

PIDOP NEWSLETTER



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

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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.

Call for papers, PIDOP Surrey conference (2012)

Political and Civic Participation

2nd PIDOP Conference

April 16th-17th, 2012

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 **31st 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 University of Ankara team, Turkey

Coordinated by the University of Ankara, a number of researchers in education, psychology, sociology and political sciences are working for the PIDOP project within Turkey. The contributions of the Turkish team mainly consisted in conducting the empirical data collection work as part of Work Packages 2 and 6 as well as contributing to the psychological theory of participation (Work Package 4).

The team is led by Assist. Prof. Tulin Şener. Other members include Prof. Figen Çok,

Assoc. Prof. Mustafa Şen and research fellow Gizem Danişan. Former research fellows of the project include Ayşenur Ataman and Sümercan Bozkurt.



Assist. Prof. Tulin Şener, who is the main coordinator of the PIDOP Turkish team, is an educational psychologist based at the University of Ankara. Her research interests include childhood cultures, children and youth participation, children's rights and adolescents' developmental issues in general.



Prof. Figen Çok, also an educational psychologist, used to work for the University of Ankara before recently moving to Başkent University. Her research interests include educational psychology, adolescent development, psychosocial developmental issues and transition to adulthood.



Assoc. Prof. Mustafa Şen works as a sociologist at the Middle East Technical University in Ankara. His main interests include the sociology of change and transition and the sociology of religion.



Research fellow N. Gizem Danişan joined the project in August 2011. She holds a Counselling Psychology and Guidance degree from the University of Ankara and a Master's degree in Public Health from Stockholm University/Karolinska Institute. She is currently a graduate student in the Counselling Psychology and Guidance Programme at the Middle East Technical University in Ankara. Her research interests include adolescent health, risk-taking behaviour and participation as well as developmental psychological issues from an epidemiological perspective.



Former PIDOP research fellow Ayşenur Ataman received both her Undergraduate and Master's degrees from the Department of Educational Psychology at the University of Ankara. Her research interests include adolescent development, youth participation and civic engagement. She has recently received a Graduate Study Abroad Scholarship by the Ministry of Education of Turkey and which will allow her to complete a PhD degree in the United States. She collected most of the quantitative (survey) data for WP6.



Another former PIDOP research fellow, Sümercan Bozkurt worked for the project for approximately one year during 2010. She is currently based at Nottingham University (UK) as a Marie Curie scholar as part of her doctoral studies. She collected the qualitative data for WP6 (interviews and focus groups) and for WP2.

Spotlight on the focus group research conducted for Work Package 6 by the Ankara team

The target groups

We studied Roma and Bulgarian-Turks in addition to the majority Turkish population. Perceptions about young people's participation were examined, as well as understanding of citizenship, sources of information, personal and group experiences of participation, and proposals to promote inclusion and civic and political participation. In the study, 12 focus groups were conducted, divided into three subgroups drawn from the majority (Turkish) population, Turkish resettlers from Bulgaria and Roma people, across gender and age groups (16-18 and 20-26).

It is important to note that the concept of 'minority' in Turkey differs from the concept which applies in European Union nations, as there is no legal and political framework through which ethnic or religious groups can be granted minority rights or can benefit from anti-discrimination laws.

Turkish resettlers from Bulgaria

There are approximately one million Turkish resettlers from Bulgaria living in Turkey. They have higher socio-economic status and educational level than the other groups we examined as part of this study. 'Bulgarian-Turks' (as many prefer to be called) tend to be perceived in a more favourable light by the majority population in comparison with other minority groups, mainly because they are regarded as belonging to the majority ethnic group and religion (Islam), even if many of them hold dual nationality (Turkish and Bulgarian).

Roma minority

The population of Roma people in Turkey is between 500,000 and 2 million. Unemployment is high among the Roma minority and many are involved in low-paid, unskilled jobs. They tend to be perceived less favourably by the majority population in comparison with the other minority groups. Most Romas in Turkey are Muslim, with a small proportion of Christians.

Majority (Turks)

There are almost 18 million young people aged between 14 and 29, representing 24% of the total population of Turkey. In this study, we targeted Turkish high school and university students living in Ankara, while other youth outside the educational system were accessed through our individual contacts.

Data collection

We benefited from the help of several associations and organisations set up by Bulgarian-Turks and Roma people to recruit participants during the data collection stage of the research. In addition, public and private high school counsellors helped in recruiting young Turkish participants. Here, we wish to acknowledge the support of volunteers and institutional actors such as the Minister for Women's Affairs, an MP from the main opposition party, and the directors of several key non-governmental organisations working on minority issues.

Summary of main findings

During this study Roma, Bulgarian-Turk and majority youth in the different age groups (16-18 and 20-26) and gender categories showed different attitudes concerning civic and political participation. Each of these sub-groups had specific perceptions and understandings of citizenship. Opportunities as well as resources seemed to play a major role in the perceptions of participation. However, almost all young people included in the study said that they did not have enough information about their rights and duties as citizens, and they stressed the existence of different barriers to their political/civic involvement and participation.

Parents (especially fathers) and peer groups were mentioned as the most important sources of information. Younger participants tended to think that their families were excluding them from political discussions while older participants said they were benefiting from their parents' views.

Lack of time, the social context, income level and the obligation to leave school at an early age to earn money or get married were reported as factors limiting civic engagement and political participation. The Roma participants, belonging to the most disadvantaged group of this study, show much more concern about these limiting factors in comparison with the other target groups.

All participants saw young people's involvement in civil and political issues as something positive. However the lack of efficacy linked to political participation (sometimes seen as 'useless') was also explicit in all groups. While young people did not find it difficult to voice their opinions, they did not want to get involved durably in civic and political issues. Many individuals had attempted to participate in a civil political action but those attempts were not judged positively either because of parental opposition or because of a lack of time or resources. Male participants appeared to be the most active in terms of political participation among all groups.

Spotlight on the University of Porto team, Portugal

At the University of Porto, researchers with diverse academic backgrounds from the Faculty of Psychology and Education Sciences work for the PIDOP project. This team focuses its work mainly on the coordination, together with the Belfast team, of Work Package 6, which intends to fill the gap in knowledge about social and psychological processes through which individuals construct their self-conceptions, attitudes and belief systems in relation to citizenship.

In addition, the Porto group also collaborates in Work Packages 4 and 7, namely on the production of a psychological theory of civic and political engagement and participation, as well as on theoretical integration.

The Porto team is led by Isabel Menezes and includes Norberto Ribeiro, Carla Malafaia, Maria Fernandes-Jesus, Pedro Ferreira, Joaquim Coimbra, Tiago Neves, Helena Costa Araújo, Laura Fonseca and Sofia Marques da Silva.



Isabel Menezes has a PhD in Psychology and a 'Habilitation' in Education from the University of Porto, where she is an Associate Professor in the areas of Adult and Adolescent Developmental Psychology, Educational Research Methodologies and Community Intervention. She has been coordinating research projects on youth and adult civic and political participation, with a special focus on the experience of groups at risk of exclusion on the basis of gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, disability, and migration status.

Tiago Neves has a PhD in Education from the University of Porto, where he is an Assistant Professor in Research Methodologies and Conflict Management. He has coordinated research and intervention projects on community mediation and poverty and social exclusion. His current research interests include educational inequalities.

Pedro D. Ferreira has a PhD in Psychology from the University of Porto and is currently an Assistant Researcher at CIIE - Centre for Research and Intervention in Education. Interested in researching social and political participation and its links with personal and community development, he is currently exploring its intersection with Citizenship Education and Migration.

Joaquim L. Coimbra is an associate professor in the Department of Psychology whose expertise crosses the fields of vocational guidance, work and employment. He has coordinated several research projects. His main scientific interests are psychological and vocational intervention, interpersonal development, career development and life-long learning education.

Laura Fonseca is an assistant professor in Education Sciences, with a background in Social Work and Education Sciences. She has particular expertise on ethnicity and gender issues. Her interests include gender issues, sexualities, teenage pregnancy, social justice, youth, cultures and education.

Sofia Marques da Silva has a PhD in Education Sciences from the University of Porto, where she is an Assistant Professor on Epistemology, Research and Intervention Methodologies and Sociology of Education. Some of her main interests include youth cultures and mediation, gender studies and socio-anthropology of fear.

Helena C. Araújo is a full professor in Sociology of Education and an expert on gender issues. She has been developing work on gender and citizenship theory and has coordinated research projects on educational biographies, citizenship, youth and teenage pregnancy and educational achievement.

Norberto Ribeiro is a PhD student in Education at the University of Porto. He has worked on several research projects in the area of citizenship and civic and political participation.



The Porto team, from left to right: Pedro Ferreira, Tiago Neves, Isabel Menezes, Maria Fernandes-Jesus, Norberto Ribeiro, Helena Costa Araújo, Joaquim Coimbra, Laura Fonseca and Carla Malafaia.

Carla Malafaia Almeida is a Masters student in Adult Education at the University of Porto. She is completing her thesis on the role of civic associations in promoting social capital in two different countries

Maria Fernandes-Jesus is a PhD student in Psychology at the University of Porto. She has worked as a psychologist in community intervention, and is currently researching the civic and political participation of Brazilian immigrants in Portugal, exploring the role of personal and contextual variables in this project. She is supported by the Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology (SFRH/BD/62567/2009).

New book drawing on PIDOP research by the Bologna team

Zani, Bruna, Cicognani, Elvira and Albanesi, Cinzia (Eds.) (2011):

La Partecipazione Civica e Politica dei Giovani:

Discorsi, Esperienze, Significati.

(Civic and Political Participation among Youth: Discourses, Experiences, Meanings).
Bologna: CLUEB



This book presents the analyses of the University of Bologna (UNIBO) research team on some topics of the PIDOP project, drawing on the data collected in the Italian context. The book is addressed to the stakeholders of the project (policy makers, politicians, social workers, researchers of different disciplines), and to students.

After a presentation of the main definitions of the concepts of civic engagement and political participation, the typology of the different forms of participation and engagement adopted by the PIDOP project is introduced and commented upon. Attention is then focused on the 'discourses' on youth participation and citizenship (regarding Italian and migrant youth), based upon the analysis of official documents and interviews of representatives of ministries, NGOs and youth associations.

Some relevant laws at national and European level, and the main participatory instruments to enhance and support participation, are also discussed.

The book also discusses the role of explanatory factors of participation (from macrosocial/institutional factors to psychosocial factors), drawing on a range of disciplines. Existing models emphasise the role of specific aspects, and less attention is devoted to the interrelations among the various factors, as well as the meanings and representations that youth develop about civic and political participation.

A brief analysis of the data of European surveys (Eurobarometer, 2011, and The Young Europeans) is presented, to provide the background to the current situation of young people's participation in different European countries.

In addition, there is a focus on the pilot survey conducted on a sample of 100 Italian adolescents and young adults.

Conference papers from PIDOP

The following papers from the PIDOP project have been presented at conferences in 2011:

[Barrett, M. \(2011\)](#). *The PIDOP Project*. Plenary address presented at the Bologna PIDOP Conference 2011, “Engaged Citizens? Political Participation And Civic Engagement Among Youth, Women, Minorities And Migrants”, May 11th-12th 2011, University of Bologna, Bologna, Italy. [[Click here to access an audio recording of this presentation](#)]

McBride, C. (2011). *Political participation and democratic political agency*. Paper presented at the Bologna PIDOP Conference 2011, “Engaged Citizens? Political Participation And Civic Engagement Among Youth, Women, Minorities And Migrants”, May 11th-12th 2011, University of Bologna, Bologna, Italy.

Amnå, E. (2011). *Do stand-by citizens exist?* Paper presented at the Bologna PIDOP Conference 2011, “Engaged Citizens? Political Participation And Civic Engagement Among Youth, Women, Minorities And Migrants”, May 11th-12th 2011, University of Bologna, Bologna, Italy.

Montgomery, V. (2011). *Multiculturalising citizenship: recognition, political agency and marginalised groups*. Paper presented at the Bologna PIDOP Conference 2011, “Engaged Citizens? Political Participation And Civic Engagement Among Youth, Women, Minorities And Migrants”, May 11th-12th 2011, University of Bologna, Bologna, Italy.

[Fournier, B. \(2011\)](#). *“Political World Is Just Not My World” - Results from discussions about electoral participation in Liege*. Paper presented at the Bologna PIDOP Conference 2011, “Engaged Citizens? Political Participation And Civic Engagement Among Youth, Women, Minorities And Migrants”,

May 11th-12th 2011, University of Bologna, Bologna, Italy.

[Cicognani, E., Albanesi, C., Zani, B., Mazzoni, D. Bertocchi, A. & Villano, P. \(2011\)](#). *Civic and political participation across generations in Italy: a qualitative study*. Paper presented at the Bologna PIDOP Conference 2011, “Engaged Citizens? Political Participation And Civic Engagement Among Youth, Women, Minorities And Migrants”, May 11th-12th 2011, University of Bologna, Bologna, Italy.

Fernandes-Jesus, M., Ribeiro, N., Malafaia, C., Coimbra, J. & Menezes, I. (2011). *Generational differences and gap gender - preliminary conclusions*. Paper presented at the Bologna PIDOP Conference 2011, “Engaged Citizens? Political Participation And Civic Engagement Among Youth, Women, Minorities And Migrants”, May 11th-12th 2011, University of Bologna, Bologna, Italy.

Petrovicova, Z., Serek, J., Macek, P. (2011). *Understanding citizenship and civic engagement of young people in the Czech Republic: qualitative analysis of conceptualization among minorities and majority*. Paper presented at the Bologna PIDOP Conference 2011, “Engaged Citizens? Political Participation And Civic Engagement Among Youth, Women, Minorities And Migrants”, May 11th-12th 2011, University of Bologna, Bologna, Italy.

Jugert, P. (2011). *Political participation and social engagement among native German, ethnic German diaspora, and Turkish migrant youth: a qualitative study*. Paper presented at the Bologna PIDOP Conference 2011, “Engaged Citizens? Political Participation And Civic Engagement Among Youth, Women, Minorities And Migrants”, May 11th-12th 2011, University of Bologna, Bologna, Italy.

[Fournier, B., Gavray, C., Waxweiler, C. & Born, M. \(2011\).](#) *Political participation as part of youths' everyday life in Belgium.* Paper presented at the Bologna PIDOP Conference 2011, "Engaged Citizens? Political Participation And Civic Engagement Among Youth, Women, Minorities And Migrants", May 11th-12th 2011, University of Bologna, Bologna, Italy.

[Pachi, D. & Barrett, M. \(2011\).](#) *British Bangladeshi and Congolese young people in London: do their experiences of political participation differ and why?* Paper presented at the Bologna PIDOP Conference 2011, "Engaged Citizens? Political Participation And Civic Engagement Among Youth, Women, Minorities And Migrants", May 11th-12th 2011, University of Bologna, Bologna, Italy.

[Sener, T., Cok, F. & Ataman, A. \(2011\).](#) *Processes influencing democratic ownership and participation: Turkish focus group results.* Paper presented at the Bologna PIDOP Conference 2011, "Engaged Citizens? Political Participation And Civic Engagement Among Youth, Women, Minorities And Migrants", May 11th-12th 2011, University of Bologna, Bologna, Italy. [[Powerpoint slides](#)]

[Malafaia, C., Ribeiro, N., Fernandes-Jesus, M., Fonseca, L. & Menezes, I. \(2011\).](#) *Equal opportunities and participation: what relationship?* Paper presented at the Bologna PIDOP Conference 2011, "Engaged Citizens? Political Participation And Civic Engagement Among Youth, Women, Minorities And Migrants", May 11th-12th 2011, University of Bologna, Bologna, Italy.

[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.* Paper presented at the Bologna PIDOP Conference 2011, "Engaged Citizens? Political Participation And Civic Engagement Among Youth, Women, Minorities And

Migrants", May 11th-12th 2011, University of Bologna, Bologna, Italy.

[Serek, J., Petrovicova, Z. & Macek, P. \(2011\).](#) *How do you perceive civic engagement when you come from ethnic minority? The case of Czech Roma.* Paper presented at the Bologna PIDOP Conference 2011, "Engaged Citizens? Political Participation And Civic Engagement Among Youth, Women, Minorities And Migrants", May 11th-12th 2011, University of Bologna, Bologna, Italy.

[Ribeiro, N., Malafaia, C., Silva, S.M., Araújo, H.C. & Neves, T. \(2011\).](#) *The institutional discourses and policies of immigration in Portugal.* Paper presented at the Bologna PIDOP Conference 2011, "Engaged Citizens? Political Participation And Civic Engagement Among Youth, Women, Minorities And Migrants", May 11th-12th 2011, University of Bologna, Bologna, Italy.

Tyrlik, M. (2011). *Challenging a gap between public-private engagement.* Paper presented at the Bologna PIDOP Conference 2011, "Engaged Citizens? Political Participation And Civic Engagement Among Youth, Women, Minorities And Migrants", May 11th-12th 2011, University of Bologna, Bologna, Italy.

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 held at the Bologna PIDOP Conference 2011, "Engaged Citizens? Political Participation And Civic Engagement Among Youth, Women, Minorities And Migrants", May 11th-12th 2011, University of Bologna, Bologna, Italy.

[Pachi, D. & Barrett, M. \(2011\).](#) Διαδικασίες πολιτικής και κοινωνικής συμμετοχής και ενασχόλησης· πώς επηρεάζει η ηλικία, το φύλο και η μεταναστευτική εμπειρία τις απόψεις των νέων. [Processes of political and social participation and engagement: effects of age, gender and migration experience on the views of young people.] Paper presented at the 13th Panhellenic Conference of Psychological Research of the Greek Psychological Society, Athens, Greece, 25th-29th May 2011.

[Pachi, D. & Barrett, M. \(2011\).](#) *British Bangladeshi young people and the British political system: perceptions of belongingness and access in comparison to English young people.* Paper presented at the 7th Annual Conference of the Centre for Research on Nationalism, Ethnicity and Multiculturalism (CRONEM), “Global Migration and Multiculturalism: Religion, Society, Policy and Politics”, 28th-29th June 2011, University of Surrey, UK.

[Cicognani, E., Zani, B. & Albanesi, C. \(2011\).](#) Civic and political participation across gender and age: A quantitative study on a sample of Italian young people Paper presented at the 8th European Congress of Community Psychology, 15th-16th September 2011, York, UK.

Policy Briefing Papers from the PIDOP project for policy makers, the media and civil society organisations

The PIDOP project has published two Policy Briefing Papers in 2011. If you would like to receive copies of future Policy Briefing Papers by email as they are published, please send an email to the Project Manager, Dr David Garbin (d.garbin@surrey.ac.uk).

To download copies of the two existing Policy Briefing Papers, please click on the

links below:

Policy Briefing Paper No 1:



[PIDOP Policy Briefing Paper No. 1 2011.pdf \[140Kb PDF\]](#)

Policy Briefing Paper No 2:



[PIDOP Policy Briefing Paper No. 2 2011.pdf \[160Kb PDF\]](#)

Past and Future PIDOP events

Seven 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; at the University of Bologna, Italy in May 2011; and at Masaryk University, Brno, Czech Republic in November 2011. The eighth and final PIDOP meeting will take place at the University of Surrey, UK, in April 2012, just after the second PIDOP Conference (April 16th-17th, 2012), which will also be held at the University of Surrey.

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

You can also contact the leaders of each PIDOP team:

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