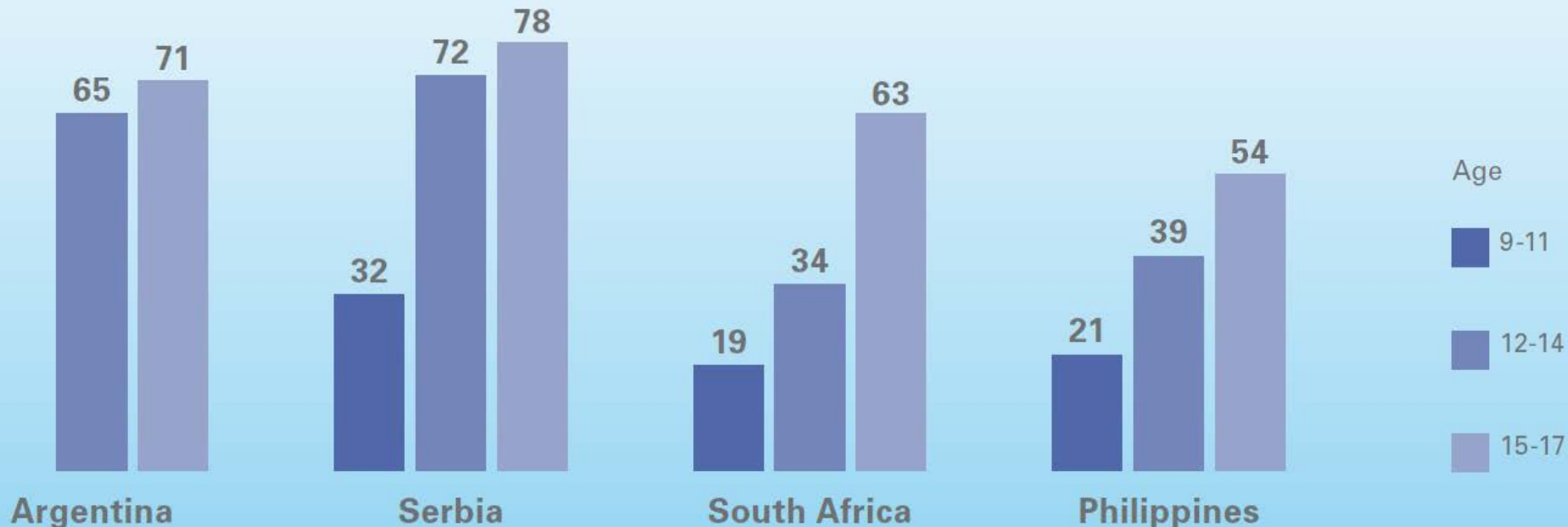
What digital skills do children have?



We grew up with the internet. I mean, the internet has always been here with us. The grown-ups are like 'Wow the internet appeared', while it is perfectly normal for us.

(Boy, 15 years old, Serbia)

Figure 3: How true are these things for you: I find it easy to check if the information I find online is true (% responding 'Very true' or 'Fairly true' ('Very true' in Argentina), by age and country)



Can children keep themselves safe?



Interviewer:

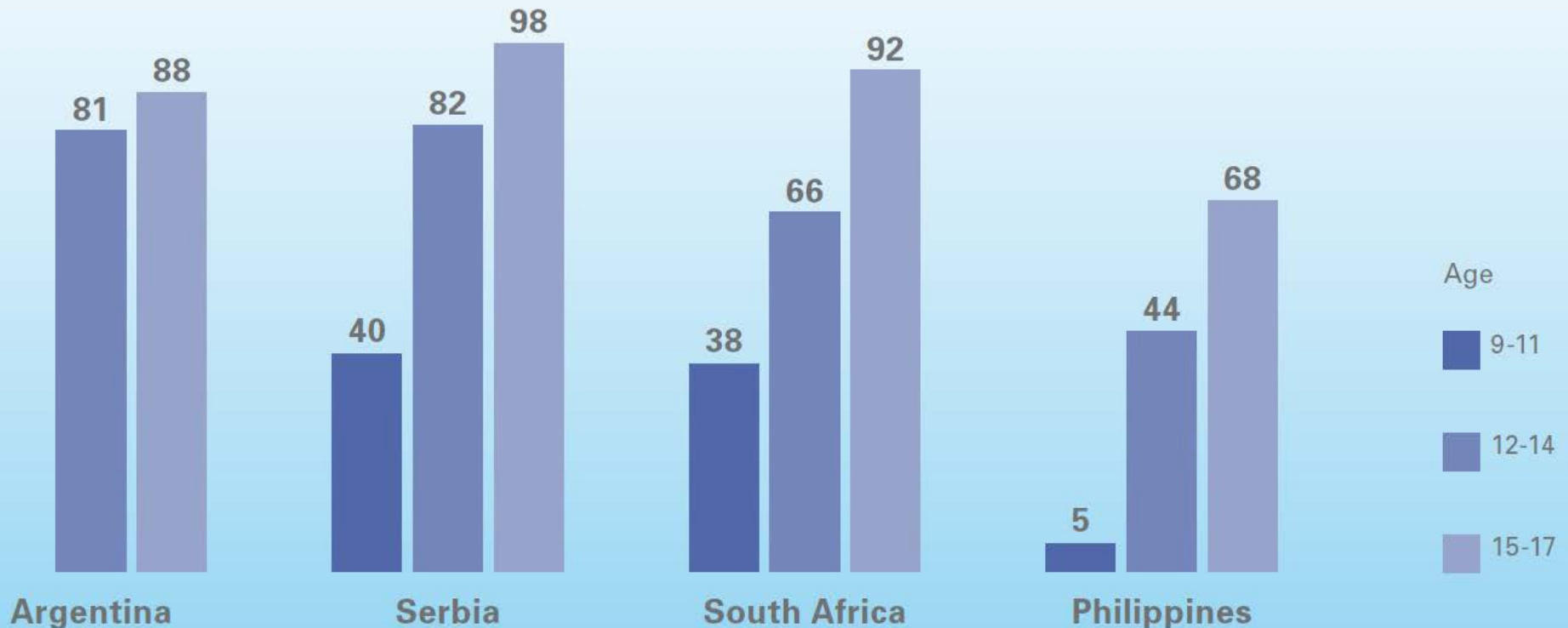
"Do you ask your teachers for help?"

Respondent:

"They ask me. They always ask us."

(14-17 year-olds, Eastern Cape, South Africa)

Figure 4: How true is this for you: I know how to change my privacy settings
(% responding 'Very true' or 'Fairly true' ('Very true' in Argentina), by age and country)



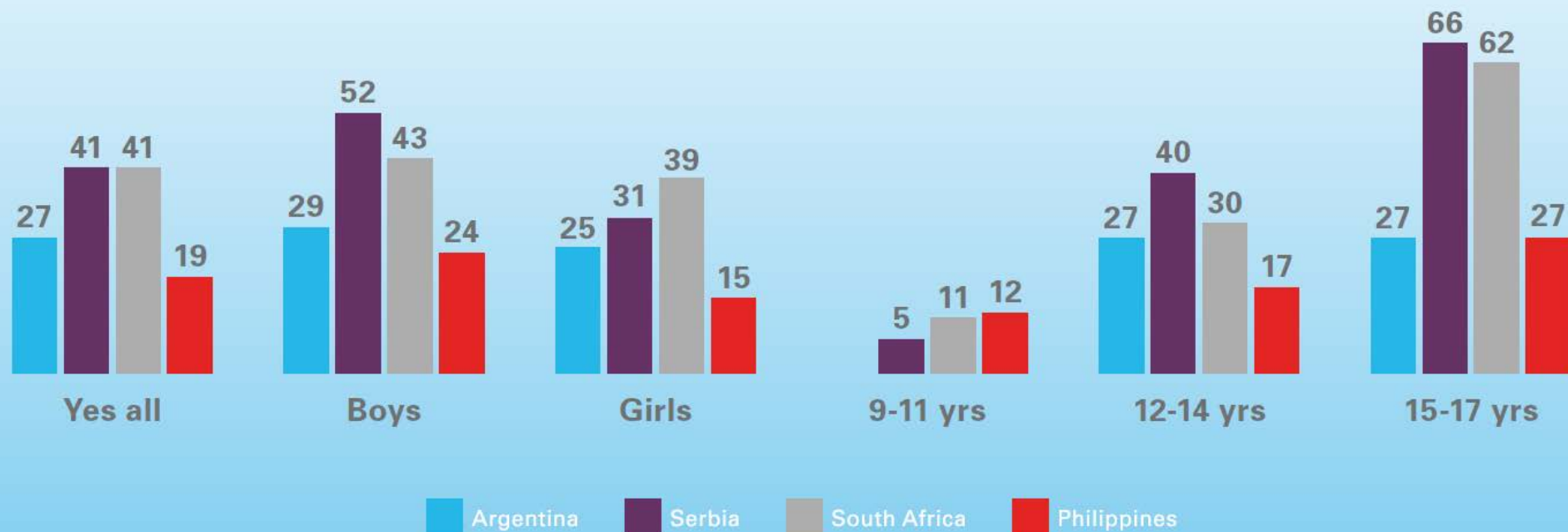
Do children make new contacts online?



"You can get into contact with someone that you don't even know and then they ask you questions and then you answer them and then they come and kill you."

(9 to 11 year-olds, Eastern Cape, South Africa)

Figure 5: Have you ever had contact on the internet with someone you have not met face to face before? (% responding 'Yes', by gender, age, and country)



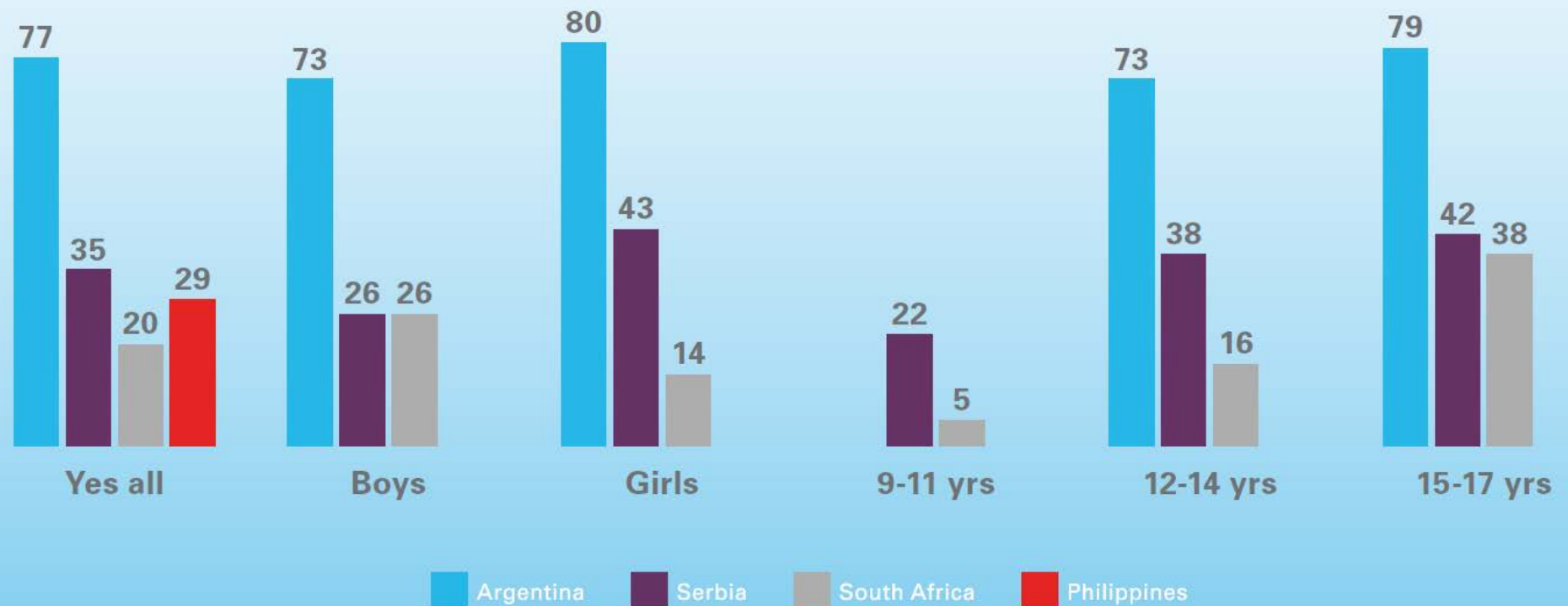
What risks do children face online?



I experienced chatting with kids who would only add me as friend to trash talk or curse at me.

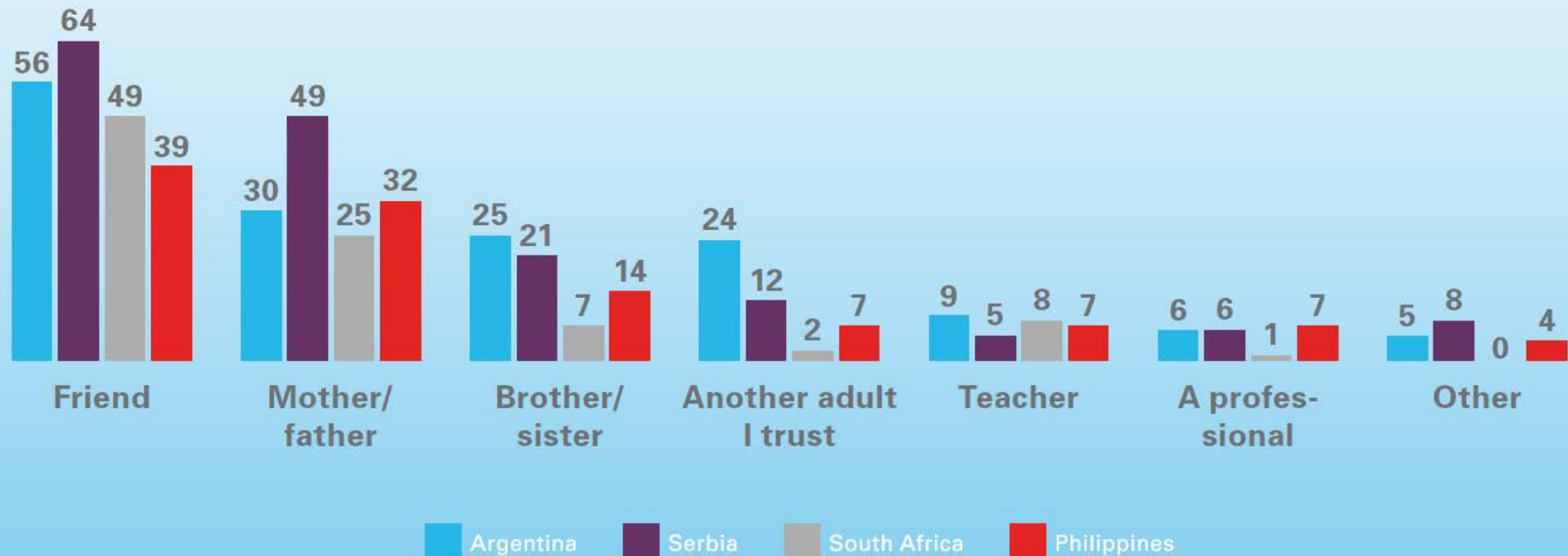
(Boy, 9 to 11 years old, the Philippines)

Figure 6: In the past year, has anything ever happened online that bothered or upset you in some way? (% responding 'Yes', by gender, age and country)



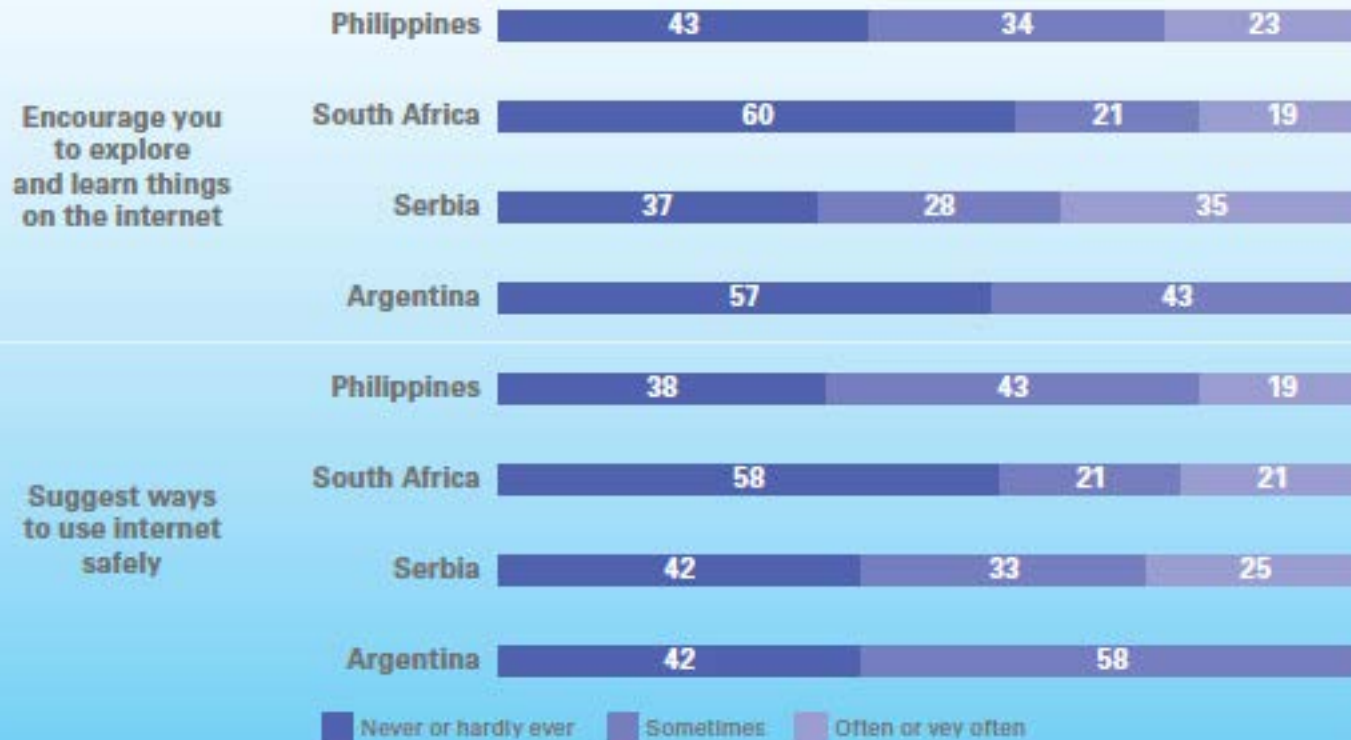
Who do children seek support from?

Figure 7: The last time something happened online that bothered or upset you, did you talk to any of these people about it? (% yes, by country)



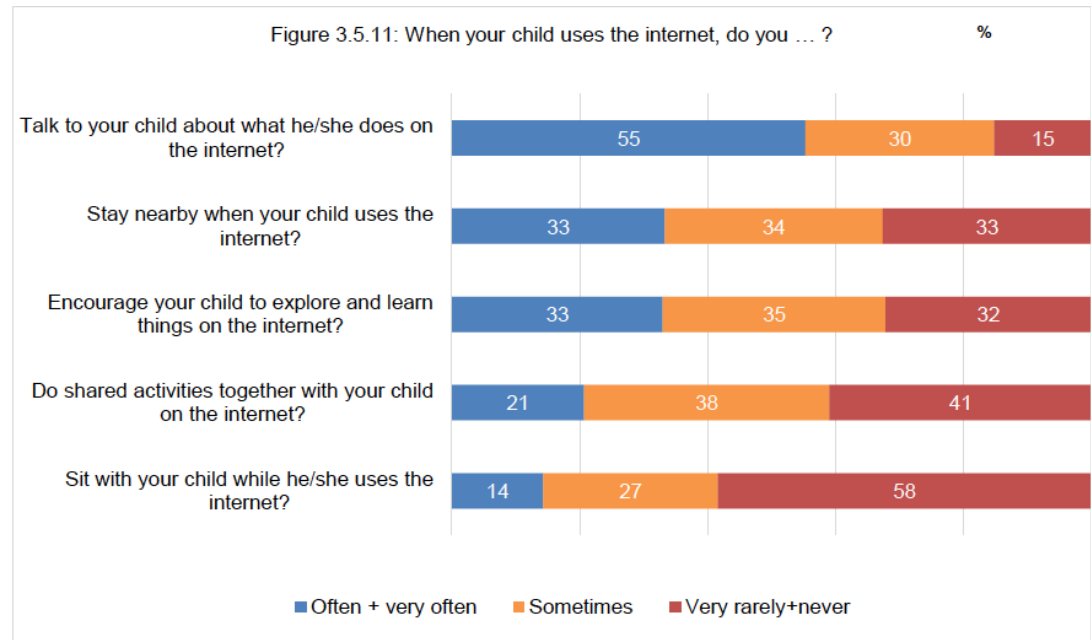
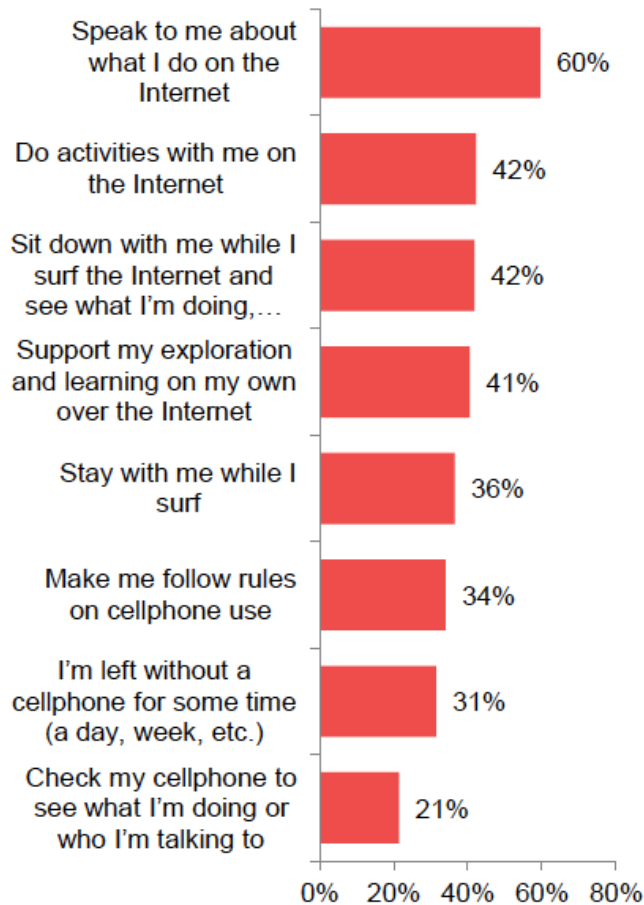
How do parents/caregivers help?

Figure 33: When you use the internet does your parent/carer... (% by country)



Family activities: Argentina and Montenegro

Figure 31: Family activities related to internet use, 2015



Adult Competencies

- In Serbia every fifth student has parents who do not use the internet.
- In Montenegro close to 50 percent of parents asked their older children to help them with the internet
- In South Africa parental competencies at the level of 12-14 year olds

Implications for parenting

- Different parenting styles and mediation practices

*I asked my mom if I could have a profile on the Instagram and she said 'No',
because starlets post their photos there.
(Girl aged 10, Serbia)*

*Ever since I got my internet profile in the fifth grade, my mom has had
the password and checked it regularly. Now she trusts me and doesn't do that anymore.
But I tell my mom everything, anyway.
(Girl aged 16, Serbia)*

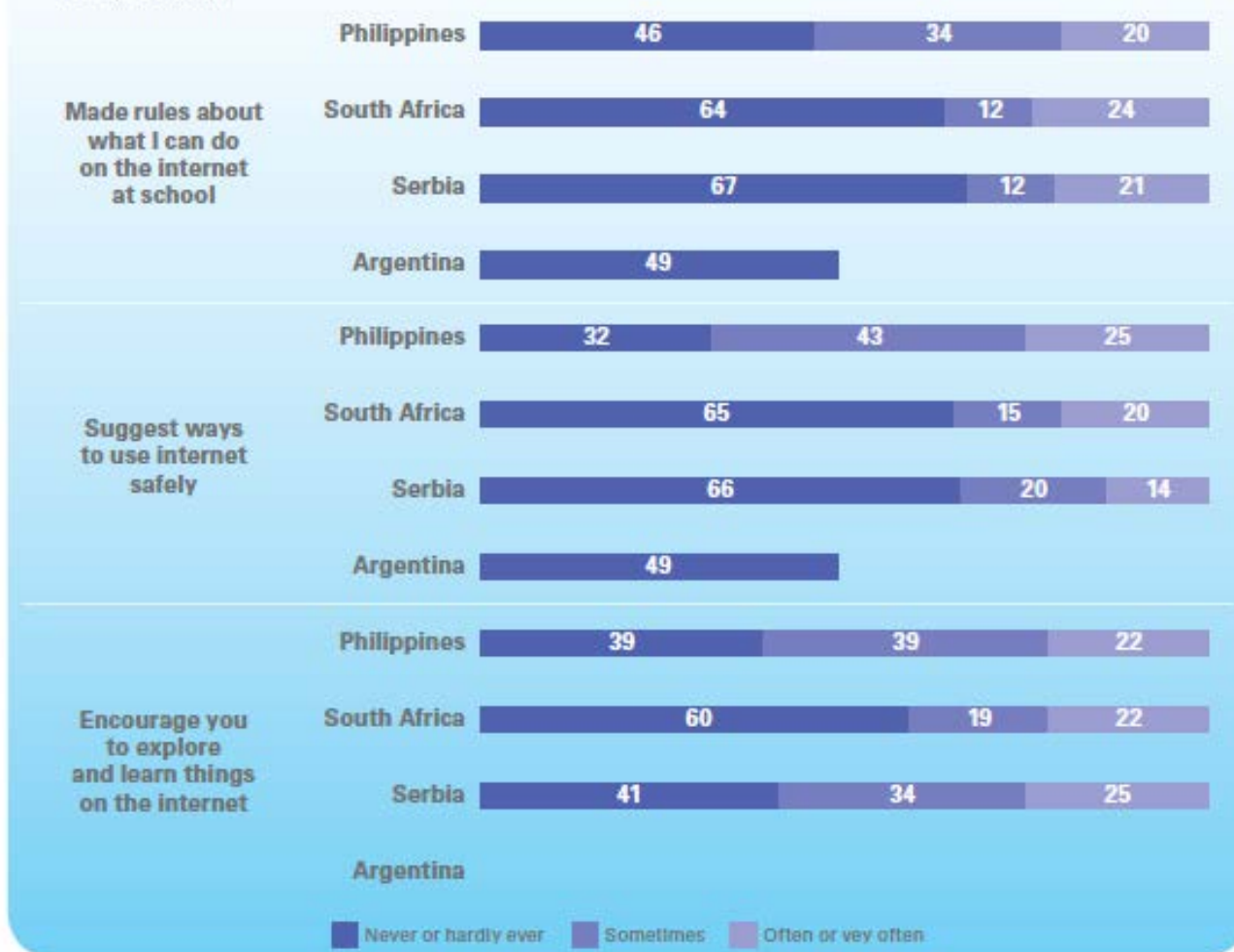
- Challenges for parenting:
 - time
 - space
 - competencies
 - finances
 - multiple devices
 - mobile access
- Time use – how much is too much?
- Principles of positive parenting offline and online

Teachers' mediation

Recently we had a lecture about internet safety at school. It was funny how many things they didn't mention, like some really scary things. ... They probably did not want to frighten us.

(Girl, 16 years old, Serbia)

Figure 36: Have any teachers at your school done any of these things?
(%, by country)



Some policy implications

- Policy to take into account diversity as well as access, skills, risks and opportunities
- Support for development of children's digital skills and ICT in education, teacher training
- Offline and online risks
- Research and evaluation needed on outcomes of policies
- Recognising children's agency
- Multi-stakeholder approach crucial





Children's rights in the digital age

Gathering global evidence on children's online rights, opportunities, and risks

Tools for researchers

Research results

Research updates

About the project

Participating countries

Contact

Tools for researchers

A multi-method toolkit for investigating children's online experiences around the world

Research results

Our research results and latest findings from around the world

Research updates

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