



Why not Ask the Experts? – Children’s Perspective on the Implementation of Children’s Rights in Switzerland and Liechtenstein

Child in the City Seminar “How to make children’s rights mainstream in local policy planning?”,
Session F, 19 May 2022 in Cascais, Portugal

Sybille Gloor

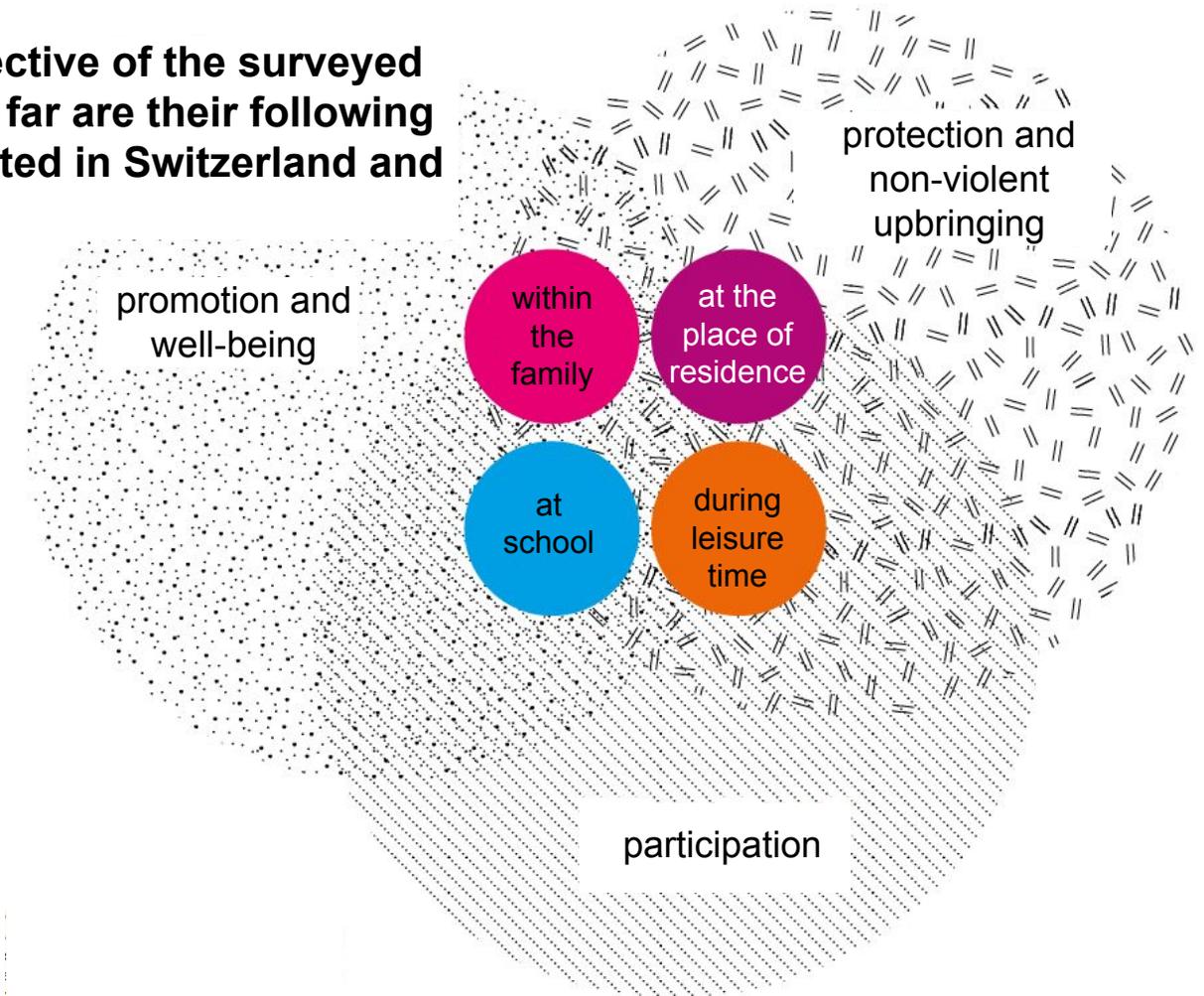
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Background and concept

From the perspective of the surveyed children, in how far are their following rights implemented in Switzerland and Liechtenstein ...



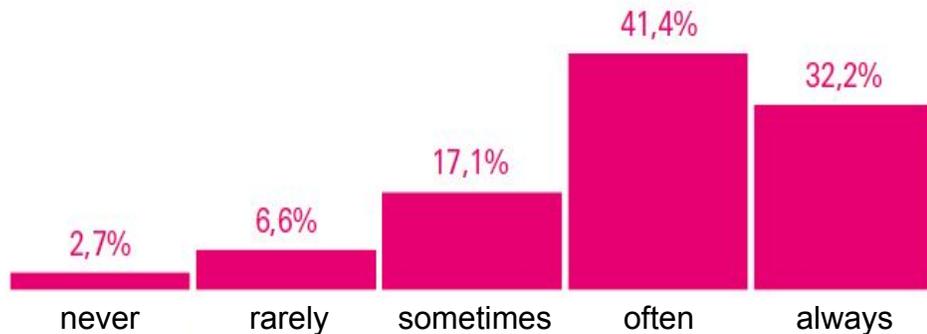
- so far: no set of indicators that ensures comprehensive monitoring of all rights and areas of life of children and adolescents
- for the first time: a comprehensive assessment of the implementation of children's rights from the perspective of children and adolescents

Methods

- Quantitative online self reporting questionnaire
- November 2019 until June 2020
- 9 until 17 years old in Switzerland & Liechtenstein
- Convenience sampling strategy
- Quantitative and qualitative analyses
- 1715 responses (1428 in CH; 287 in LI)

Participation within the family

Do your parents ask for your opinion? N=1681



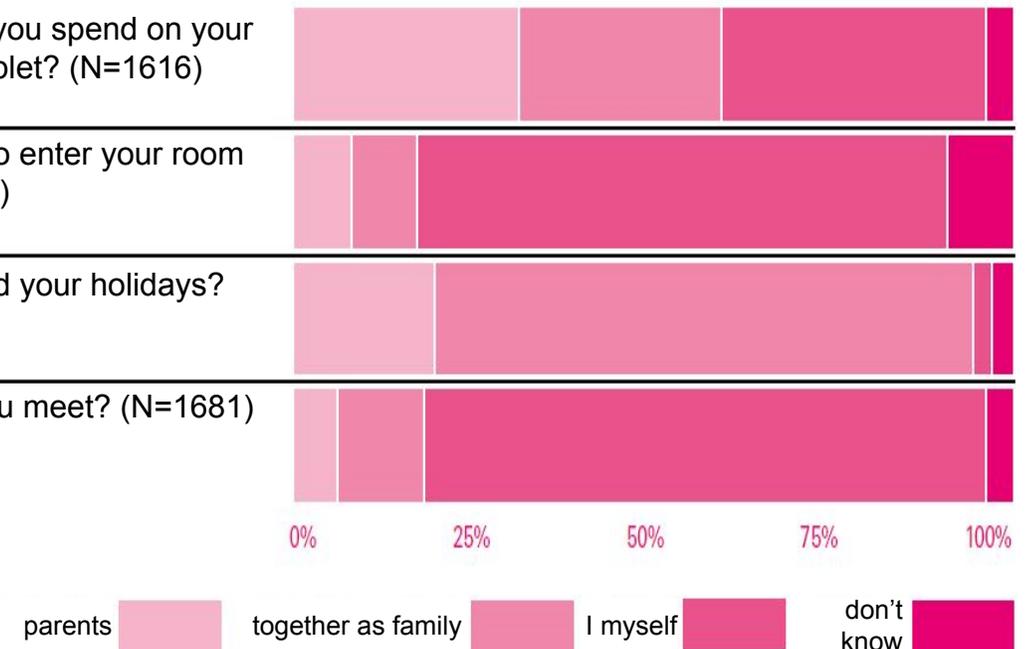
Who decides ...

how much time you spend on your phone, PC or tablet? (N=1616)

who is allowed to enter your room or not? (N=1671)

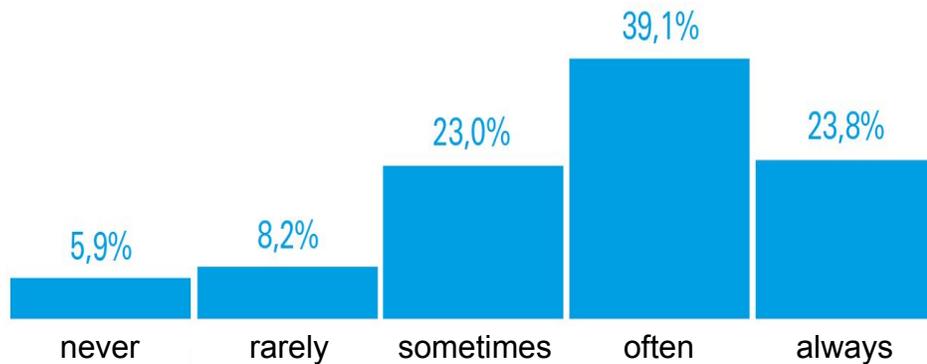
where you spend your holidays? (N=1675)

which friends you meet? (N=1681)



Participation at school

Do your teachers ask for your opinion?
N=1664



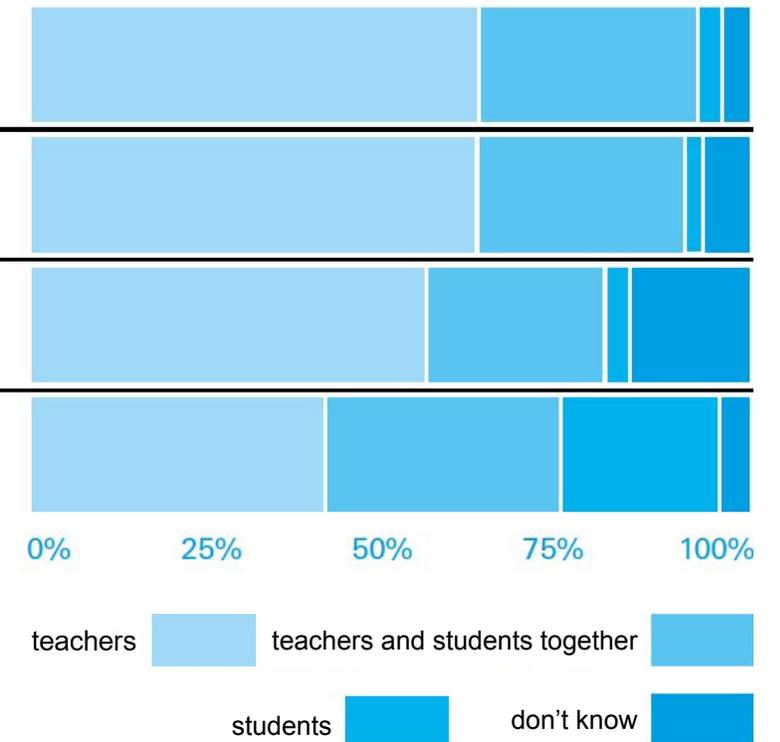
Who decides at school ...

which rules apply in class?
(N=1654)

where you go on trips? (N=1653)

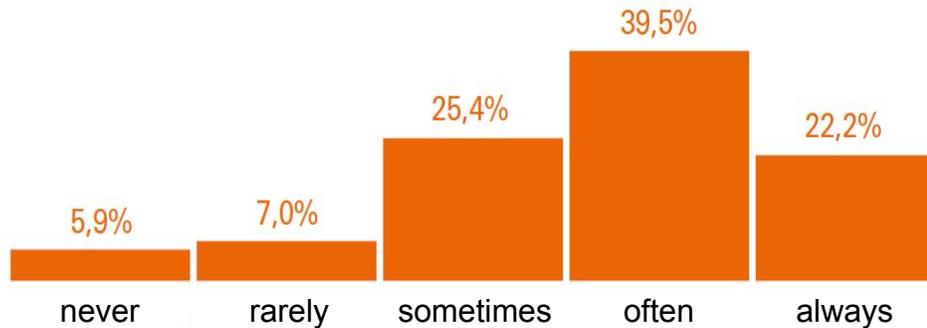
what the classroom or the
schoolyard looks like? (N=1651)

who you sit next to? (N=1657)



Participation in leisure time

Do adults (e.g., coach, youth worker) ask for your opinion? N=1636

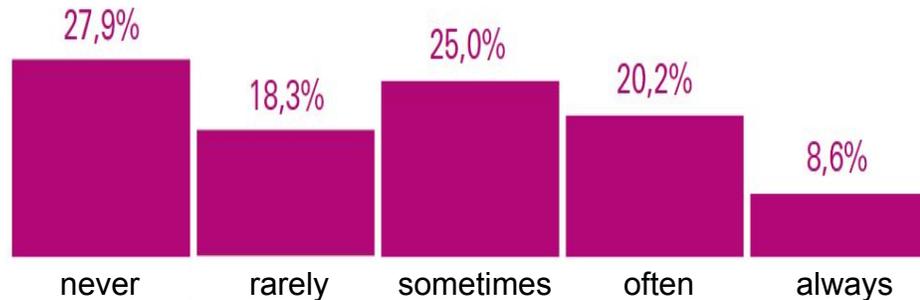


Open answers:

Climate change, coronavirus and personal future, school and bullying, (sports) clubs, hobbies and leisure activities, children's rights, politics and participation

Participation at place of residence

Do adults at your place of residence ask for your opinion? N=1630



Open answers:

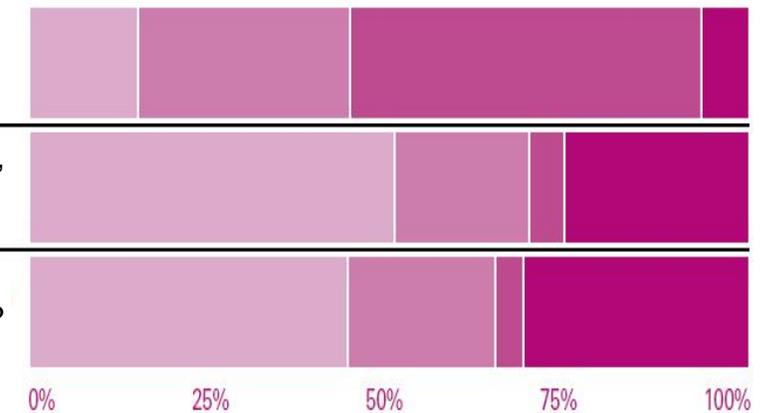
Expansion of public infrastructure, climate change, environmental protection and sustainability, school and bullying, socio-political issues such as racism, war, refugee policy, coronavirus, justice and solidarity

Who decides at your place of residence ...

how you get to school and back home again? (N= 1667)

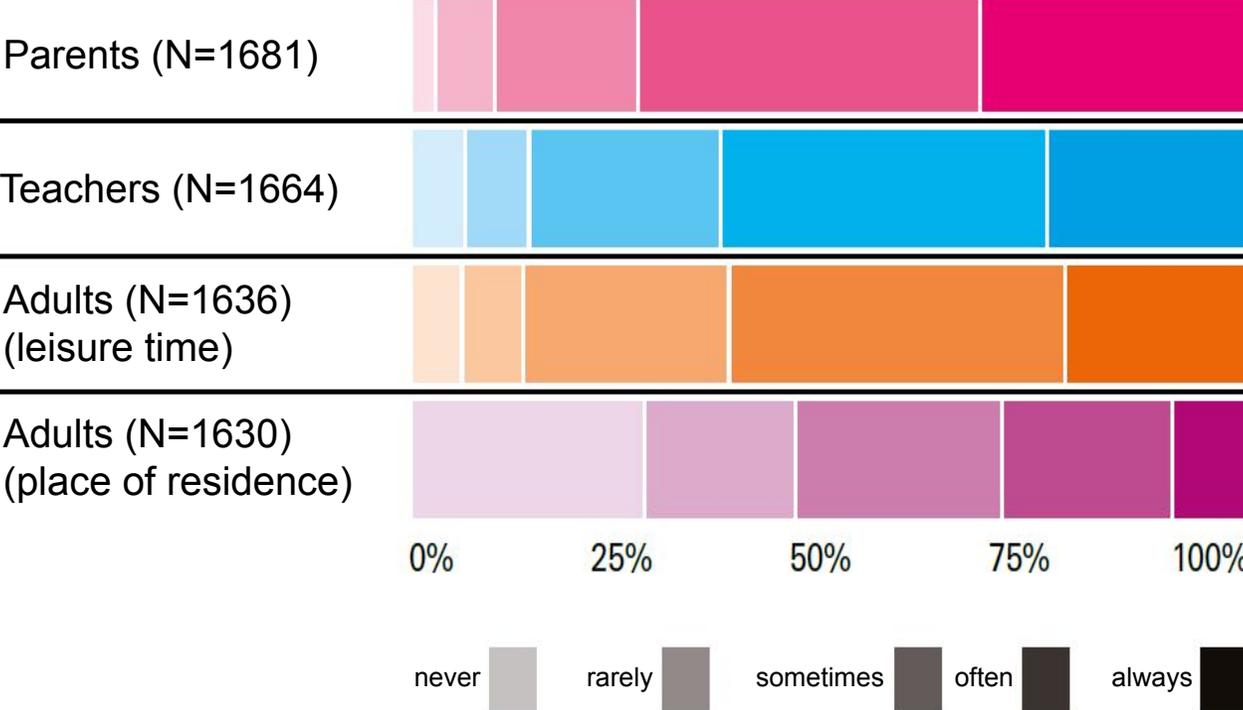
what playgrounds, leisure activities, ways to school look like (N= 1657)

on political issues (e.g., what rules apply to children and adolescents)? (N= 1658)



Comparison of participation patterns

Do people around you ask for your opinion?



Conclusion & recommendations

Conclusion

- Children and adolescents are to be taken seriously as experts in their own lives
- Discussions about the implementation of children's rights are to be conducted with and based on them
- Opportunities for participation at school and at home as one of the most important professional challenges in order to experience living spaces as democratic places to live

Recommendations

- Promote participation of children and adolescents at home and in the school context more strongly
- Legal anchoring of participation at the community level
- Strengthen information and awareness-raising measures
- Knowledge transfer and further training opportunities for and with professionals
- Inclusion of all children and adolescents, also and especially those who are particularly vulnerable

References

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