

# MEDIATICINO

Electronic media use and well-being of adolescents in Ticino

## STUDY DESIGN

**OBJECTIVES** MEDIATICINO is a **longitudinal study** that runs from 2014 until 2019 with the aim to understand the impact of electronic media use on the well-being of students in Ticino, following them during their transition from childhood (10 years of age) to adulthood (15 years of age). The study considers potential mediators and moderators including interpersonal (e.g., parent-child communication) and media-related factors (e.g., media accessibility, media content, parental mediation of electronic media use). Its modular structure makes MEDIATICINO also a **cross-sectional study** to explore specific concepts and their relationships at selected time points.

### THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

Historical distinction between theories on

#### media effects

media use → adolescent well-being

Cultivation  
Agenda Setting  
Framing  
Social Learning

#### media use

adolescent well-being → media use

Uses and Gratifications  
Selective Exposure  
Knowledge Gap  
Digital Divide

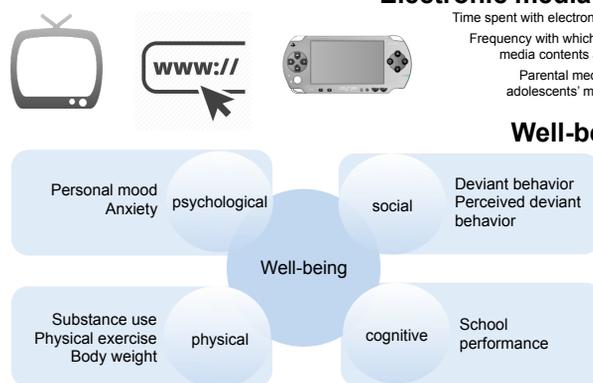
→ Longitudinal studies to uncover causal mechanisms

### CENTRAL CONCEPTS

#### Electronic media use

Time spent with electronic media  
Frequency with which specific media contents are used  
Parental mediation of adolescents' media use

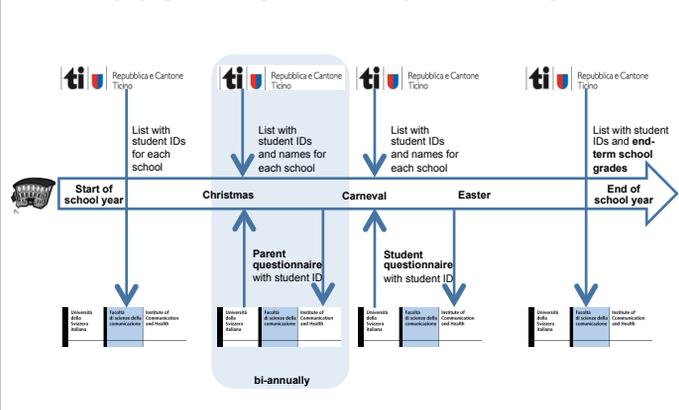
#### Well-being



### SAMPLE

	Elementary school		Middle school			
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
4 <sup>th</sup> graders Parents	1'083	1'083				
5 <sup>th</sup> graders		1'184				
1 <sup>st</sup> graders Parents			> 1'000			
2 <sup>nd</sup> graders			> 1'000			
3 <sup>rd</sup> graders Parents				> 1'000		
4 <sup>th</sup> graders					> 1'000	

### DATA SOURCES AND COLLECTION



### MODULAR STRUCTURE

Each year, dedicated space in the surveys allows to assess additional concepts and analyze their relationships cross-sectionally. For example, in 2015, social network data was collected for six 5<sup>th</sup> grade elementary school classes to study group dynamics and their relationships with media use and adolescent well-being.

### STRENGTHS AND LIMITATIONS

- + extended time frame of longitudinal study
- + large sample and modular survey structure
- + parent and child perspective
- geographical restriction to Canton Ticino
- limited resources to address specific research questions

