

# ERSCharter Webinar

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## Children's participation in Road Safety Programs

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Together we are  
**road safety**

According to the **United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child** children have

- the **right to a safe environment** and protection from injury.
- The **right to express their views and participate in decision-making** processes that may be relevant in their lives and well-being.

Unsafe streets that limit children 's opportunity to move around and play and pose a serious risk of injury or death, directly affect a child 's health and quality of life.

Children have a right to contribute actively to Road Safety and to actively participate in creating friendlier, safer environments in their communities.

Unsafe streets **pose serious risks for children:**

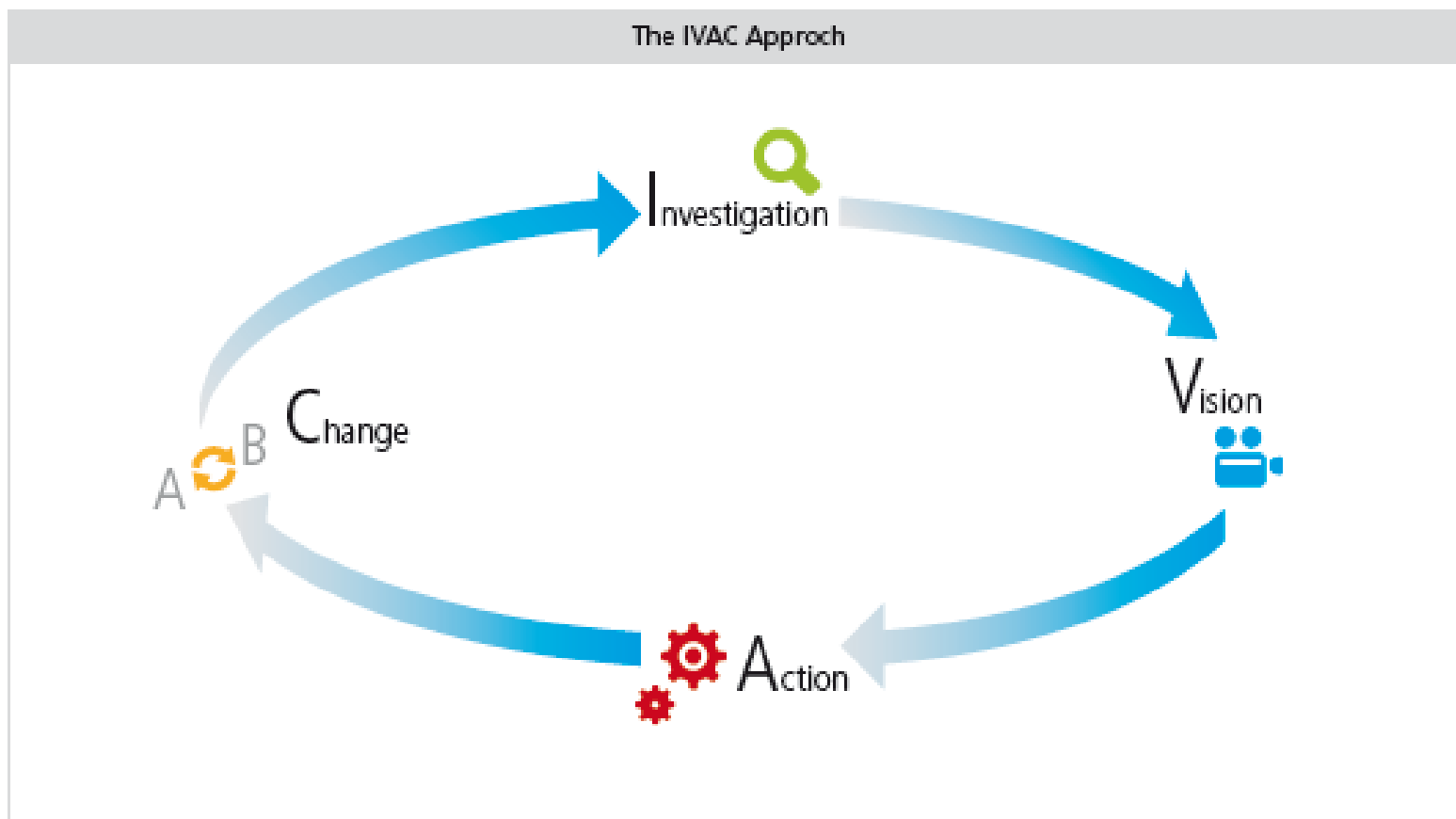
- The possibility of being seriously injured or killed
- Collateral damage caused by keeping kids off the street because of fear:
  - less opportunity to **move independently**
  - less opportunity **for exercise by walking, biking etc.** (children today walk less than ever before and obesity is on the rise)
  - less opportunity to **play and socialize freely**

The process of bringing children, and the whole community “back” on the streets would help to render streets safer.

Road Safety education should encourage and support children and the community in general to promote actions that imply **real change** not only on behavior but in their environments. Road Safety is not only about individual behaviors, it's about the physical and social environments in which we move.

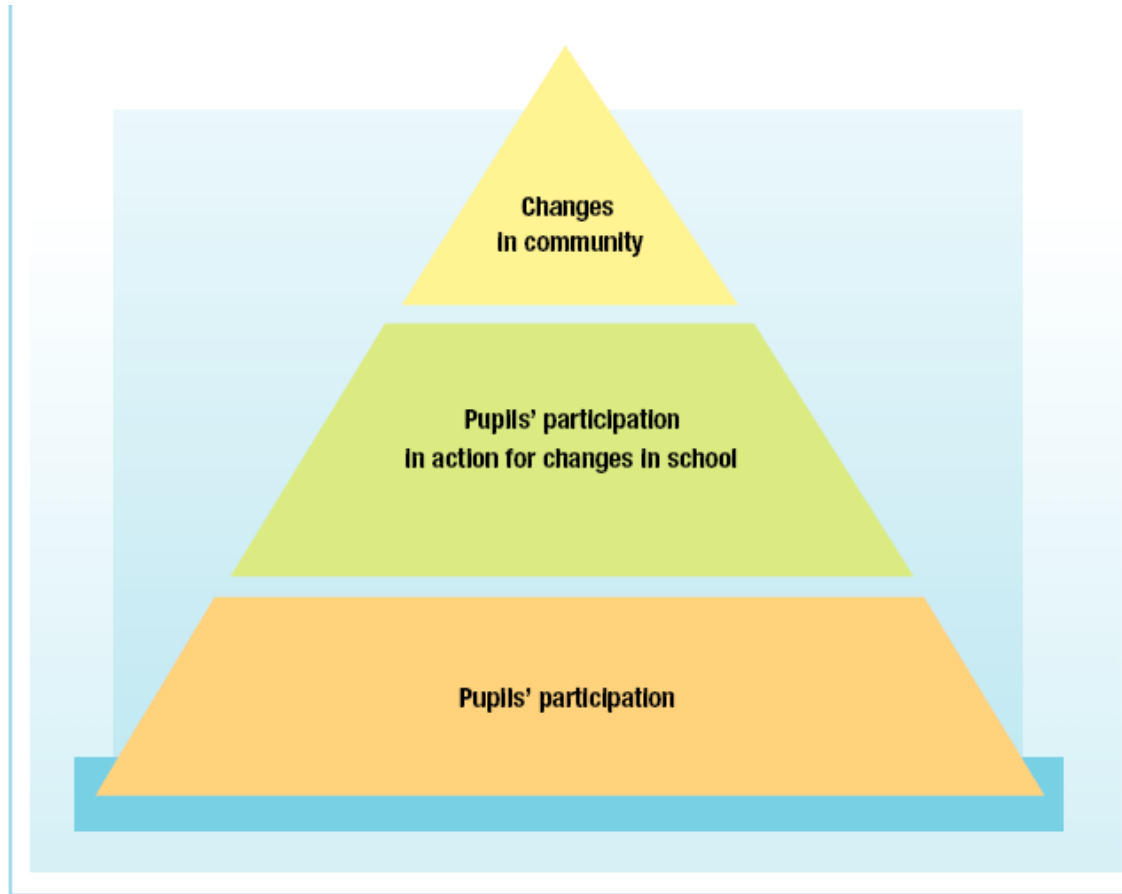
- The objective is for children and young people to **explore and reflect upon the ways in which the living conditions, surrounding environment and society affect their safety, mobility, health and lifestyle choices.**
- The objective of Road Safety Education is to enhance **young people's awareness and capacity to change these conditions.**
- The **primary learning objective is action competence- the ability to act, initiate and bring about positive changes.**
- Road Safety education should **focus on working with children to elaborate *actions* to address and bring about positive collective changes,** and to influence the overall quality of life, in the environments where children live, play and learn.

# IVAC Approach

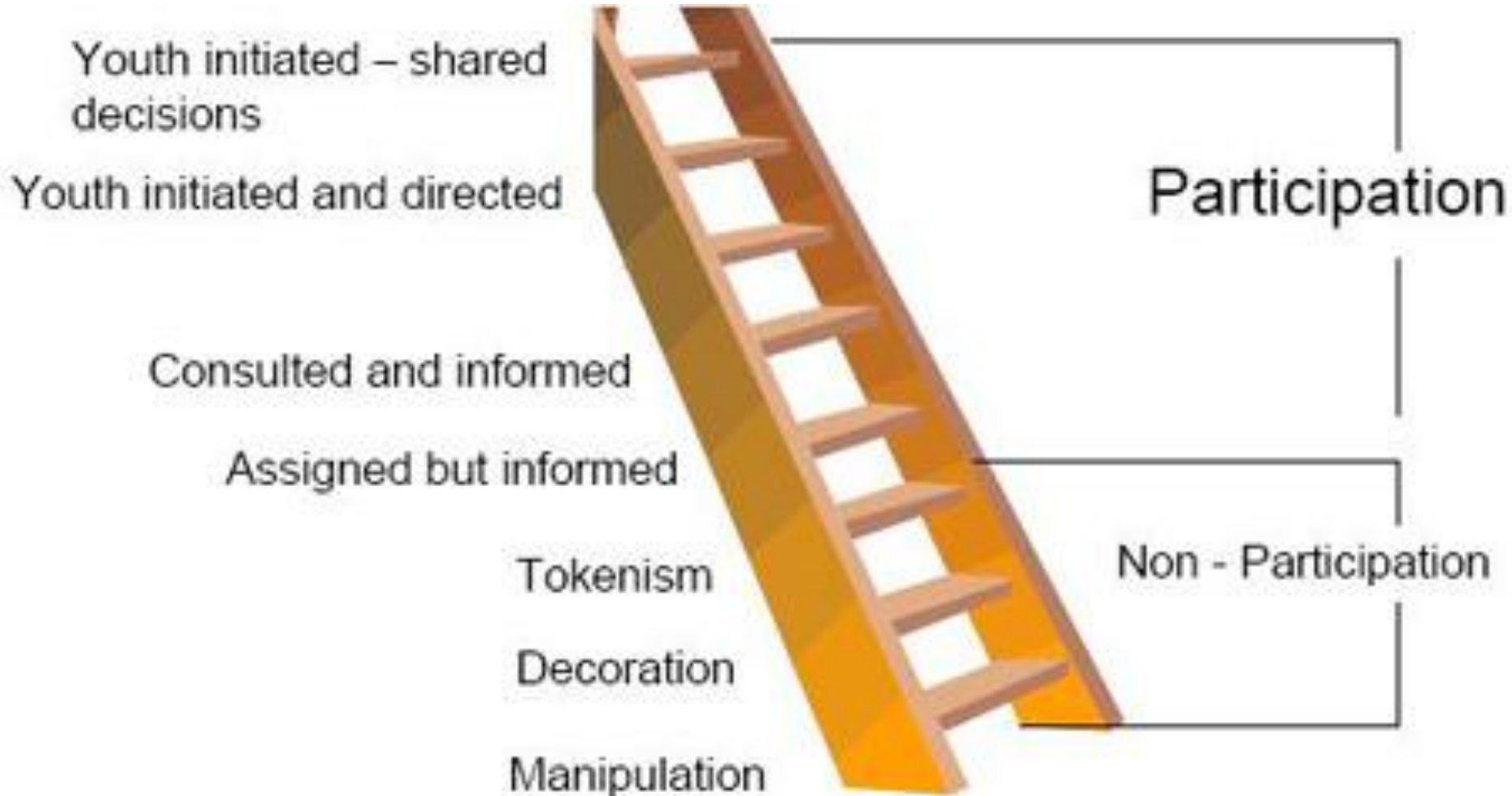


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# Participate for change



# Ladder of Participation



4. Pupils suggest, common dialogue, common decisions with teachers and adults
3. Pupils suggest, pupil dialogue, pupils' independent decisions
2. Teacher suggests, common dialogue, common decisions
1. Given decisions (by teachers, legislation, etc.), no dialogue, pupils assigned tasks

Involvement in the project	<b>S</b> Selecting the theme	<b>I</b> Investigation	<b>V</b> Vision/Goals	<b>A &amp; C</b> Actions & Changes	<b>E</b> Evaluation/Reflection







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Thank you!

# Together we are road safety

 Road Safety Education	Street Safety Education 
Defensive / Reactive	Proactive
Top Down	Participatory
Primarily passive learning; at most simulations of real life situations	Active learning in real community context
Normative	Culture and place sensitive
Focus on <i>roads</i> primarily as <i>corridors</i> for automotive traffic	Focus on <i>streets</i> primarily as <i>places</i> for social interaction and development
Remove or avoid risk	Understand and manage risks
Prevent accidents and reduce accidents rate	Improve quality of life and guarantee development and <i>wellbeing</i> of children; Increase number of children on streets
Impact individual behaviour	Develop social responsibility
Information based: develop cognition of rules and strategies	Process based: develop action competency and ownership
School and pupil centred: constrained by time and curriculum	School – Community collaboration: transversal, multiple actors, beyond school time