

Values, Opinions & Insights from Children about E-safety



Lessons Learned in Amplifying Children's Voices in Digital Policy: Bridging the Digital Literacy Gap

Authors

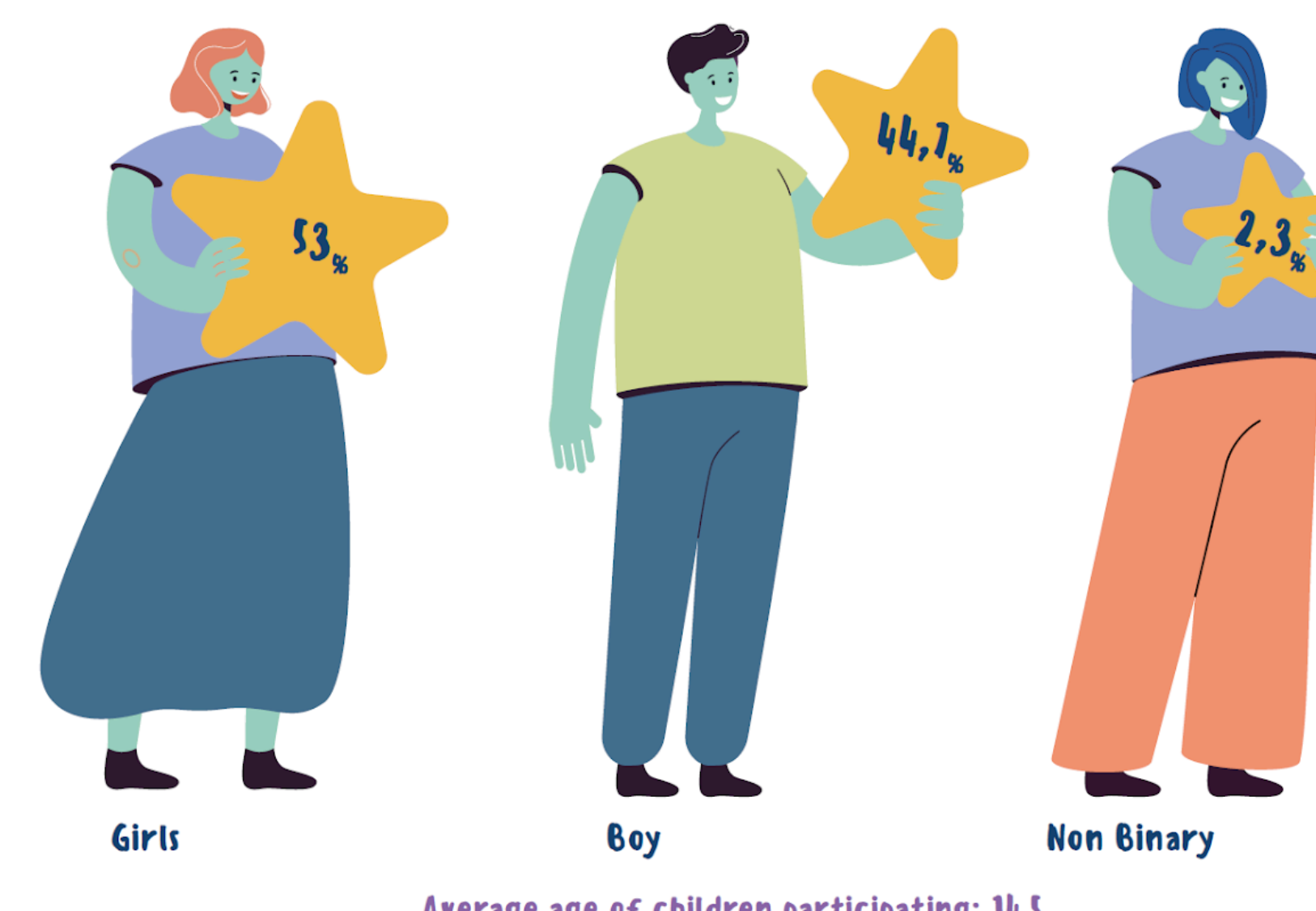
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Objective

- Assess children's and caregivers' **perspectives** on online safety from child sexual abuse and exploitation (OCSEA)
- Explore the voices of children and caregivers **beyond the predominant** research countries
- **Amplify their voices**, which are often overlooked in digital policy debates



Methodology

- 15 countries in Asia (3), Europe (10), and Latin America (2)
- Focus group discussions with **483 children** (10-17 years old)
- Surveys with **6,618 caregivers**
- Thematic analysis (deductive and inductive codes)

Lessons Learned

'We need to know more'

- Children were not happy with **online safety education** at school and at home
- Caregivers rated their knowledge **8.3/10** on keeping children safe from OCSEA and **90%** said to be aware of their child's online behaviour
- **Substantial gap** between caregiver and child perspective - having difficulty solving this issue together

- Children had many concerns about social media, mostly related to their **social status and mental health**
- With regards to OCSEA, they were most concerned about **viewing inappropriate content**, **"unknown people"** **"with bad intentions"** or their **content being misused**
- Caregivers valued protection over privacy, but children asked for a **balance** between both

'We want protection AND privacy'

'We want to be part of the solution'

- Children went online on the average **age of 9.6**, averaging **4.8 h/day** on social media
- Children take on a lot of **user responsibility** for protecting themselves online
- Children want to help make the internet a safer place, **being part of decision-making processes**

Call to Action

- Children and caregivers urge schools, platforms and governments to offer **more and better information** on how to be safe.
- Children and caregivers want governments to take more responsibility to **guarantee their privacy, protection and safety online**.
- Children want more **safety-by-design approaches** and measures that promote user agency.
- Children want to be **included in the design** of such features and digital policies.

References ¹ Terre des Hommes Netherlands ² ECPAT International ³ Eurochild



Download the
report here



Questions?
Come find me!
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