GLOBAL KIDS ONLINE:
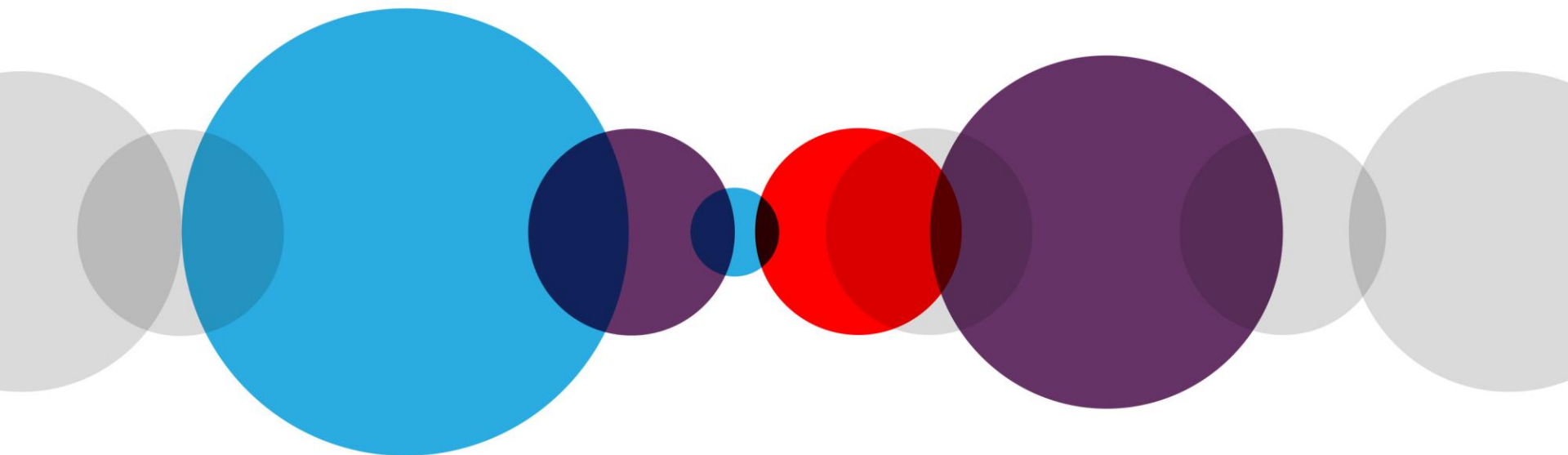## CHILDREN'S RIGHTS IN THE DIGITAL AGE

Evidence to inform policy & practice

Global Kids Online – an overview

GLOBAL KIDS ONLINE

A collaborative international research effort which aims to:

unicef Office of Research–Innocenti

LSE THE LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND POLITICAL SCIENCE

www.eukidsonline.net

We**PROTECT** GLOBAL ALLIANCE — END CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION ONLINE —

- Build and test a research framework and toolkit for comparative research on children's online experiences worldwide

- 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
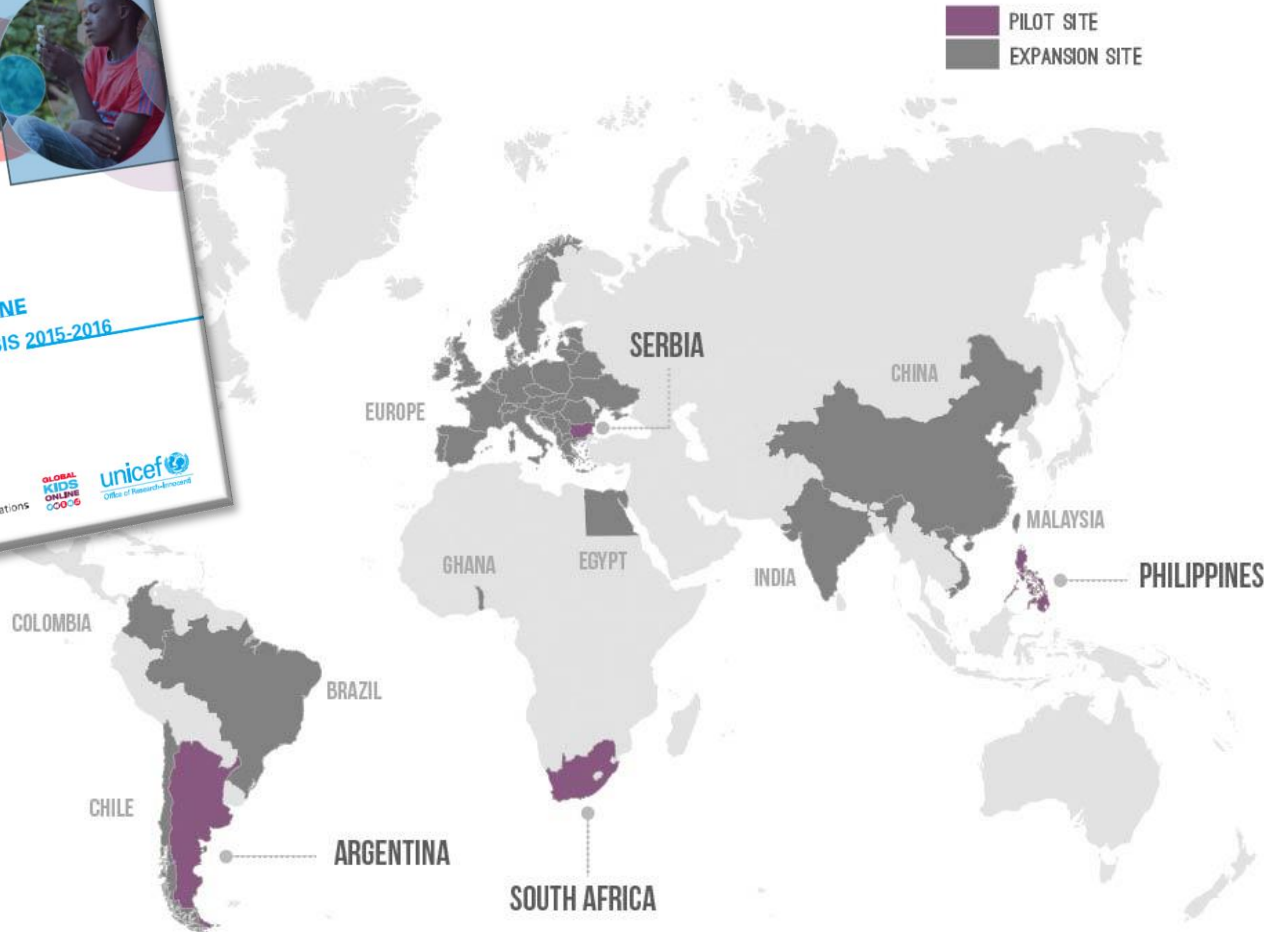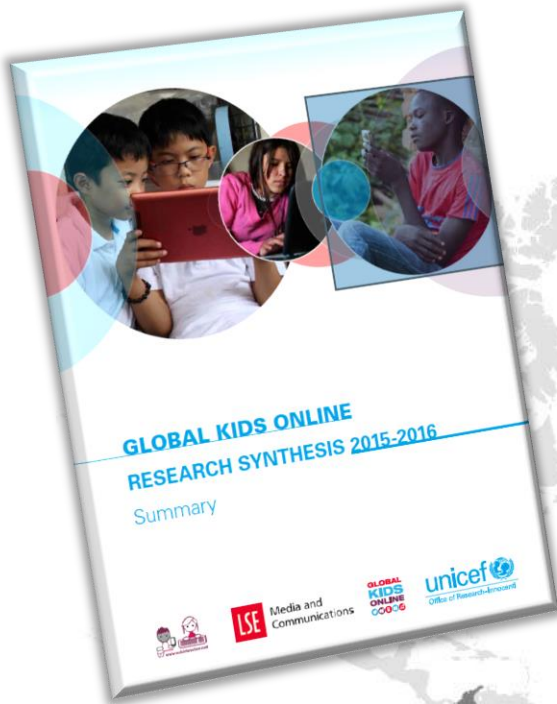
Research questions

- 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?
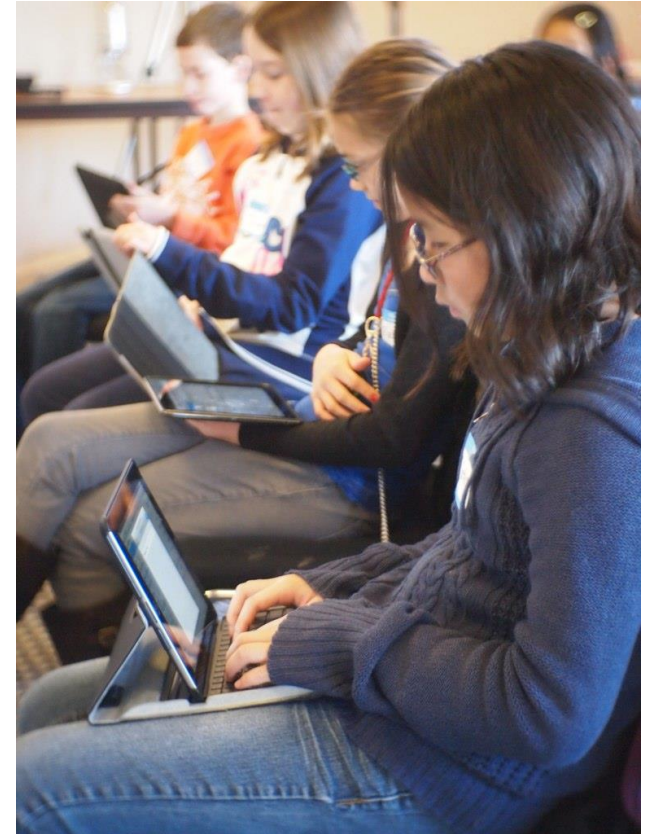
Pilot research in four countries

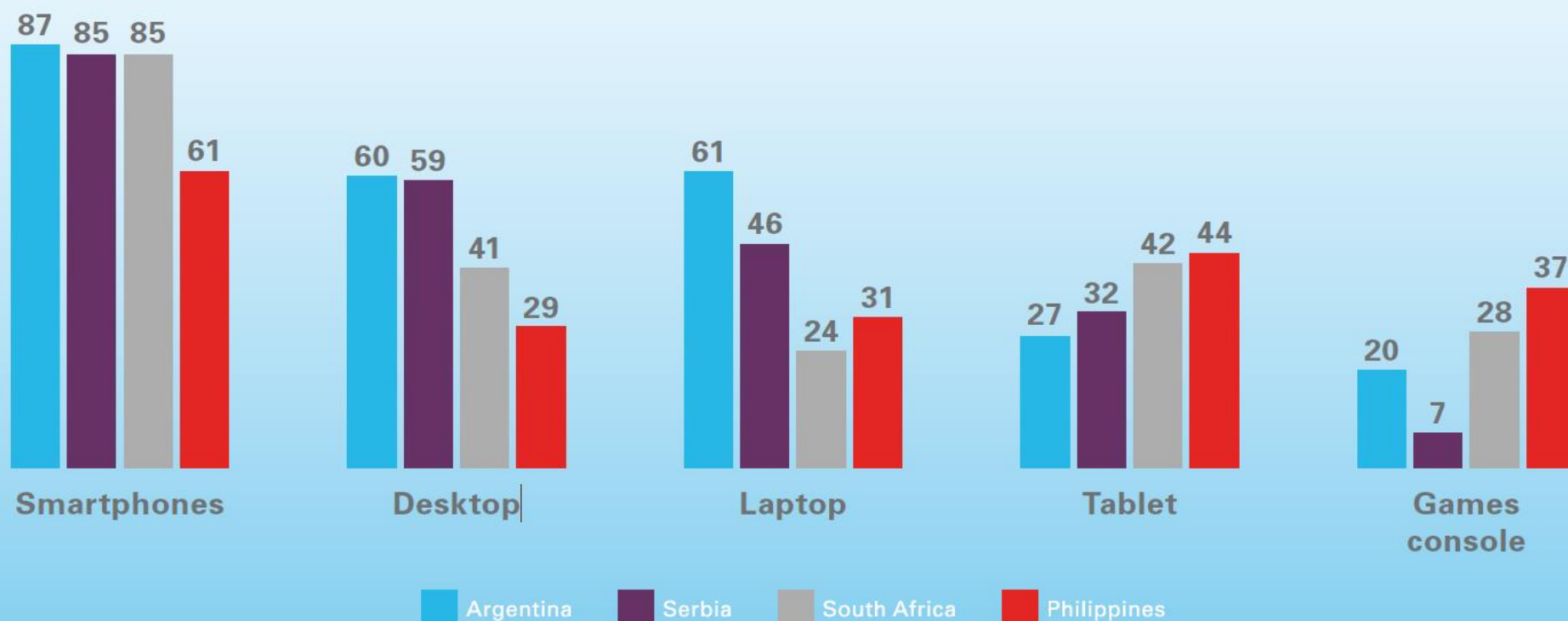|	**Argentina**	**Serbia**	**South Africa**	**Philippines**
Sample	National representative	Convenience	Convenience	Convenience
Survey size	1,106	197 children & parents	913 children & 532 parents	121 children & parents
Age group	13-17	9-17	9-17	9-17
Administration	Home, face-to-face	School, face-to-face	Home, face-to-face	Home, tablet-administered
Language	Spanish	Serbian	English	Tagalog
Fieldwork	Oct 2015	Feb/Mar 2016	Feb/Mar 2016	May-Jun 2016
Qualitative	8 focus groups (+ 4 with parents)	8 focus groups (incl. Roma)	7 focus groups (+ 4 with parents)	Focus groups w children, parents

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)
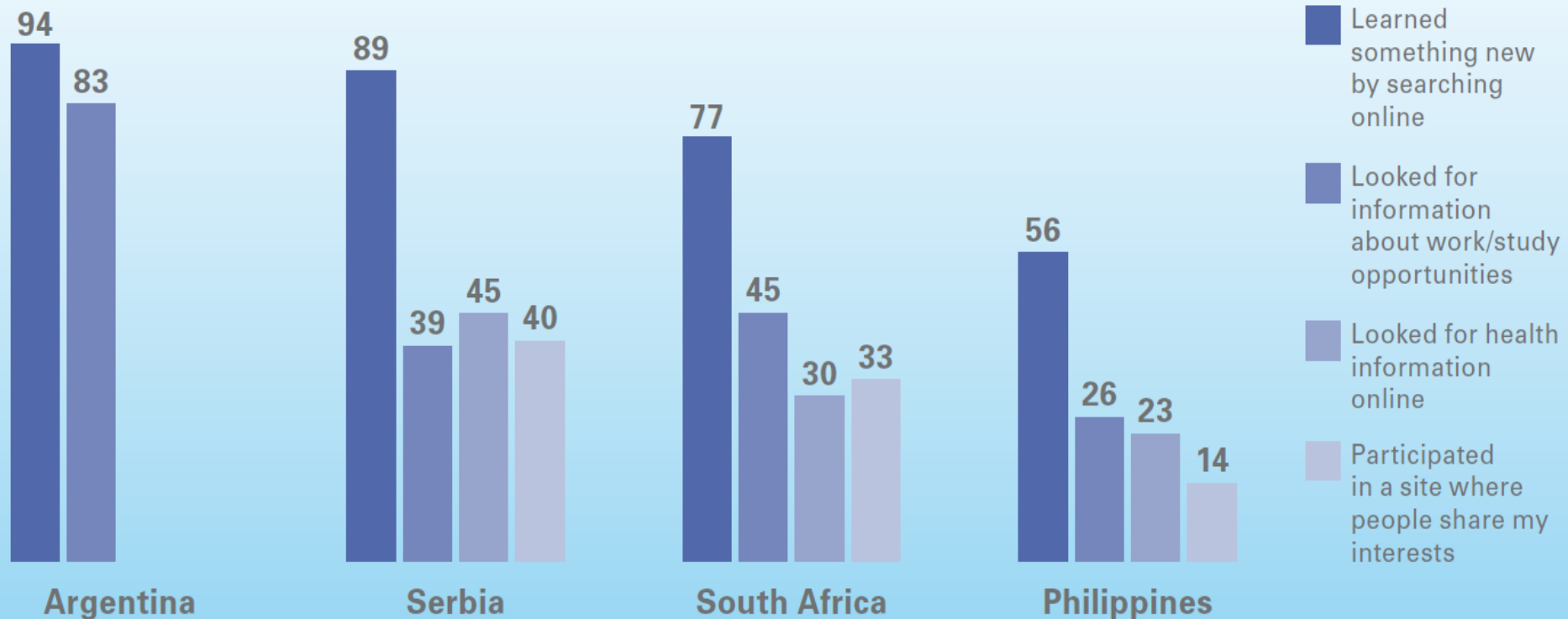

	Argentina	Serbia	South Africa	Philippines
Smartphones	87	85	85	61
Desktop	60	59	41	29
Laptop	61	46	24	31
Tablet	27	32	42	44
Games console	20	7	28	37

What opportunities do children gain?

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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)

Argentina: 94, 83

Serbia: 89, 39, 45, 40

South Africa: 77, 45, 30, 33

Philippines: 56, 26, 23, 14

Legend:
- Learned something new by searching online
- Looked for information about work/study opportunities
- Looked for health information online
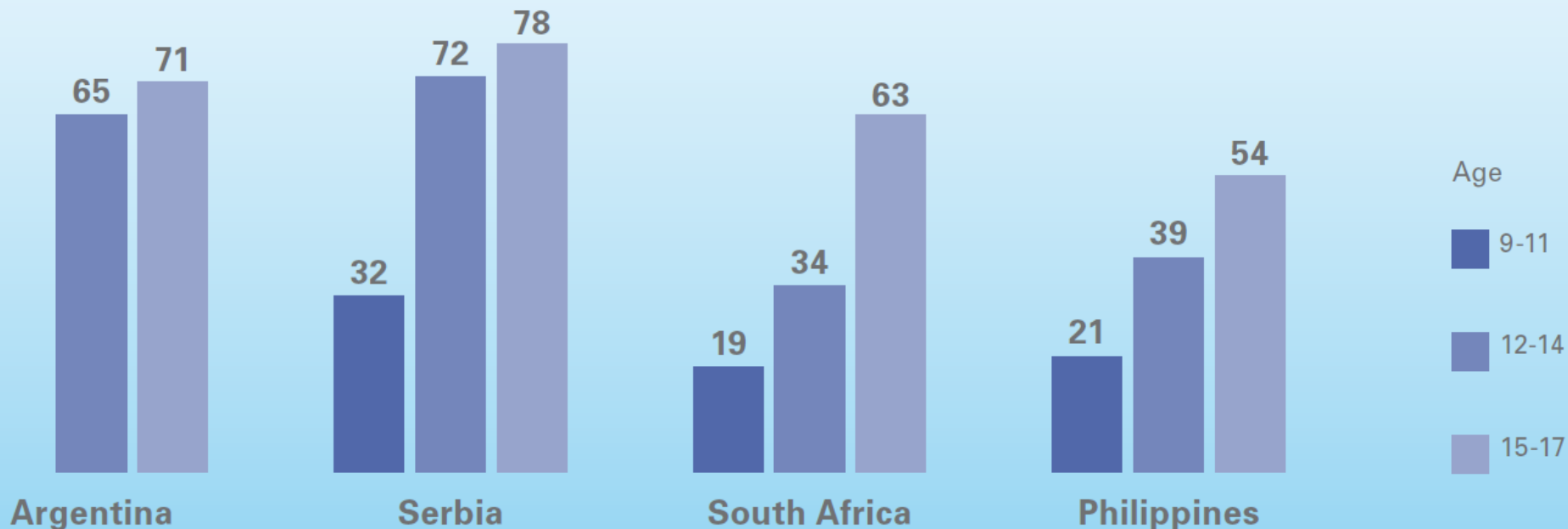- Participated in a site where people share my interests

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)

	Argentina	Serbia	South Africa	Philippines
9-11	65	32	19	21
12-14		72	34	39
15-17	71	78	63	54

Age
- 9-11
- 12-14
- 15-17

Can children keep themselves safe?
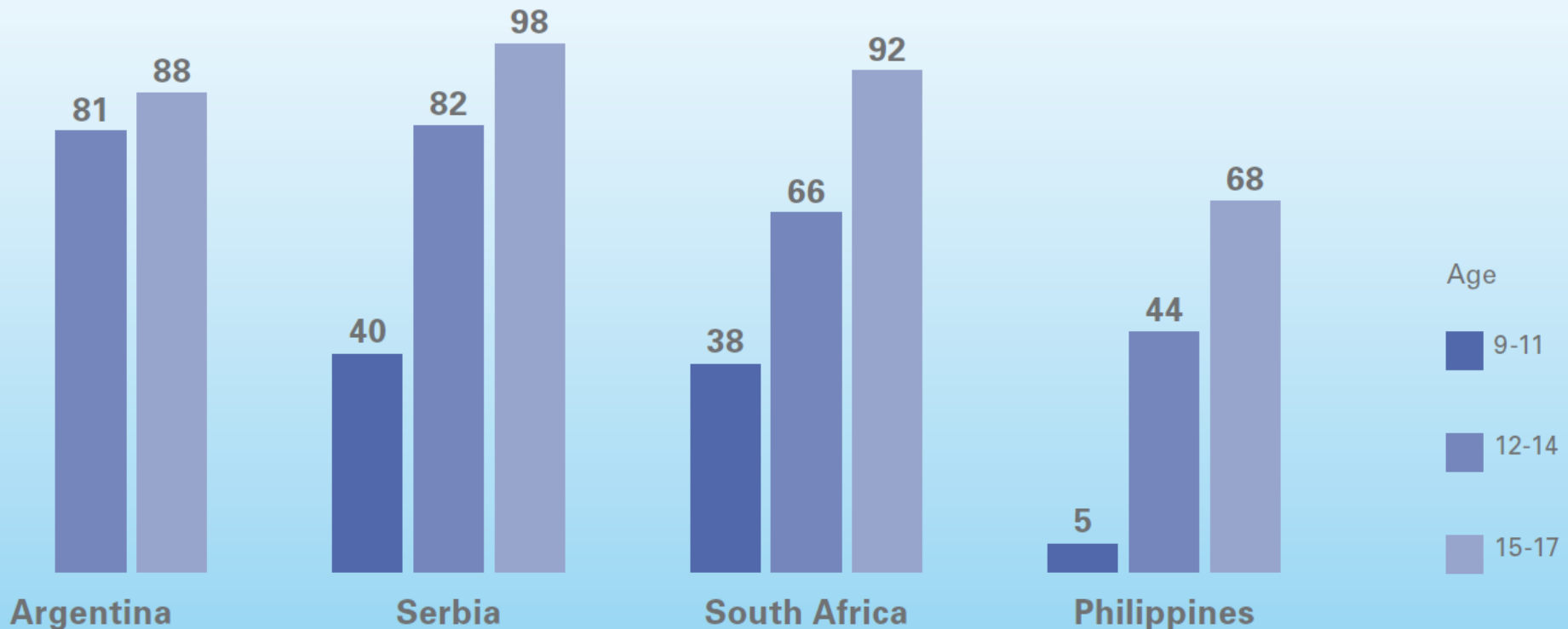
Interviewer:
"Do you ask your teachers for help?"

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)

Age
- 9-11
- 12-14
- 15-17

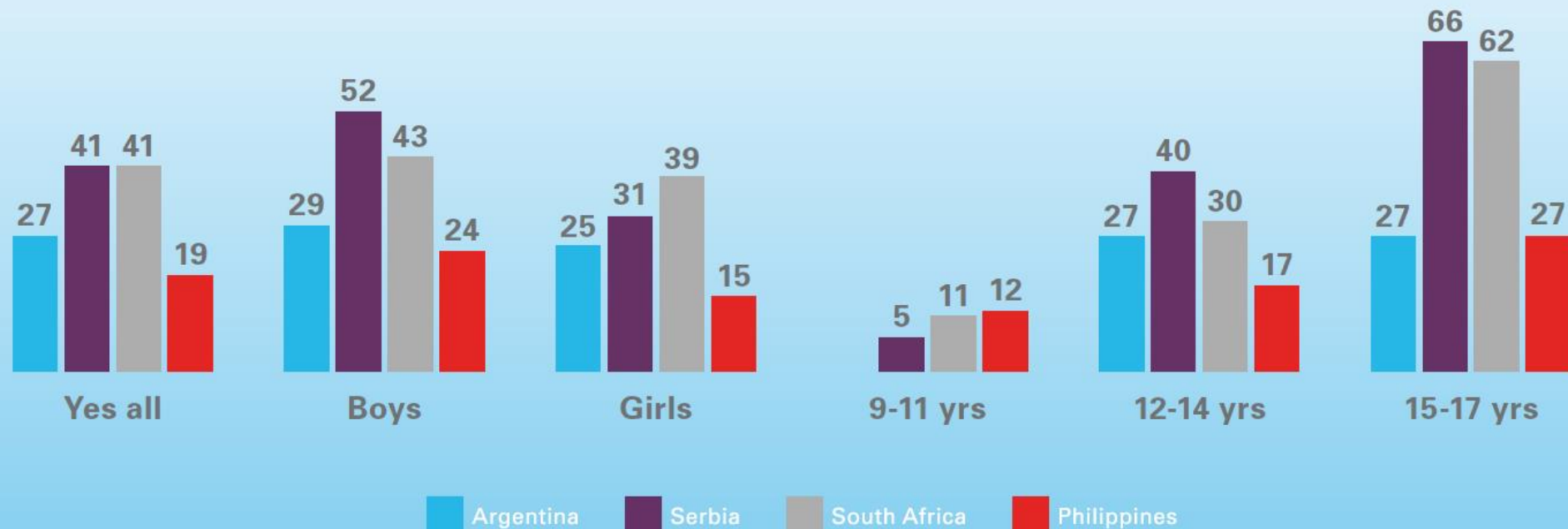| Country	9-11	12-14	15-17
Argentina	81	88	
Serbia	40	82	98
South Africa	38	66	92
Philippines	5	44	68

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)

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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)

Legend: Argentina, Serbia, South Africa, Philippines

Yes all: 27, 41, 41, 19
Boys: 29, 52, 43, 24
Girls: 25, 31, 39, 15
9-11 yrs: 5, 11, 12
12-14 yrs: 27, 40, 30, 17
15-17 yrs: 27, 66, 62, 27

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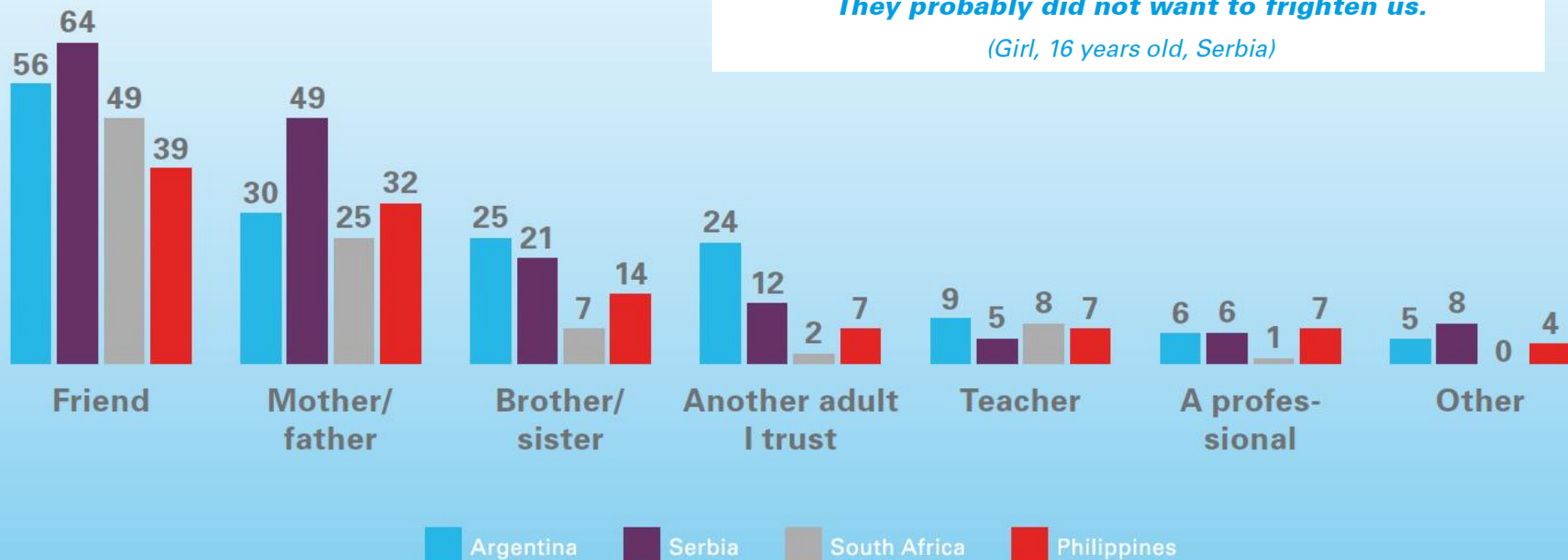
(Boy, 9 to 11 years old, the Philippines)

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)
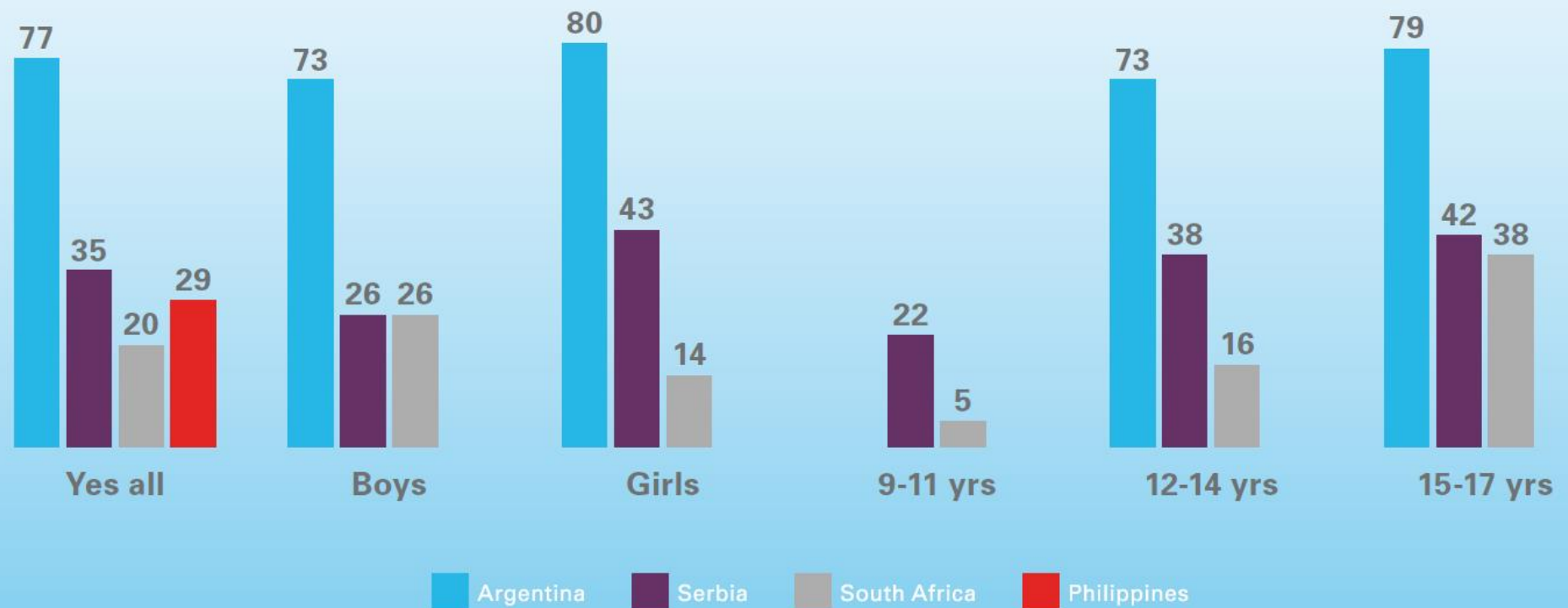
Who do children seek support from?

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)

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)

	Argentina	Serbia	South Africa	Philippines
Friend	56	64	49	39
Mother/father	30	49	25	32
Brother/sister	25	21	7	14
Another adult I trust	24	12	2	7
Teacher	9	5	8	7
A professional	6	6	1	7
Other	5	8	0	4

Methodological challenges

- Identifying the opportunities and risks that matter

- Standardised versus contextualised tools

- Straightforward concepts not so straightforward
  e.g. 'internet', socio-economic status

- Sampling and administering the survey

- Learning from fieldworkers on the
  ground is key

Looking ahead

In the coming years we'll move from:

- Pilot to representative surveys
- Description to analysis and outcomes
- Evidence to evidence-based policy

And we'll aim to:

- Revise and extend the toolkit
- Widen the network cross-nationally
- Respond to techno-social changes

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Introducing the research toolkit

Sonia Livingstone: The Global Kids Onli...

The Global Kids Online research toolkit has been developed with country partners, experts, and international advisors. The *Getting started guide* introduces the research principles and resources.

Download Getting started

Video