



DigiGen

WP3

Technological Transformations and Families

Overview & Status Quo

June 2021



© Christer Hyggen

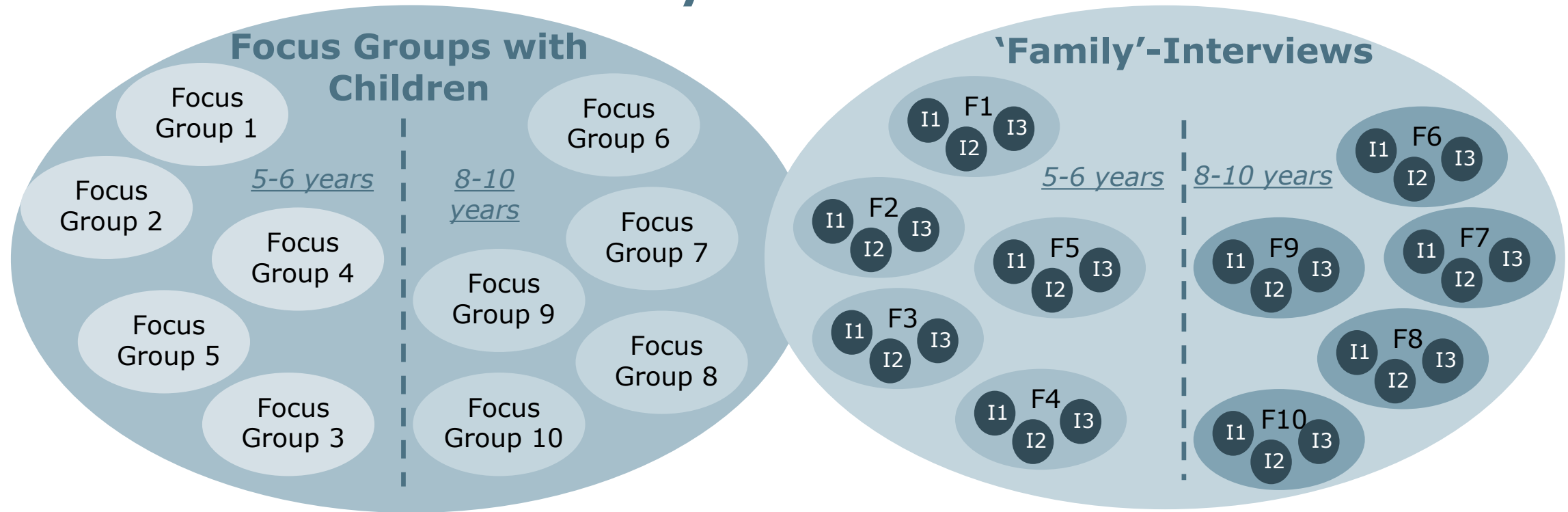
DigiGen WP3:

WP Leader: Olaf Kapella, Austrian Institute for Family Studies, University Vienna

Co-Leader: Merike Sisask, University of Tallinn

Countries: Austria, Estonia, Norway, Romania

Case Studies (5-6 years and 8-10 years) in Austria, Estonia, Norway and Romania

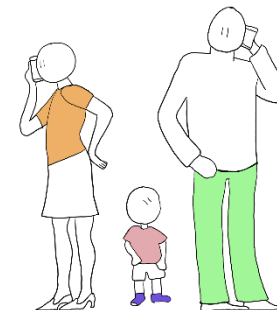


➤ **abstract and implicit collective orientations** (rather than individual experiences) regarding research questions

➤ **individual experiences**, views and family practices regarding research questions – three perspectives (child and two other family members)

Design WP3 – Research Questions

- ✓ How is **family life shaped** by technological transformation?
- ✓ How do children **use and subjectively assess** digital technologies in their everyday life?
- ✓ **Harmful vs. beneficial effects** on the family system and on individuals
- ✓ **Diversity** and social inequality regarding digital devices



- The **most common devices** in that age groups are computers (mainly used by adults to work), iPad/Tablets, Gaming stations (Nintendo, PlayStation) and smartphones.
- DT have **penetrated all communities**, from impoverished to well-off families. Although there seem to be differences in terms of knowledge and owning:
 - ✓ Most of the children in **Roma communities** know the devices, even not all of them – 8-10year old children have to master the devices on behalf of the parents. Possession has improved, due to the COVID-pandemic children got tables from schools. (Digital Deprivation of Children in Romania 23,1 %, Ayllón et al. 2021)
 - ✓ 5-6 year old children seem to learn a lot by watching other family members using DT.
- Children do feel more competent and have **more knowledge** about the devices and the content than their **parents are aware of** – this is also true for the 5-6 year olds.

First Field Observation WP3 Family – **Use of DT**

- The main activities with DT from children 5-10 range from **entertainment**, to communication with friends to **watching videos** – almost every child knows YouTube.
- **TikTok** differs: In Norway and Romania it is well known among the children, even the 5-6 year old ones – less known in Austria.



- Children are **aware of advantages as well as dangers** when using DT – often children mention it is “not good for your eyes” and the potential risk of getting addicted.

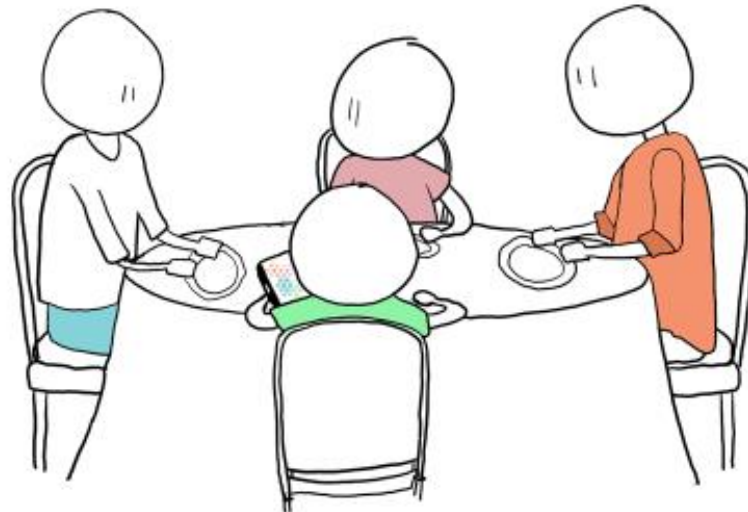


First Field Observation WP3 Family – Parental Mediation

- Parents usually set a **time limit** that might range markedly even within one country – e.g. in Austria with 5-6 year old children from 10 minutes to two hours a day, to once a week “media time” for one hour.
 - ✓ Monitoring screen time in Austria is often out-sourced to a digital solution: screen will be blocked after a specific time (Family-App).
 - ✓ Parents in Norway seems to orient themselves on a popular website in Norway and follow there guidance (www.barnevakten.no – babysitter.no).
- Common rule is “*not devices at the dinner table*”.
- In general, parental rules and monitoring seem to be **accepted by children** and hardly questioned by children in the age of 5-10 years.
- However, children in the age of 8-10 already have found ways to **avoid the rules** and have found “tricks” to get around them.

First Field Observation WP3 Family – **Family Practice**

- Watching TV together as a family seems to be the most common digital family practice.
- In contrast digital gaming or other co-activities with DT that take place mostly among siblings.
- Suggestion: co-activities with DT as a family could be improved and by that DT could contribute in a positive way in Doing Family.



OSLOMET

PANTEION UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF
SOCIAL POLICY

Universitat
de Girona

UNIVERSITY OF
LEICESTER



DigiGen

PADERBORN UNIVERSITY
The University for the Information Society

TALLINN UNIVERSITY
School of Governance,
Law and Society

Österreichisches Institut für Familienforschung
Austrian Institute for Family Studies

universität
wien

FAMILIES
EUROPE

UNIVERSITATEA
BABEȘ-BOLYAI



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 870548.

www.digigen.eu

