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THE LONDON SCHOOL
OF ECONOMICS AND
POLITICAL SCIENCE



Online opportunities: Childrens online access and activities across Europe

Findings from *EU Kids Online II*
Gitte Stald, IT University of Copenhagen

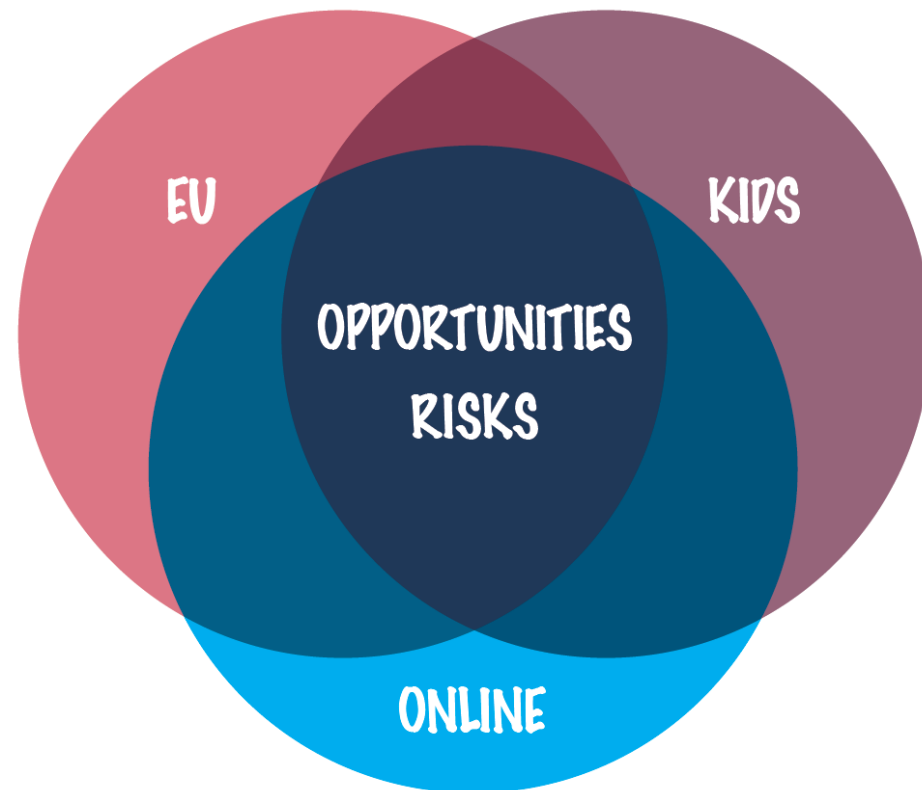
EU Kids Online's aims



In the context of widespread interest in the opportunities and risks the internet affords children . . .

We sought to enhance knowledge of the experiences and practices of European children and parents . . .

In order to produce a rigorous evidence base to inform the promotion of a safer online environment for children.



Overview – three points

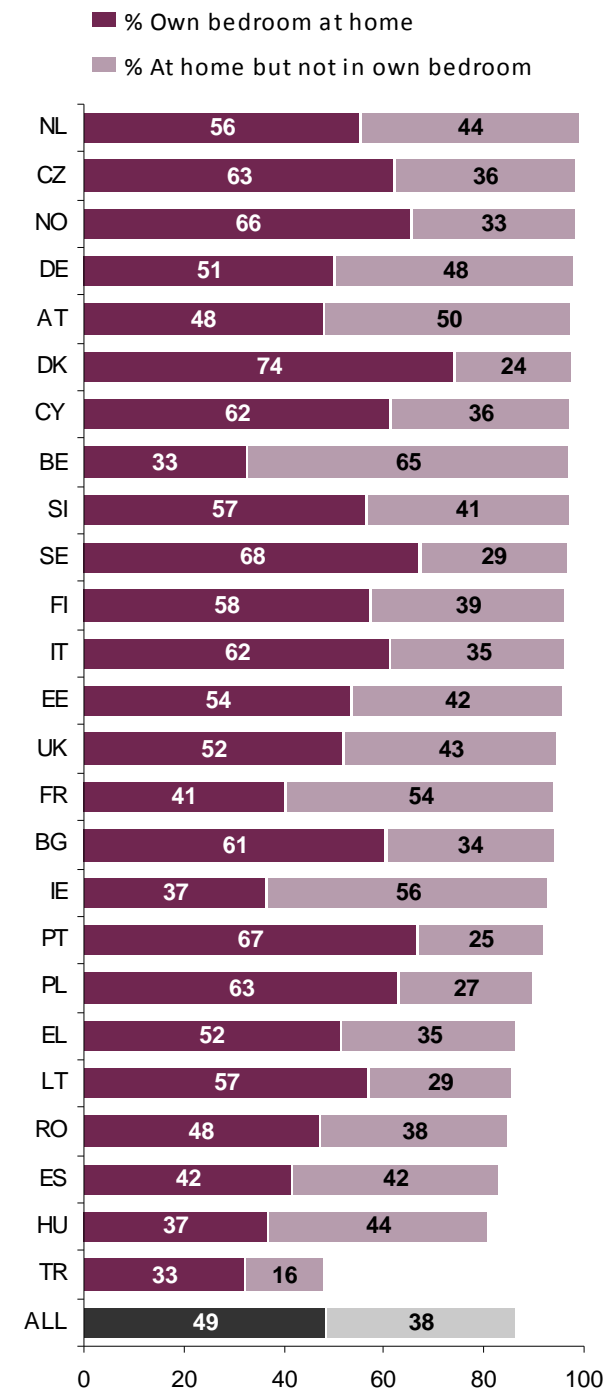
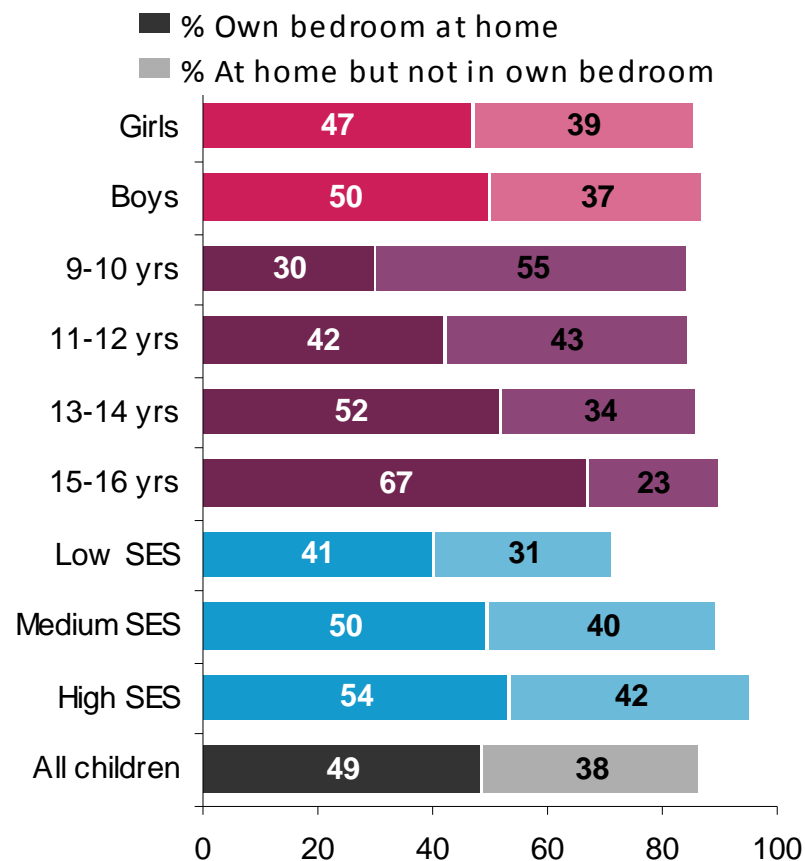


- Diversity of access
- New platforms for online access
- Online activities
- Ladder of opportunities
- Literacy and awareness



Use at home is high

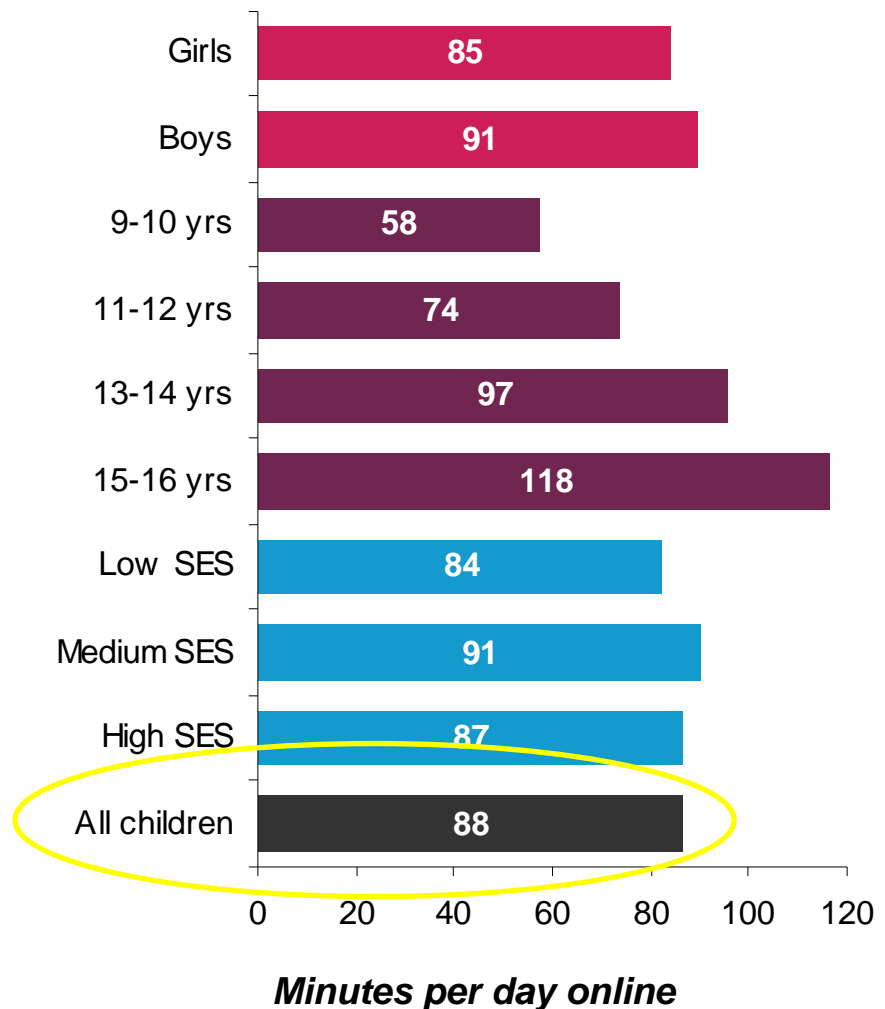
- 87% use at home
- 49% have in bedroom
- Privatised use is growing
- SES and age matter more than gender
- National variation



Internet embedded in daily life, users are getting younger



- 60% use every day or almost daily, 93% use at least weekly
- 88 minutes spent online in an average day (*see graph*)
- SES matters especially for daily use: 67% high SES vs. 52% low SES
- Age matters also for daily use: 33% 9-10 yrs vs. 80% 15-16 yrs
- Children first go online at 9 yrs old: at 7 for 9-10 yrs, at 11 for 15-16 yrs



Mobile access growing

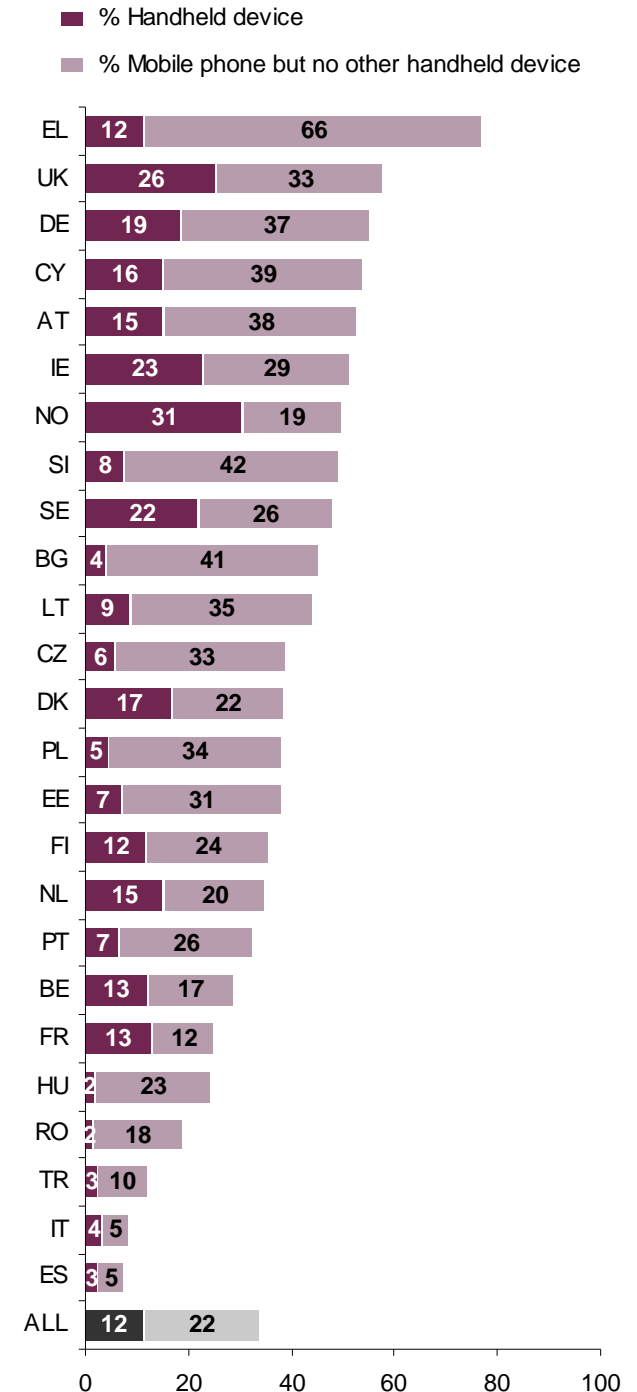
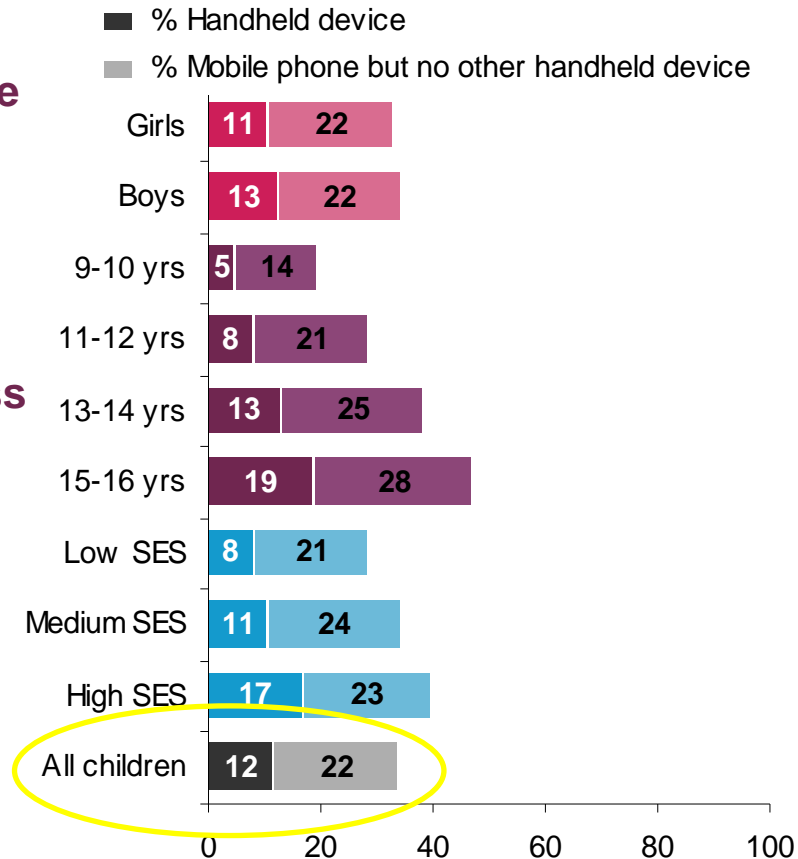
- 12% via handheld devices

- 33% via mobile and/or handheld device

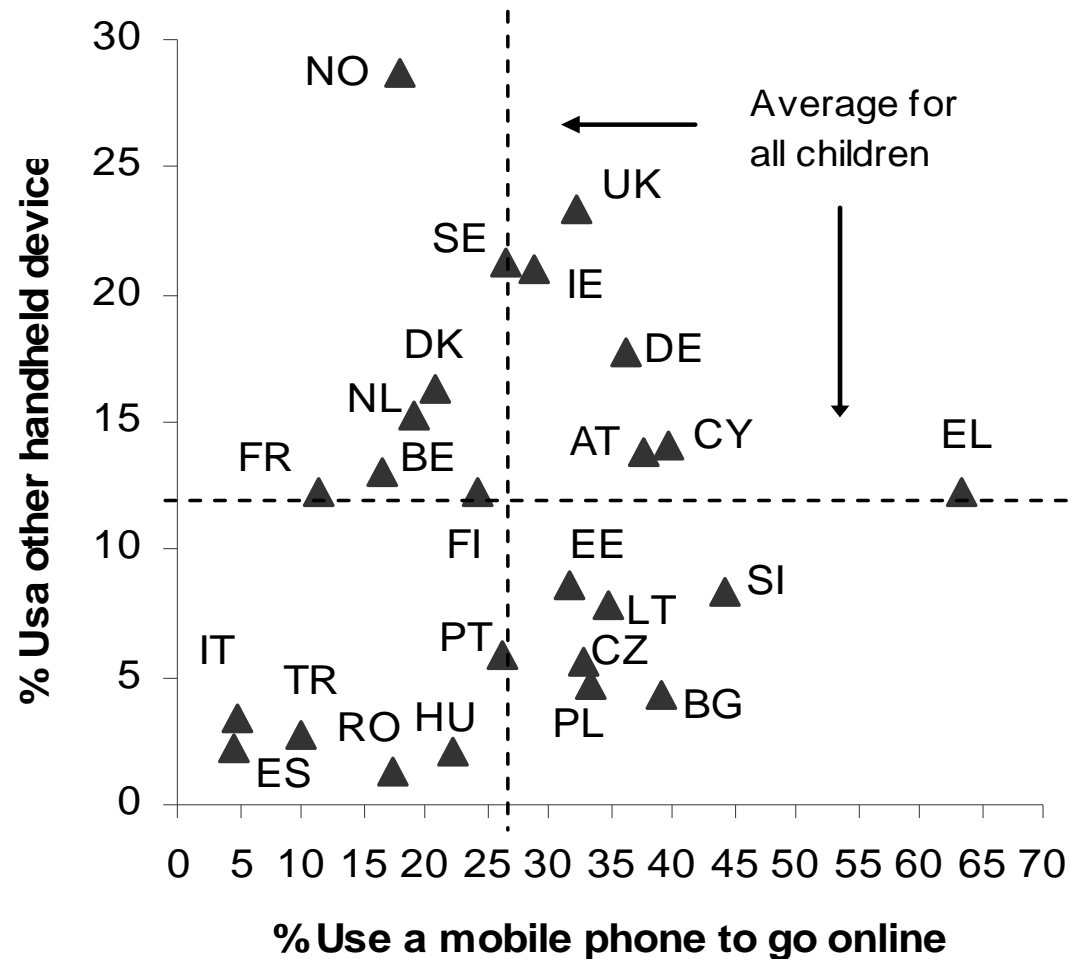
- Flexible access is growing

- Age and SES matter

- National variation



New platforms



Use mobile

Greece: 66%

Spain: 5%

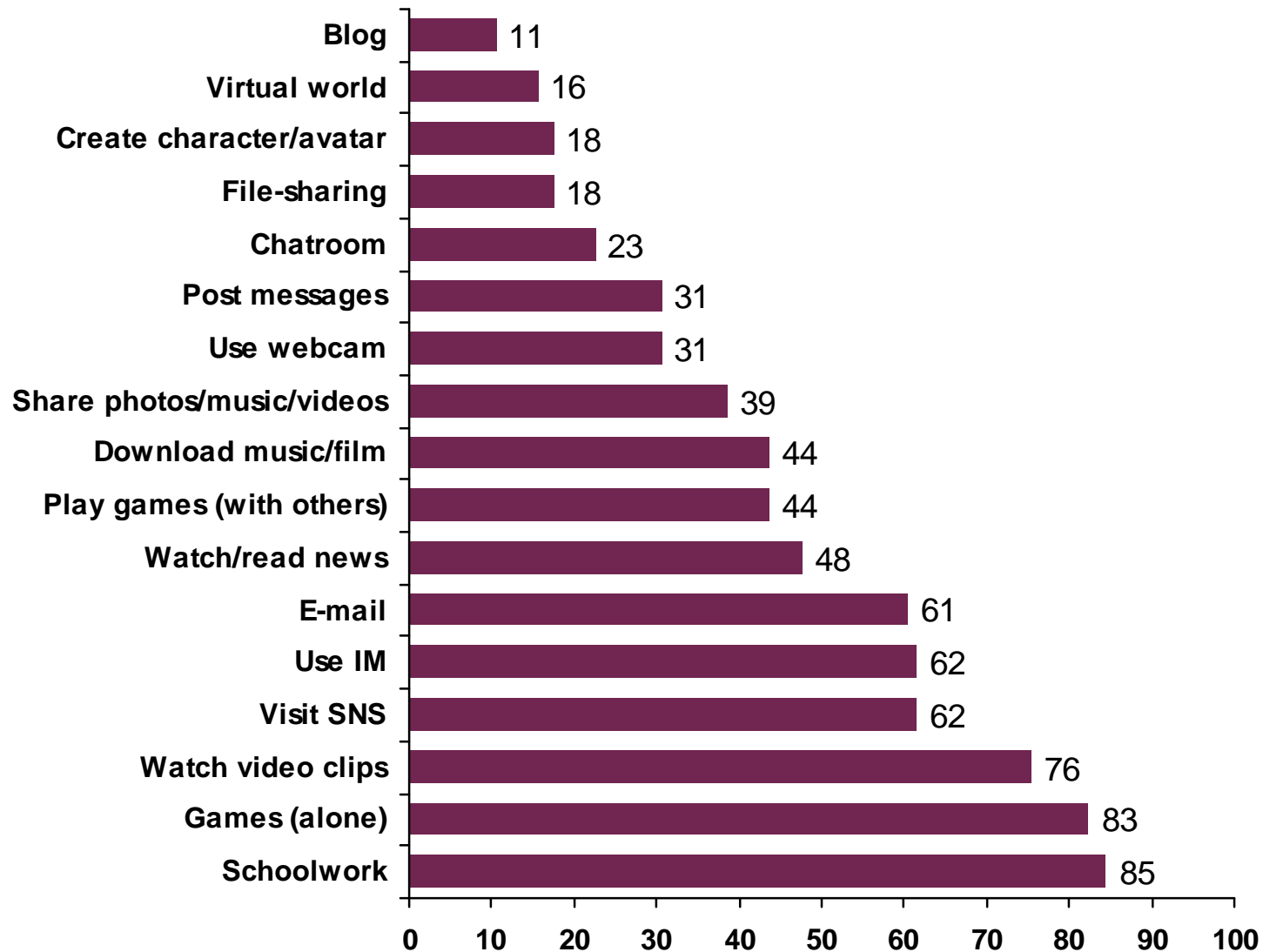
Use other handheld

Norway: 31%

Romania: 2%

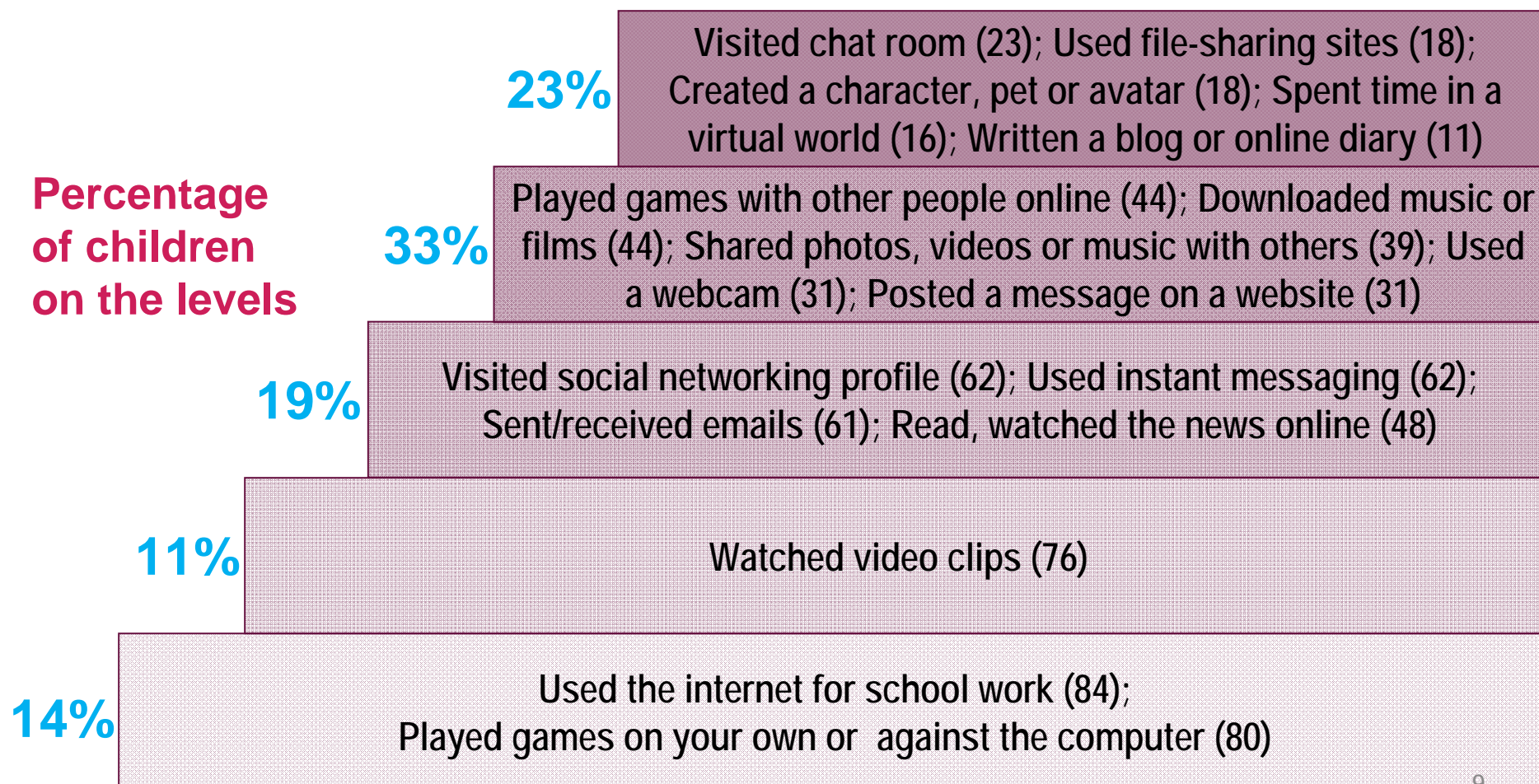
Figure 1. Use of handheld device to go online by use of mobile phones to go online

Multiple opportunities



'Ladder of opportunities'

type of opportunities taken up by 9-16 yrs old



Digital skills growing unevenly

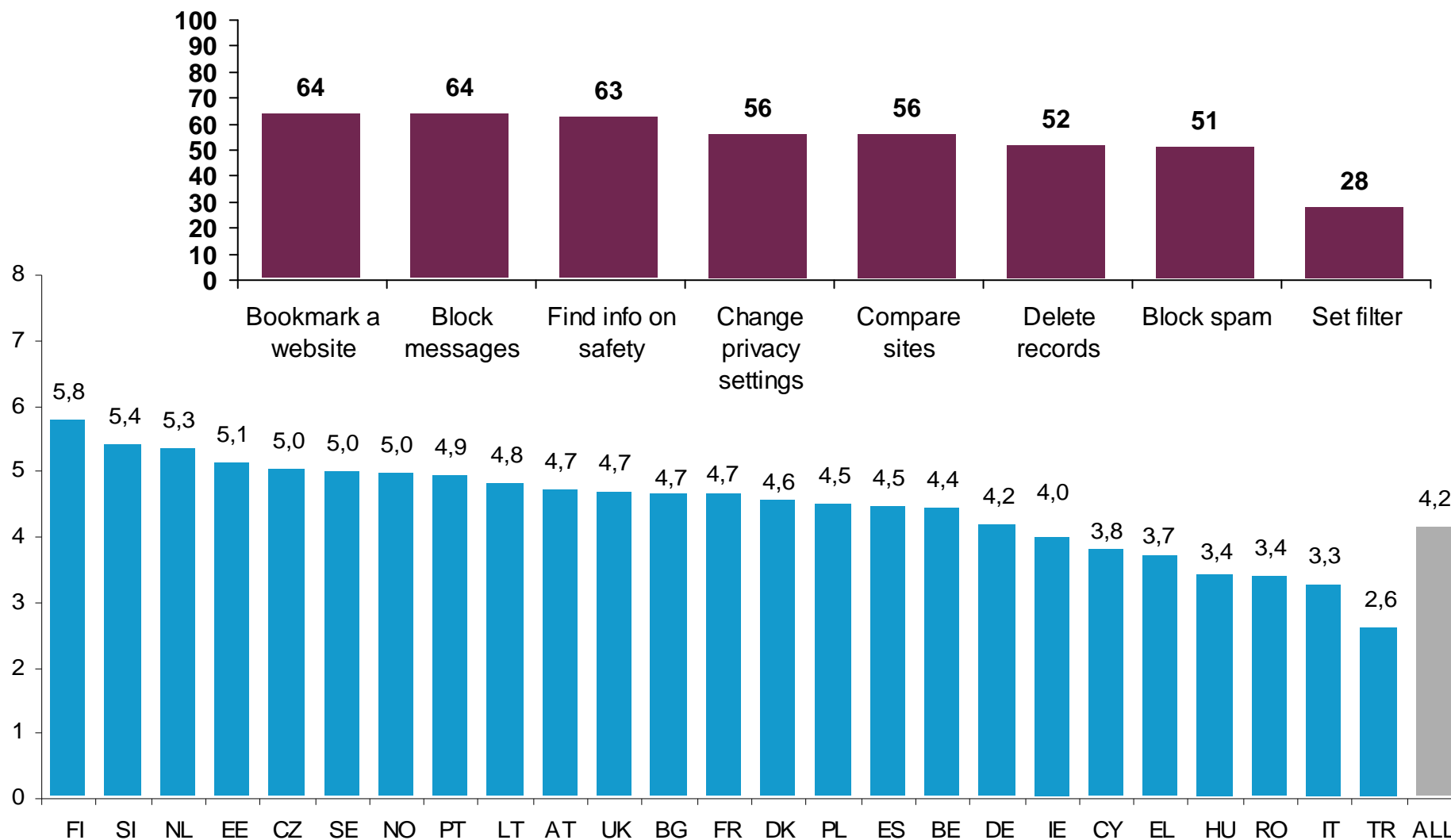
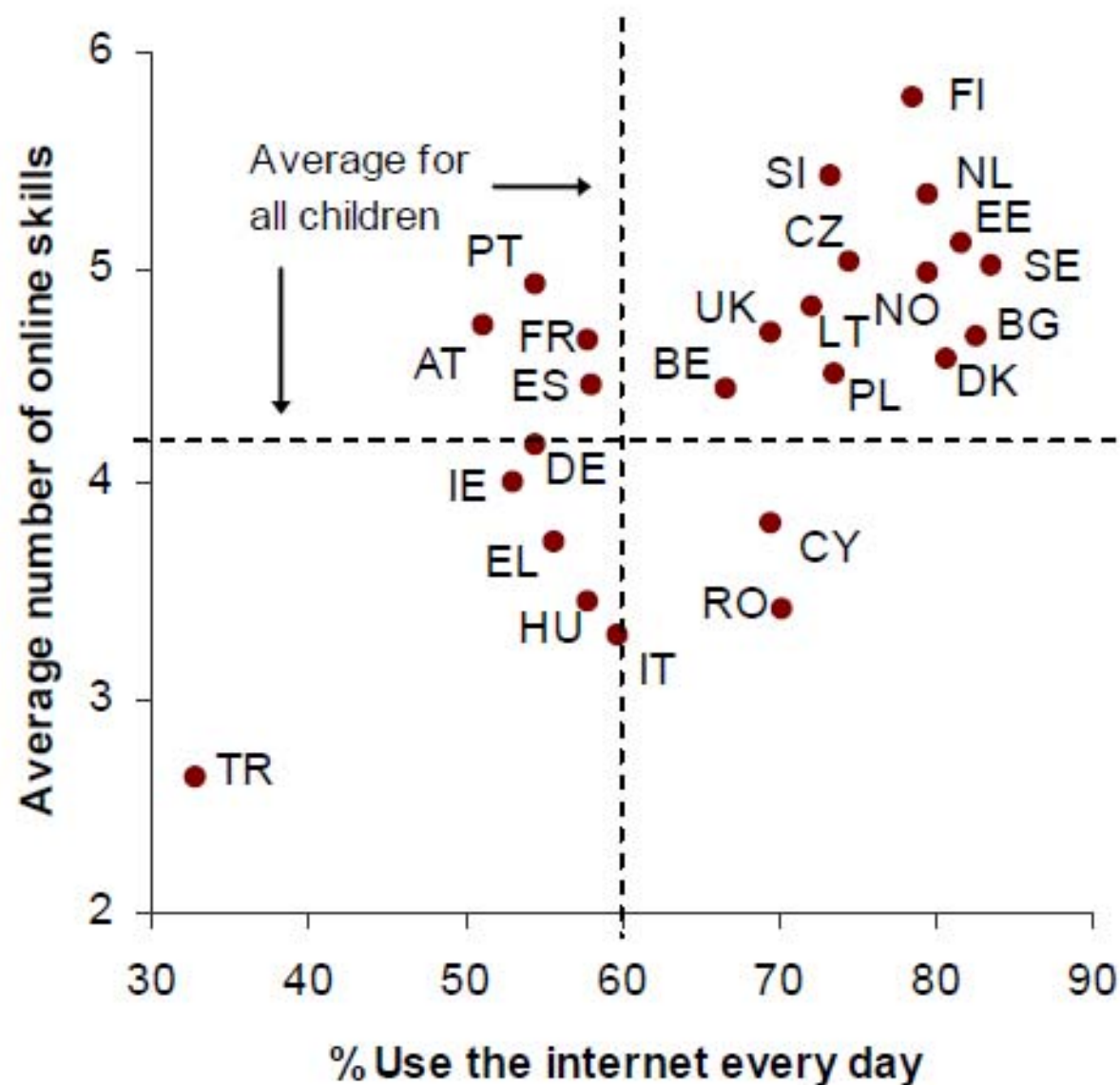


Figure 107: Children's average number of online skills by children's daily use of the internet, by country



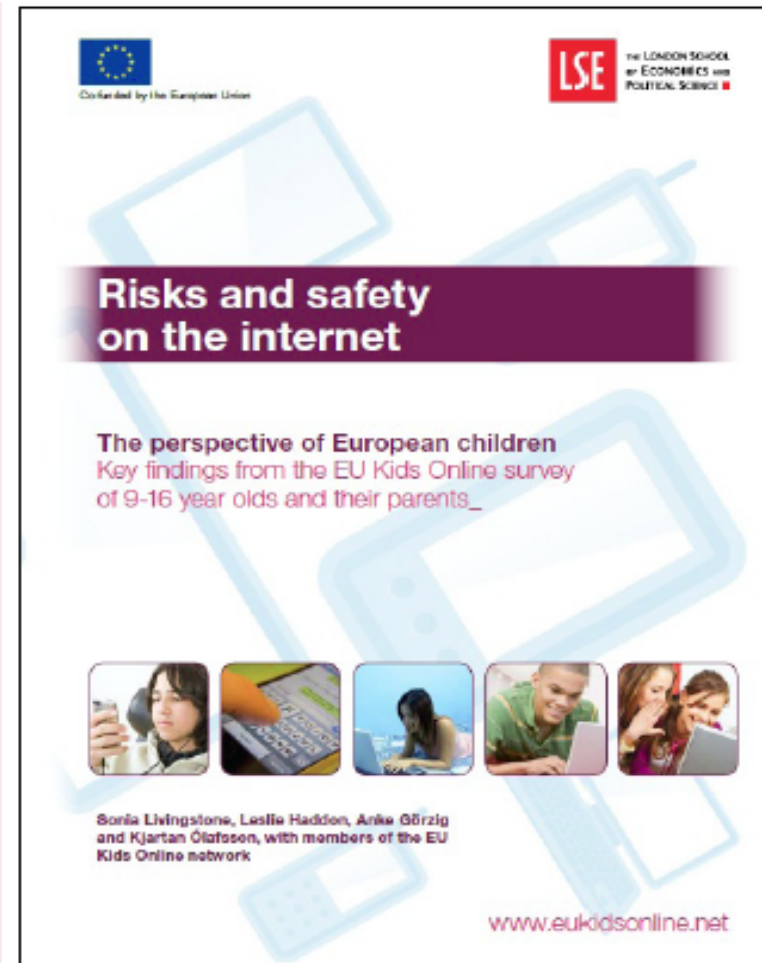
In conclusion



- **Online access is changing**
various pace in various countries
- **New platforms for online access**
Provide new opportunities
- **Activities, skills and use are related**
Limited access and little use means fewer activities and skills
- **Extensive use, skills and access to risk are related**
More use means more exposure to risk but not necessarily more experience of harm
- **We identified numerous important issues, questions, areas**
More research is needed – focused, cross-national, qualitative and quantitative

Thank you

www.eukidsonline.net



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