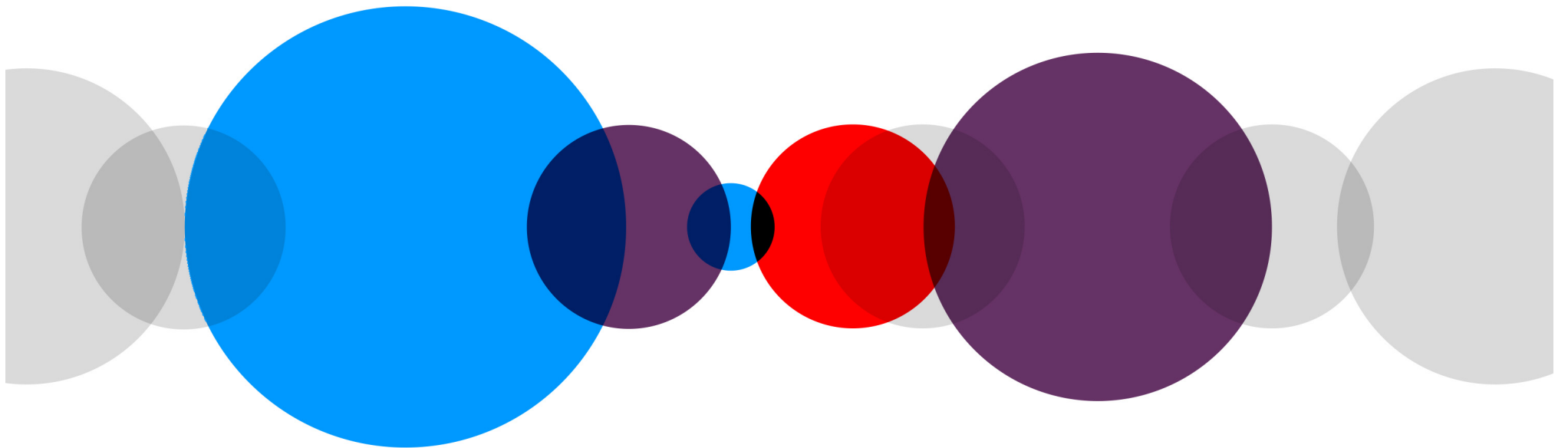


# GLOBAL KIDS ONLINE

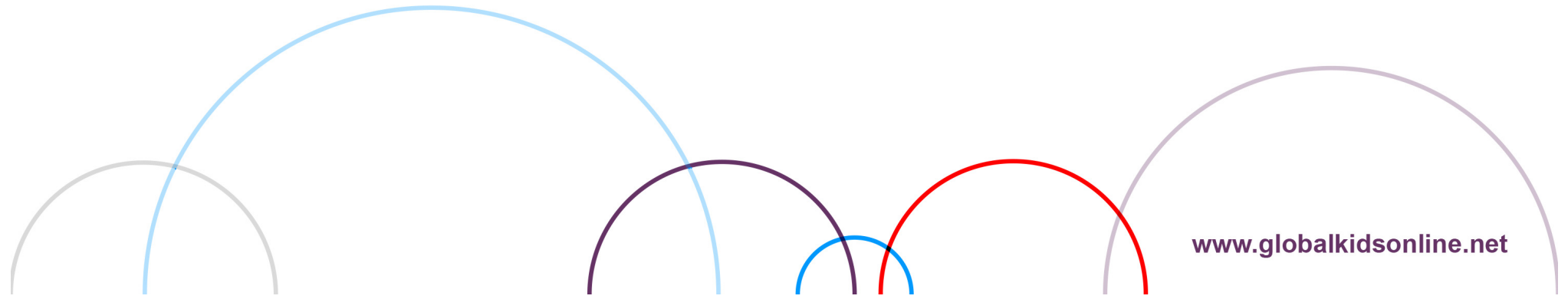
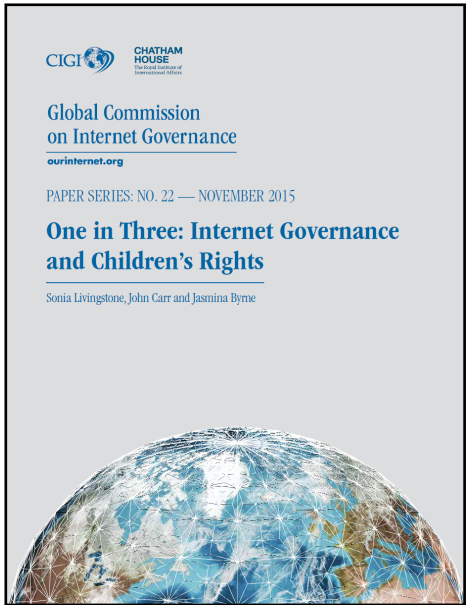


**Sonia Livingstone**

May 2016 presentation to WSIS

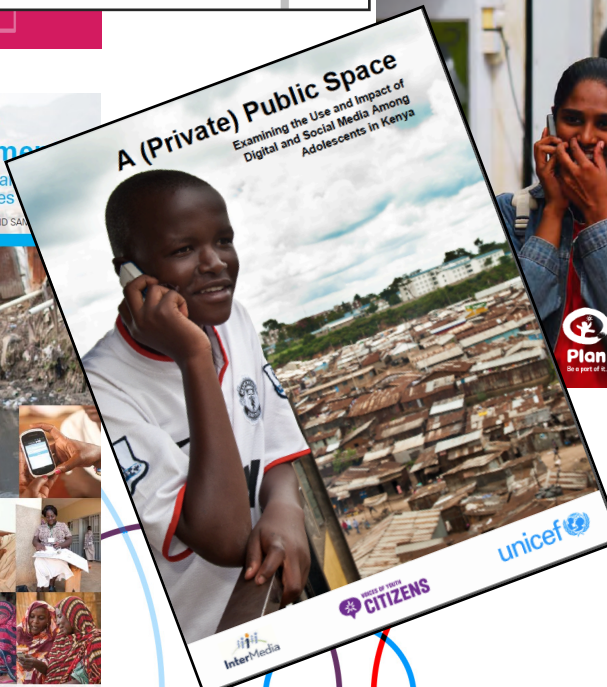
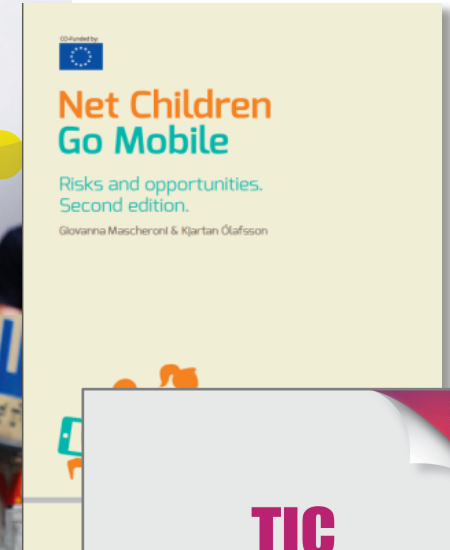
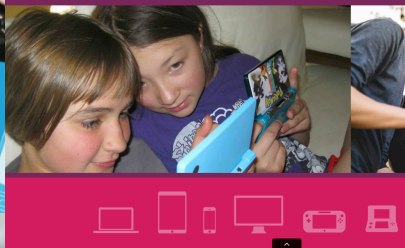
[www.globalkidsonline.net](http://www.globalkidsonline.net)

# 1 in 3 children are internet users, 1 in 3 internet users are children



# Expanding the evidence for policy

**GLOBAL  
KIDS  
ONLINE**





# GKO as a partnership



- A collaborative effort:



THE LONDON SCHOOL  
OF ECONOMICS AND  
POLITICAL SCIENCE ■



#WePROTECT  
children Online

- Partner countries include Argentina, The Philippines, Serbia, South Africa, Brazil, Chile ... and more to join
- Collaboration at the national level between UNICEF country offices and academic/research partners
- GKO Steering Group is guided by an Expert Group and International Advisory Group.



# Global Kids Online's aims



- To understand whether and how use of the internet, mobile and related technologies **amplify the risk of harm** to children and to generate evidence to **support the opportunities** that can enhance children's well-being and rights in a digital age.
- To produce a **flexible, multi-method resource for researchers** working in partnership as children go online worldwide, so as to support evidence and policy on children's online access, skills, opportunities, risks, wellbeing and rights
- To **include in the toolkit** (i) a modular survey and guide to implementation, (ii) qualitative research protocols, (iii) expert guides and methodological tools, and then **pilot the toolkit** in four diverse partner countries and revise it to learn from these experiences.

# A child rights focus: the UNCRC

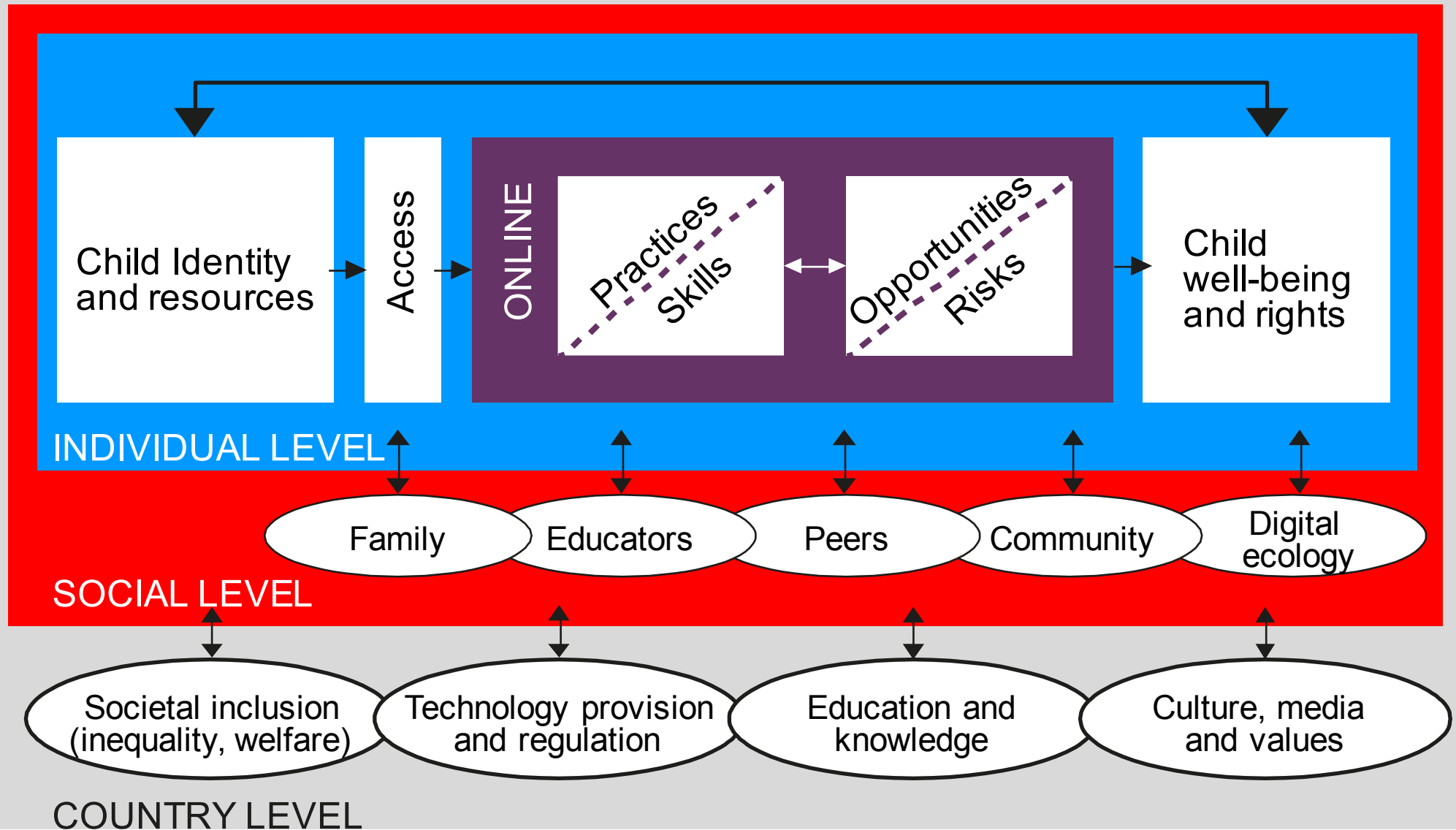
- **Protection** from any kind of discrimination (Article 2), all forms of abuse and neglect (Art. 19), including sexual exploitation and sexual abuse (Art. 34), and other forms of exploitation prejudicial to the child's welfare (Art. 36), from 'information and material injurious to the child's well-being' (Art. 17e), 'arbitrary or unlawful interference with his or her privacy, family, or correspondence [and] unlawful attacks on his or her honour and reputation' (Art. 16)
- **Participation:** 'In all actions concerning children... the best interests of the child shall be a primary consideration' (Art. 3), including the right of children to be consulted in all matters affecting them (Art. 12), to freedom of expression (Art. 13), freedom of thought (Art. 14), of association and assembly (Art. 15), to information (Art. 17) and to participate fully in cultural life (Art. 31)
- **Provision** to support children's rights to life and development (Art. 6), identity (Art. 8), an education to support the development of their full potential (Art. 28) and prepare them 'for responsible life in a free society' (Art. 29), recreation and leisure appropriate to their age (Art. 31), diverse material of social and cultural benefit to the child (including minorities) to promote children's well-being (Art. 17) and all appropriate measures for recovery from neglect, exploitation or abuse (Art. 39)

# Challenges

- **Conceptual:** identifying the key opportunities and risks regarding children's rights in a digital age, as viewed from and responsive to highly diverse and sometimes conflicting perspectives, constituencies, cultures and contexts.
- **Methodological:** balancing the merits and limits of standardized versus contextual approaches to cross-cultural research and integrating these within a coherent research design able to produce high quality results.
- **Practical:** setting meaningful research and policy priorities, selecting partners, obtaining funding, meeting research training needs, addressing ethical and political difficulties, and ensuring research impact.



# The conceptual model



# Toolkit under development . . .



## Children's rights in the digital age

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

Tools for researchers

Research results

Research updates

About the project

Contact

### Tools for researchers

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



### Research results

Research results and cross-national comparisons in diverse countries

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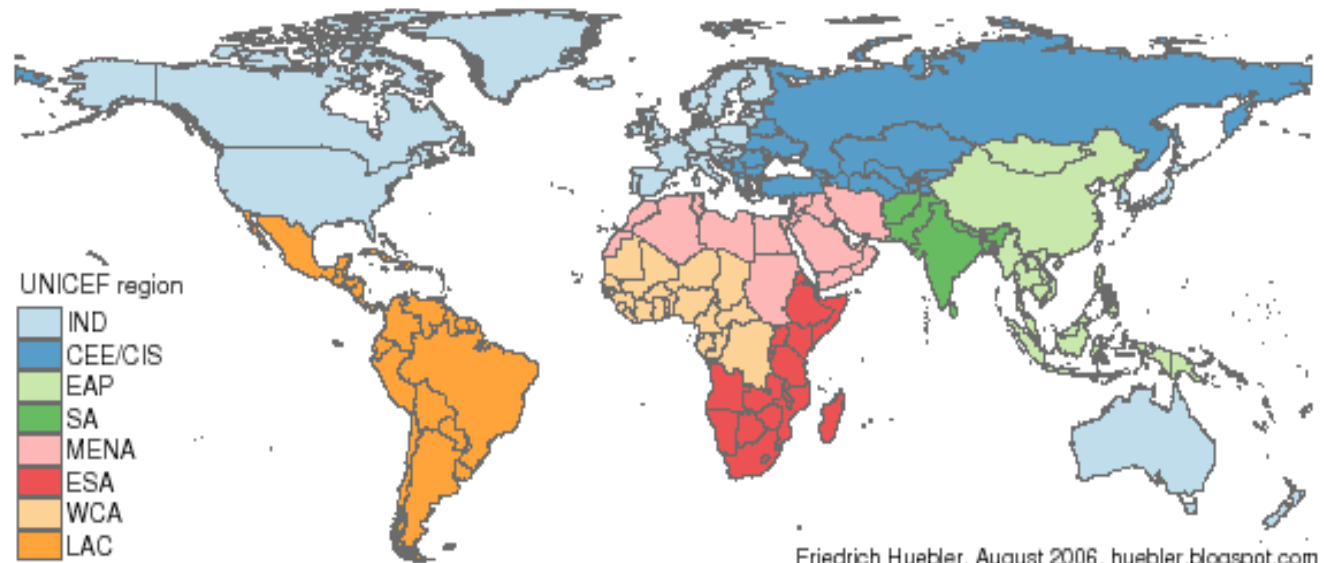
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[www.globalkidsonline.net](http://www.globalkidsonline.net)

# Piloting the toolkit

The purpose is to learn about the findings and methodological experiences of the partner countries

- Argentina
- The Philippines
- South Africa
- Serbia





# Points for discussion

- Future expansion, funding and partnerships
- Scope for cross-national comparisons
- Scope for further revisions and updates
- Using evidence to inform policy and practice at national and international levels

**Thank you for your attention!**



Presentation to the EU Kids Online network, Hamburg, January 2016