

PIDOP NEWSLETTER



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About the PIDOP Project

PIDOP is a multinational research project funded by the European Commission under the Seventh Framework Programme. The project is examining the processes which influence civic and political participation in eight European states - Belgium, Czech Republic, Germany, Italy, Portugal, Sweden, Turkey and the UK.

The project is drawing on the disciplines of Psychology, Sociology, Anthropology, Politics, Social Policy and Education.

It is examining macro-level contextual factors (including historical, political, electoral, economic and policy factors), proximal social factors (including familial, educational and media factors) and

psychological factors (including motivational, cognitive, attitudinal and identity factors) which facilitate and/or inhibit civic and political participation.

A distinctive focus of the project is the psychology of the individual citizen and the psychological processes through which macro-level contextual factors and proximal social factors exert their effects upon citizens' civic and political participation.

Young people, women, minorities and migrants are being examined as four specific groups at risk of political disengagement.

The research is exploring the differences as well as the overlap between civic and political engagement, and both direct and representative participation.

First PIDOP conference held at the University of Bologna, Italy, May 2011

On May 11th-12th 2011, the PIDOP Consortium, in collaboration with the University of Bologna, organised an international multidisciplinary conference. The conference organising committee consisted of the members of the University of Bologna PIDOP team: Bruna Zani, Elvira Cicognani, Cinzia Albanesi, Paola Villano, Davide Mazzoni and Alberto Bertocchi, and together they ensured that the conference ran extremely smoothly and that all of the participants had a highly memorable stay in Bologna.

The conference was held in the beautiful setting of the Complesso di San Giovanni in Monte in Bologna, Italy. The plenary sessions took place in the Giorgio Prodi lecture hall, which was once the dining-hall of the nunnery of the Lateran Canons, with a backdrop consisting of a magnificent sixteenth-century fresco by Bartolomeo Cesi.



The cloisters, University of Bologna



The opening session, with (from left to right), Dario Braga (Vice-Rector, University of Bologna), Bruna Zani (Conference Chair) and Roberto Farné (Director of the Department of Educational Sciences, University of Bologna)

The theme of the conference was “**Engaged Citizens? Political Participation and Civic Engagement among Youth, Women, Minorities and Migrants**”. The conference was open to all researchers, academics, policymakers and practitioners with interests in the area.

Members of the PIDOP consortium presented the initial findings from the project at the conference. In total, the PIDOP project contributed one plenary address, fourteen individual presentations organised within three convened PIDOP symposia, and two independent individual presentations. In addition, the consortium organised a roundtable discussion with stakeholder representatives from four NGOs and from the Council of Europe. Keynote addresses were presented by **Therese O’Toole**, University of Bristol, Bristol, UK, and **Bernd Simon**, Christian-Albrechts-University of Kiel, Germany.

The conference was attended by 103 participants, representing the full range of social science disciplines, from 17 different countries: Australia, Belgium, Canada, Colombia, Czech Republic, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Philippines, Portugal, Slovakia, Sweden, Switzerland, The Netherlands, Turkey, UK and USA.

There were also representatives from a number of non-academic organisations and NGOs at the conference, including the Spencer Foundation (Chicago, USA), Active Citizenship Network (Rome, Italy), COSPE (Florence, Italy), Czech Council of Children and Youth (Brno, Czech Republic), European Women Lobby (London, UK) and the Council of Europe (Strasbourg, France).



The titles of all the PIDOP presentations which were made at the conference are listed below. Copies of papers can be downloaded from the PIDOP website at:

<http://www.fahs.surrey.ac.uk/pidop/Conf-pres.htm>

The Bologna conference website can be accessed either through a weblink on the main PIDOP website or directly at: <http://www.pidop.unibo.it/>

PIDOP papers presented at the conference

[Barrett, M. \(2011\).](#) *The PIDOP Project.* Plenary address.

McBride, C. (2001). *Political participation and democratic political agency.*

Amnå, E. (2011). *Do stand-by citizens exist?*

Montgomery, V. (2011). *Multiculturalising citizenship: recognition, political agency and marginalised groups.*

[Fournier, B. \(2011\).](#) "Political World Is Just Not My World" - Results from discussions about electoral participation in Liege.

[Cicognani, E., Albanesi, C., Zani, B., Mazzoni, D. Bertocchi, A. & Villano, P. \(2011\).](#) *Civic and political participation across generations in Italy: a qualitative study.*

[Fernandes-Jesus, M., Ribeiro, N., Malafaia, C., Coimbra, J. & Menezes, I. \(2011\).](#) *Generational differences and gender gap- preliminary conclusions.*

Petrovicova, Z., Serek, J., Macek, P. (2011). *Understanding citizenship and civic engagement of youth in the Czech Republic: qualitative analysis of conceptualization among minorities and majority.*

[Jugert, P. \(2011\).](#) *Political participation and civic engagement among native German, Turkish migrant and re-settler youth.*

[Fournier, B., Gavray, C., Waxweiler, C. & Born, M. \(2011\).](#) *Political participation as part of youths' everyday life in Belgium.*

[Pachi, D. & Barrett, M. \(2011\).](#) *British Bangladeshi and Congolese young people in London: do their experiences of political participation differ and why?*

[Sener, T., Cok, F. & Ataman, A. \(2011\).](#) *Processes influencing democratic ownership and participation: Turkish focus group results.*

[Malafaia, C., Ribeiro, N., Fernandes-Jesus, M., Fonseca, L. & Menezes, I. \(2011\).](#) *Equal opportunities and participation: what relationship?*

[Albanesi, C., Cicognani, E., Zani, B., Mazzoni, D., Bertocchi, A. & Villano, P. \(2011\).](#) *Institutional discrimination: migrants' perspective on political and civic participation in Italy: a qualitative study.*

[Serek, J., Petrovicova, Z. & Macek, P. \(2011\).](#) *How do you perceive civic engagement when you come from ethnic minority? The case of Czech Roma people.*

[Ribeiro, N., Malafaia, C., Silva, S.M., Araújo, H.C. & Neves, T. \(2011\).](#) *The institutional discourses and policies of immigration in Portugal.*

Tyrlik, M. (2011). *Challenging a gap between public-private engagement.*

Bee, C., Guerrina, R., Moro, G., Enwereuzor, U.C., Husak, J., Lawson, A. & Otte, R. (2011). *Active Citizenship in Europe: Strategies for Participation, Dialogue and Civic Engagement*. Roundtable Discussion



Call for papers for the PIDOP Conference, University of Surrey, UK April 16th-17th, 2012

Political and Civic Participation

2nd PIDOP Conference

The PIDOP consortium is currently organising a second international multidisciplinary conference in collaboration with the Centre for Research on Nationalism, Ethnicity and Multiculturalism (CRONEM) at the University of Surrey, UK. The conference will take place on **April 16th-17th, 2012**, in Guildford, UK.

This conference aims to take stock of the numerous factors which can impact on the different forms of citizen participation, will explore how political, sociological and psychological factors inter-relate, and will draw out implications for policies which have as their goal the enhancement of levels of political and civic participation.

The conference also aims to examine the factors and processes which impact on levels of participation among marginalised groups that are at risk of political disengagement due to age, gender, ethnicity or migration.

For this reason, papers focusing on either young people, women, ethnic minorities or migrants are especially encouraged.

Hence, this conference seeks to provide an opportunity for interdisciplinary discussion and debate on:

- the different forms of political and civic participation which exist
- the factors and processes which enhance and/or hinder the different forms of participation
- forms and levels of participation within different national, ethnic and migrant groups
- forms and levels of political and civic participation among women
- forms and levels of political and civic participation by youth
- policy interventions which can be used to increase levels of political and civic participation within particular societal settings

We encourage the submission of individual papers and posters which address any of these issues. Papers or posters reporting studies describing or explaining participation within a particular national setting or by a particular minority, migrant, gender or age group are welcome, as are papers or posters reporting comparative studies comparing participation across different settings and groups. We would also like to encourage the submission of contributions which address relevant policy issues.

In addition to individual papers and posters, we also encourage the submission of proposals for convened symposia. A symposium may consist either of a roundtable or a panel which provides a range of perspectives on a particular issue or set of related issues.

It is useful for the final presentation in a symposium to be made by a discussant, who can reflect on the contributions of the symposium as a whole. A symposium normally lasts 90 minutes, with each paper being allocated 15-20 minutes

The convener of the symposium is responsible for submitting both the overall abstract for the session and the abstracts of the individual contributing papers (on behalf of their authors). The convener will be responsible for communicating with the symposium contributors and with the conference organisers about the symposium proposal.

Please submit abstracts for papers and posters (not more than 200 words) and abstracts for convened symposia (symposium abstract - not more than 300 words; individual paper abstracts - not more than 200 words each) through the conference online web page at:

http://www.surrey.ac.uk/cronem/newsandevents/conferences/pidop_conference_2012.htm

The closing date for abstracts is 21st December 2011.

Notification of paper acceptance will be 27th January 2012.

This is the second international multidisciplinary conference organised by the PIDOP Consortium. For details of the first PIDOP conference held in Bologna, Italy, in May 2011, please see <http://www.pidop.unibo.it/>.



Spotlight on the Jena team, Friedrich-Schiller University Jena, Germany

At the University of Jena, researchers from the Department of Educational Psychology in the Institute of Psychology at the School of Social and Behavioural Sciences are working for the PIDOP project.

The contributions of the Jena team mainly consist in conducting the empirical data collection work as part of Work Packages 2 and 6 as well as coordinating the theoretical integration of results and devising practical recommendations as part of Work Package 7.

The Jena team is led by Peter Noack. Other members include Philipp Jugert, Katharina Eckstein, Alison Benbow and Alexandra Kuhn.

Peter Noack is Professor of Educational Psychology at the University of Jena's Institute of Psychology. His research interests include adolescence, development and socialization of family and friendship ties, attitudes, learning and educational achievement in school as well as political socialization. He has conducted several projects funded by the German Research Council. He is currently coordinating a six-year study on civic development and has served a two-year term as President of the European Association for Research on Adolescence (EARA) and is on the editorial board of several journals including Journal of Adolescence, Journal of Research on Adolescence, and the European Journal of Developmental Psychology.



Philipp Jugert is a research fellow working on the PIDOP project. He received his PhD in Psychology from the University of Jena in 2009. His research interests span topics in social-developmental psychology. More specifically, he is interested in authoritarianism, cross-ethnic friendships, political participation and civic engagement



Katharina Eckstein is a research associate at the unit of Educational Psychology. She received her PhD from the University of Jena in 2011. Her work focuses on political socialization of adolescents.



Alison Benbow formerly worked at the University of Jena and is now a lecturer in Social Psychology at the University of Hagen. She obtained her PhD from the University of Kent at Canterbury in 2009. Her research interests cover integration of minorities, adolescents, and processes of social development as well as diversity in education.



Alexandra Kuhn studied Psychology from 2006 until 2011 at the University of Jena. She will join the PIDOP team from October as a research fellow at the Institute of Educational Psychology. Her research interests include the association between career and partnership as well as political participation and social engagement.



The research of the unit of Educational Psychology addresses school-based conditions of learning and individual development as well as the development of close relations and socialization.

More information about the University of Jena and our unit can be found here:

http://www.uni-jena.de/en/start_en.html

and

http://www.uni-jena.de/en/Educational_Psychology.html



The Jena Team. From upper left hand corner, left to right: Philipp Jugert, Peter Noack, Alison Benbow, Alexandra Standke, Heike Buhl, Katharina Eckstein, and Anita Kramer

Spotlight on the research conducted for Work Package 6 by the Team of the University of Jena

The target groups

We studied German 'natives' from East and West Germany as members of the majority population. For the minority groups, we concentrated on Turkish and Russian-speaking migrants.

Turkish migrants

Turkish migrants are the largest visible ethnic minority group in Germany, comprising approximately 3 % of the general population. Turkish people living in Germany face high levels of discrimination and exclusion and hold considerably lower status in terms of education, health, and employment compared to the majority Germans. In addition, Turkish children underperform in relation to their German peers at school, severely limiting their employment opportunities.

Russian-speaking migrants

Between 1989 and 2006 2,8 million late 'resettlers' from the former Soviet Union were allowed to enter Germany. Similarly to the Turkish group, these ethnic German immigrants suffer from discrimination and have lower job prospects than 'majority' Germans. What makes this group interesting and distinct from the Turkish group is that they are not 'readily' identifiable as immigrants unless they speak Russian and that the majority of them are granted full citizenship rights on arrival on the basis of their ethnicity.

Summary of main findings

The topics discussed during the focus groups with young people from the three target groups (German majority, Turkish and Russian-speaking migrants) and the two age groups (16-18 and 20-26) included: citizenship, environmental and human rights, identities, civic engagement and participation, sources of knowledge, and suggestions for improving civic engagement

among young people.

Overall, our findings show that the level of engagement in social and political issues was low among our participants. There were only very few participants who were active members in civic organizations or could be described as actively participating.

These findings thus converge with other evidence on the declining level of participation among young people and the increase of political apathy and alienation.

We also could not find any evidence of a shift in participation behaviour among young people away from traditional forms like voting and demonstrating to new online forms of participation.

We may speculate though that this low level of participation in traditional and new forms has to do with the overall low level of educational attainment among our participants. Thus, if we had recruited more University students, the picture may have been different.

There were similarities and differences between age and ethnic groups in the level of understanding about citizenship, the topics that were relevant for them and the hurdles they saw for participation. Not surprisingly, older participants showed a deeper and more reflective understanding of citizenship than younger participants.

They also appeared to be more willing to discuss these topics and to have actually formed an opinion on social and political issues for themselves.

More interestingly, there were similarities as well as differences among the ethnic groups in terms of the topics most relevant to them and the barriers they saw as making participation difficult. Participants from all groups were concerned with access to the job market and fears about unemployment.

'[M]any young people don't find a job after their apprenticeship and they sit around at home all day. They can also work, one-euro-jobs and such, but nobody does it.'

(Ethnic German immigrant, 16-18, male)

Yet, only Turkish and Russian-speaking individuals were concerned with discrimination and unfair treatment within German society. It is important to note that we could find no discernable differences between East and West German participants in their understanding of citizenship or their level of engagement and participation.

'About three or four days ago I went to school by tram and I had such a [long] beard with a corduroy jacket and a bag on my back. I got on the tram, and I realized how some people looked at me, [some looked] frightened. Well, I made a joke then but if I had left the bag there and left the tram they would have all gone crazy. Only because I had such a beard.' (Turkish male, 20-26)

'Here for example in the youth club, everyone tells us...we are Russians. Nobody asks where our grandparents were born - like for example my grandparents were born here in Germany, during war and then left for Kazakhstan. Now, everybody tells me: "You are Russian." One has to do a lot to be accepted by Germans.' (Ethnic German immigrant, 16-18, male).

One central finding was that participants who had made successful participation experiences were more optimistic about the effectiveness of civic and political participation and showed greater political efficacy and less alienation than participants who merely speculated about these issues theoretically.

This finding corresponds with well-established findings from the attitude-behaviour literature showing that direct experience with an attitude object leads to

stronger attitudes compared to attitudes based on indirect experience, and is closely related to the focus on prior experiences formulated in the volunteer process model by Omoto and Snyder.

Past and Future PIDOP events

Six meetings of the PIDOP consortium have taken place so far: at the University of Surrey, UK, in May 2009; at the University of Liège, Belgium, in July 2009; at the University of Porto, Portugal, in November 2009; at the University of Surrey in July 2010; at the University of Örebro, Sweden in November 2010; and at the University of Bologna in May 2011.

The seventh meeting of the consortium will take place at Masaryk University, Brno Czech Republic in November 2011.

The PIDOP Conference at the University of Surrey, UK, will take place on April 16-17, 2012.

Further information

For further information about the PIDOP project, please either consult the project website at:

<http://www.fahs.surrey.ac.uk/pidop/>

or contact Dr. David Garbin, the Project Manager, at: D.Garbin@surrey.ac.uk

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