

Developing Theories, Concepts and Models for Health Literacy in Childhood and Adolescence (TeCoMo)

Duration: April 2015 – March 2018



TeCoMo is a theoretical research project, exploring health literacy in childhood and adolescence from a holistic public health and health promotion perspective. It is a subproject of the German Health Literacy in Childhood and Adolescence (HLCA) consortium, located in its basic research track.

Background:

Recent evidence has highlighted the critical relevance of health literacy for health and its importance for health promotion and prevention. Interestingly, so far, little health literacy research puts children and adolescents at the core. This contrasts with the importance given to childhood and youth for a healthy human development, as well as for health and well-being throughout adulthood. Therefore, TeCoMo addresses this gap by exploring:

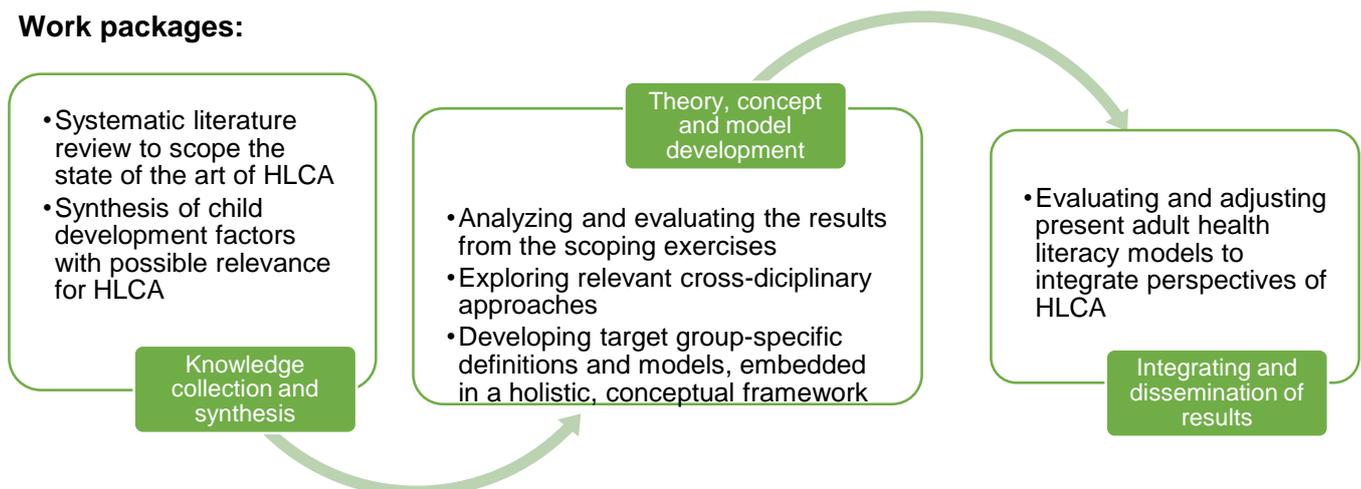
- How can health literacy be applied to children and adolescents?
- What relevance and need for health literacy is there in different ages and development stages?
- Which health literacy components and levels are applicable for which age group?

Aims and Approach:

The project aims to develop target group-specific health literacy definitions and models which will be embedded in a holistic, conceptual framework. These will potentially serve as a foundation for further practical research and intervention development concerning HLCA. TeCoMo profoundly emphasizes the relevance of:

- 1) a health promoting, public health approach to HLCA,
- 2) integrating child development perspectives and age group-specific needs for HL,
- 3) contextual factors and social structures,
- 4) parents and other adults in the direct environment of children (teachers, caretakers, i.a.),
- 5) health inequalities in the context of HLCA.

Work packages:



TeCoMo is located at the Centre for Prevention and Intervention in Childhood and Adolescence ([CPI](#)) at Bielefeld University. While [Paulo Pinheiro PhD](#) and [Prof Ullrich Bauer](#) are the subproject's principle investigators, [Janine Bröder](#) and [Orkan Okan](#), assisted by [Sandra Schlupp](#), are commissioned with its execution.

We are looking forward to informing the audiences around the world on science and research.