



**pidop**

Processes Influencing Democratic Ownership and Participation

# The PIDOP Project

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# What is the PIDOP Project?

- PIDOP is a ***multidisciplinary research project*** funded by the European Commission under the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7-SSH-2007-1, Grant Agreement no: 225282)
- There are ***nine partner institutions*** participating in the project:
  - University of Surrey, UK (Coordinating institution)
  - University of Liège, Belgium
  - Masaryk University, Czech Republic
  - University of Jena, Germany
  - University of Bologna, Italy
  - University of Porto, Portugal
  - Örebro University, Sweden
  - Ankara University, Turkey
  - Queen's University Belfast, UK
- The project is running for three years from ***2009-2012***
- We have just reached the ***end of year two*** of the project

# The objectives of the PIDOP project

- The project is examining *the factors which influence civic and political engagement and participation* in *nine national contexts*: Belgium, Czech Republic, England, Germany, Italy, Northern Ireland, Portugal, Sweden and Turkey
- The project is *multidisciplinary* – it is drawing on the disciplines of Psychology, Politics, Sociology, Anthropology, Social Policy and Education
- In the project, we are focusing on *three different levels of factors*, to see how they impact on civic and political engagement and participation:
  - *Macro level contextual factors* (e.g., historical, political, electoral, economic and policy factors)
  - *Proximal social factors* (e.g., family, educational and media factors)
  - *Psychological factors* (e.g., motivational, cognitive, attitudinal and identity factors)
- We are focusing our main attention on *four groups of individuals* which the European Commission identified as being *at risk of political disengagement*:

*Women*

*Ethnic minorities*

*Young people*

*Migrants*

# Political vs. civic participation

- In the project, we are examining the differences, as well as the relationship, between *political* and *civic* participation
- By *political participation*, we mean:
  - Activity that has the intent or effect of influencing either regional, national or supranational governance, either directly by affecting the making or implementation of public policy, or indirectly by influencing the selection of individuals who make that policy (after Verba, Schlozman & Brady, 1995)
- Under this heading, we are including both:
  - ***Conventional forms of activity*** involving electoral processes (e.g., voting, election campaigning, running for election, etc.)
  - ***Non-conventional forms of activity*** which occur outside electoral processes (e.g., signing petitions, participating in political demonstrations, writing letters to politicians and public officials, etc.)

- By ***civic participation***, we mean:
  - Voluntary activity focused on helping others, achieving a public good or solving a community problem, including work undertaken either alone or in cooperation with others in order to effect change (after Zukin, Keeter, Andolina, Jenkins & Delli Carpini, 2006)
- Under this heading, we are including a variety of activities such as:
  - Working collectively to solve a community problem
  - Belonging to community organisations
  - Attending meetings about issues of concern
  - Raising money for charity
  - Helping neighbours
  - Consumer activism (boycotting and buycotting)
  - etc.

# Engagement vs. participation

- We are also examining the differences, as well as the relationship, between *engagement* and *participation*
- By *engagement*, we mean:
  - Having an interest in, paying attention to, having knowledge of or having opinions about either political or civic matters – the project is therefore construing engagement as being quintessentially a *psychological* matter
- By *participation*, we mean:
  - Activity that has the intent or effect of influencing either regional, national or supranational governance (i.e., political activity) or activity focused on helping others, achieving a public good or solving a community problem (i.e., civic activity) – the project is therefore construing participation as being about *behaviour*

# Eventual goals of the project

- There are ***two main goals*** which we are hoping to achieve by the end of the project:
  - To construct ***a multi-level process model of civic and political engagement and participation*** which will explain how and why different forms of engagement and participation develop or are hampered among citizens living in different European countries
  - To formulate ***a series of policy recommendations*** – these will include specific recommendations for interventions and practices which can be used at EU, national and regional levels to enhance civic and political engagement and participation, especially among our four target groups of women, young people, ethnic minorities and migrants

# The structure of the project

- The theoretical and empirical work in the project is broken up into a series of separate *work packages*:
  - Work Package 2: Collate and analyse current policies
  - Work Package 3: Development of a political theory of participation
  - Work Package 4: Development of a psychological theory of participation
  - Work Package 5: Modelling existing survey data
  - Work Package 6: Processes in the co-construction of citizenship in different life contexts
  - Work Package 7: Theoretical integration and practical recommendations
- In addition there are two ‘project management’ work packages:
  - Work Package 1: Consortium management and coordination activities
  - Work Package 8: Dissemination activities

# Work Package 2: Collate and analyse current policies

- WP2 is now completed
- This work package collated and analysed *existing policies on citizenship and democratic participation* at *EU, national and regional levels*
- WP2 focused primarily on policies that relate to *women, young people, ethnic minorities and migrants*
- It also investigated the extent to which there is *coherence or tension* between relevant policies at EU, national and regional levels
- The policy documents of *civil society organisations, regional government, national government and the EU* were selected for analysis
- The time frame which was chosen for the selection of policy documents was *2004-2009*
- This time frame allowed the project to explore issues relating to active citizenship, civic participation and Europeanisation, as well as the level of engagement of civil society organisations with the overall policy priorities of the EU

# Some of the principal findings of WP2

- The analysis revealed that there are ***three main policy discourses*** which are dominant in the official policy texts
- These discourses concern the issues of:
  - ***Social exclusion***
  - ***Equal opportunities***
  - ***Civic and political engagement and participation***
- The analysis of the ***national policy documents*** revealed an absence of references to European debates about citizenship and participation
- The analysis of the policy documents of ***civil society organisations*** also revealed little evidence of any coherent or consistent counter-narrative to current European policy discourses

- Nevertheless, the official documents produced by both national governments and civil society organisations ***do tend to be aligned with EU political priorities***
- However, there was ***little evidence of any open engagement*** with European meta-narratives
- There was also little evidence of any meaningful engagement with the challenges of ***intersectionality*** in most of the policy documents, apart from the intersection between gender and religion
- These policy analyses by WP2 are going to provide the backdrop against which the PIDOP project will be developing its own policy recommendations in due course

# Work Package 3: Development of a political theory of participation

- WP3 is developing a **political** theory of participation – this work package is still ongoing
- The aim of WP3 is to produce a political theory of civic and political engagement and participation which encompasses the role of **macro level contextual factors** (i.e., political, electoral, historical, economic and societal factors)
- WP3 has produced **a new typology of different forms of participation**, with the aim of capturing all forms of political behaviour which are relevant to the study of civic and political engagement and participation
- This typology:
  - Distinguishes between the civic and the political
  - Includes participation on both the individual and the collective levels
  - Incorporates non-participation/disengagement within its structure, and therefore captures the full spectrum of engagement and participation
  - Differentiates between latent and manifest forms of political behaviour

# The new typology of forms of participation

	Non-participation ( <i>disengagement</i> )		Civil participation (latent–political)		Political participation (manifest)		
	Active forms (antipolitical)	Passive forms (apolitical)	Social involvement ( <i>attention</i> )	Civic engagement ( <i>action</i> )	Formal political participation	Activism (extra-parliamentary political participation)	
						Legal/ extra-parliamentary protests or actions	Illegal protests or actions
<b>Individual forms</b>	<p>Non-voting</p> <p>Actively avoiding reading newspapers or watching TV when it comes to political issues</p> <p>Avoid talking about politics</p> <p>Perceiving politics as disgusting</p> <p>Political disaffection</p>	<p>Non-voting</p> <p>Perceiving politics as uninteresting and unimportant</p> <p>Political passivity</p>	<p>Taking interest in politics and society</p> <p>Perceiving politics as important</p>	<p>Writing to an editor</p> <p>Giving money to charity</p> <p>Discussing politics and societal issues, with friends or on the Internet</p> <p>Reading newspapers and watching TV when it comes to political issues</p> <p>Recycling</p>	<p>Voting in elections and referenda</p> <p>Deliberate acts of non-voting or blank voting</p> <p>Contacting political representatives or civil servants</p> <p>Running for or holding public office</p> <p>Donating money to political parties or organizations</p>	<p>Boycotting, boycotting and political consumption</p> <p>Signing petitions</p> <p>Handing out political leaflets</p>	<p>Civil disobedience</p> <p>Politically motivated attacks on property</p>
<b>Collective forms</b>	<p>Deliberate non-political lifestyles, e.g. hedonism, consumerism</p> <p>In extreme cases: random acts of non-political violence (riots), reflecting frustration, alienation or social exclusion</p>	<p>“Non-reflected” non-political lifestyles</p>	<p>Belonging to a group with societal focus</p> <p>Identifying with a certain ideology and/or party</p> <p>Life-style related involvement: music, group identity, clothes, et cetera</p> <p>For example: veganism, right-wing Skinhead scene, or left-wing anarcho-punk scene</p>	<p>Volunteering in social work, e.g. to support women’s shelter or to help homeless people</p> <p>Charity work or faith-based community work</p> <p>Activity within community based organizations</p>	<p>Being a member of a political party, an organization, or a trade union</p> <p>Activity within a party, an organization or a trade union (voluntary work or attend meetings)</p>	<p>Involvement in new social movements or forums</p> <p>Demonstrating, participating in strikes, protests and other actions (e.g. street festivals with a distinct political agenda)</p>	<p>Civil disobedience actions</p> <p>Sabotaging or obstructing roads and railways</p> <p>Squatting buildings</p> <p>Participating in violent demonstrations or animal rights actions</p> <p>Violence confrontations with political opponents or the police</p>

# Factors facilitating and hindering participation

- WP3 has also drawn up a specification of the factors which *facilitate* participation and those which *hinder* it
- These factors operate at three levels: the *individual*, the *institutional* and the *country* level
- The *individual level* includes factors such as:
  - Socioeconomic status (and the resources associated with this)
  - Political interest
  - Efficacy
  - Identity
- These individual level factors are bring dealt with in greater detail by WP4

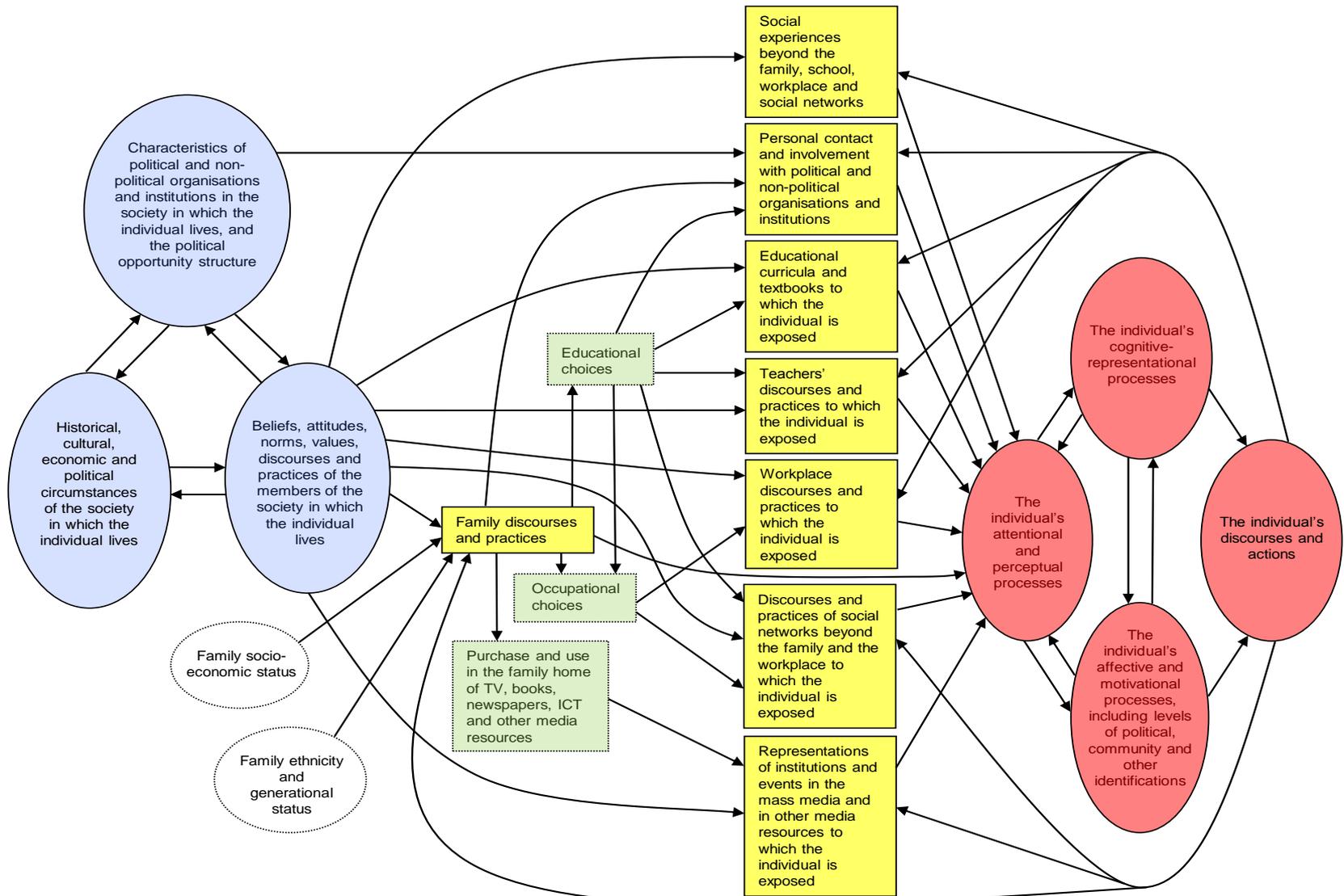
- The ***institutional level*** includes factors such as:
  - The rules and design of the electoral system
  - Points of access to the political system
  - Opportunities for participation
  - Presence or absence of mobilising channels
  - Membership of civic associations and networks
  - Civic/citizenship education
  - Inequalities in society
  - The legal rights of minorities and migrants to formally participate
- The ***country level*** includes factors such as recent political history, recent economic development and the religion of a country
- The ongoing work on WP3 is examining how these macro factors at the ***institutional*** and ***country*** levels impact on, and exert their effects through, the ***social*** and ***individual*** levels

# Work Package 4: Development of a psychological theory of participation

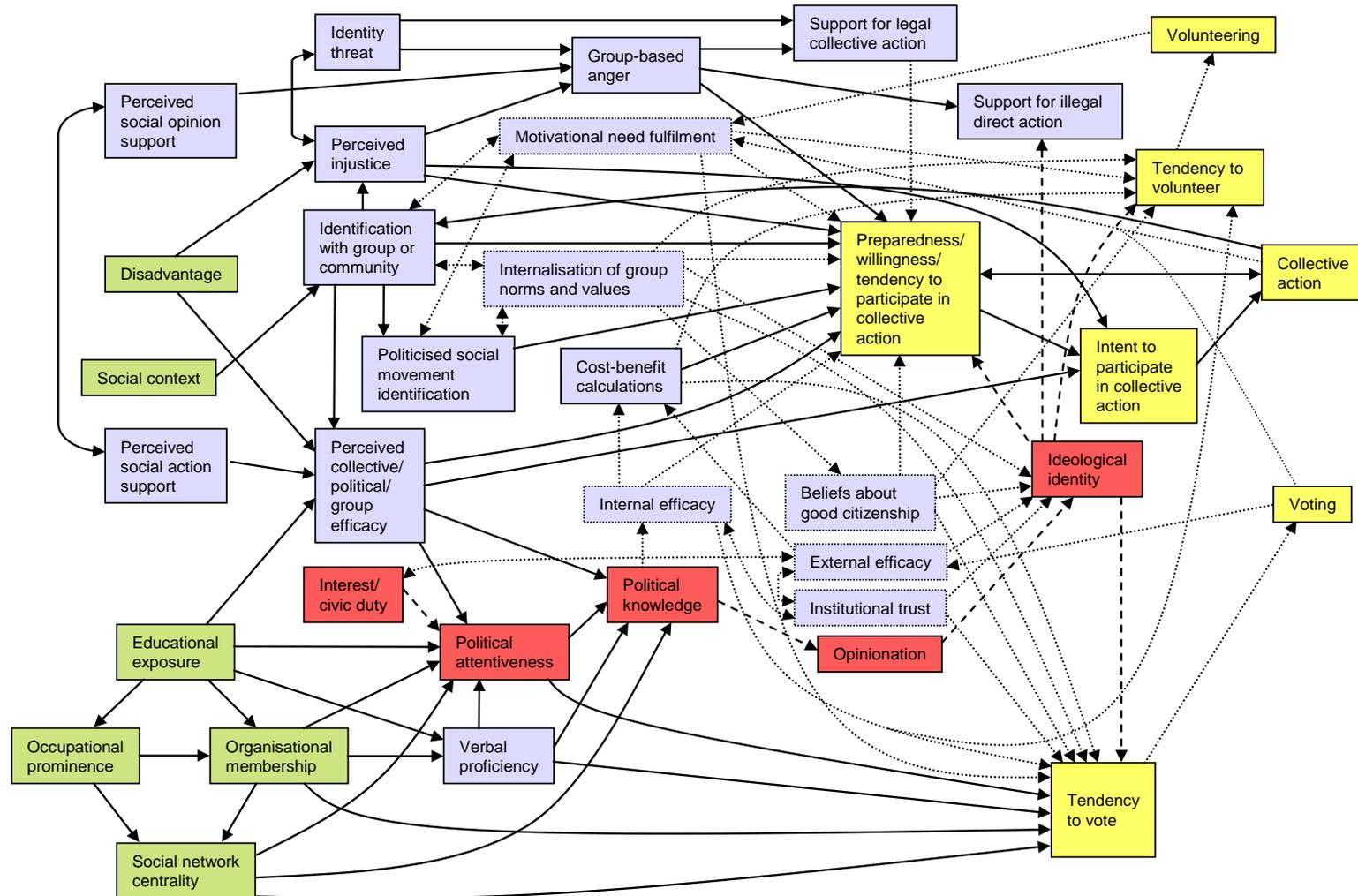
- WP4 is developing a *psychological* theory of participation which focuses on the *social* and *individual* levels – this work package is also still ongoing
- First of all, WP4 has drawn up a specification of the range of *social factors* which impact on civic and political engagement and participation
- These include:
  - Family discourses and practices
  - Educational curricula and textbooks
  - Teachers’ discourses and practices
  - Workplace discourses and practices
  - Discourses and practices of social networks beyond the family and the workplace
  - Personal contact and involvement with political and non-political organisations and institutions
  - Representational content in the mass media

- WP4 has also identified a range of ***psychological factors*** at the individual level that have been implicated by previous research as drivers of civic and political engagement and participation
- These include:
  - Knowledge, beliefs and attitudes, and social and cultural values
  - Emotions, including both negative and positive emotions
  - Social identifications and a sense of belonging
  - A sense of perceived power, influence and efficacy at both the individual and the collective levels
  - Interest, motivations, goals and behavioural intentions
  - Perceptions of opportunities for, and barriers to, participation
- In addition, WP4 has developed ***two theoretical models***:
  - A model of how the various ***social factors*** might be causally related
  - A model of how the various ***psychological factors*** might be causally related

# The model of the social factors



# The model of the psychological factors



# The purpose of the theoretical models developed by WP3 and WP4

- These theoretical models developed by WP3 and WP4 are being used to generate *theoretically motivated research questions* for empirical investigation by Work Packages 5 and 6
- The data from WP5 and WP6 will subsequently be used to evaluate the empirical adequacy of these various models

# Work Package 5: Modelling existing survey data

- WP5 is testing the theoretical models using *existing survey data*, in particular, data from ***Eurobarometer*** and from the ***European Social Survey*** – this work package is still ongoing
- ***Eurobarometer*** has been used to identify changes since 1973 on a series of indicators across countries – these include the proportion of the population voting, satisfaction with democracy, trust in politicians, political attentiveness, political ideology and interest in politics
- Separate analyses have been run for men and women, young and old people, and ethnic minority individuals, to obtain a detailed picture of variations in participation

- The ***European Social Survey*** has been used to provide more detailed information across the 22 sampled countries between 2002 and 2004, again broken down by demographics
- These analyses have shown that there is considerable ***variation between countries*** in levels of participation
- There is considerably more variability between countries in ***civic and non-conventional political*** forms of participation (such as involvement in humanitarian and environmental groups) than in ***conventional political*** forms of participation (such as voting)
- Significant variations between countries in the magnitude of some of the ***individual drivers*** of participation (such as citizenship beliefs and social trust) have also been identified
- These patterns clearly demonstrate the need for theoretical explanations to encompass not only ***individual*** and ***social*** level drivers of political and civic participation but also ***macro*** level drivers

- **Multilevel modelling** has also been used by WP5 to provide a more thorough empirical assessment of variations in political participation across countries
- This work has distinguished between different forms of participation, and a detailed individual level model for each form of participation has been generated
- These models confirm much of the existing research literature about the drivers of participation
- In addition, a series of **country level indicators** has been identified from other existing data sets, and these indicators are now being used in a detailed examination of how variations in participation relate to the particular macro contexts that apply within different countries
- Finally, **structural equation modelling** is being used to test the psychological model developed by WP4 using the data from the ESS

# Work Package 6: Processes in the co-construction of citizenship in different life contexts

- Whereas WP5 is using existing data sets, WP6 is collecting *new data* to address the goals of the project and is focusing on areas which are not covered by the existing survey data
- In particular, WP6 is examining the social and psychological processes involved in the *co-construction of citizenship* in different *life contexts*, including the family, the peer group, education, the media, non-political organisations and political institutions
- WP6 is also examining how constructions of citizenship and patterns of interaction in different life contexts are related to the *skills, attitudes, identities, motivations, knowledge* and *belief systems* which underlie active civic and political engagement and participation
- Each team in the consortium is collecting data in WP6 from both their own local *national group* and from *two ethnic minority or migrant groups* living in their country

# The national and ethnic groups being studied within each country

- **England, UK:** English, Congolese, Bangladeshis
- **Belgium:** Belgians, Turks, Moroccans
- **Czech Republic:** Czechs, Roma, Ukrainians
- **Germany:** Germans, German resettlers from Russia, Turks
- **Italy:** Italians, Albanians, Moroccans
- **Portugal:** Portuguese, Brazilians, Angolans
- **Sweden:** Swedes, Kurds of Turkish background, Iraqis
- **Turkey:** Turks, Roma, Turkish resettlers from Bulgaria
- **Northern Ireland, UK:** Northern Irish Catholics, Northern Irish Protestants, Chinese, Polish

# The first phase of WP6: Focus groups

- *Focus groups* were conducted with women and men aged either **16-18 years old** or **20-26 years old** from all of these different groups
- The underlying idea here was to compare young people who did not yet have the right to vote with young adults who do have the right to vote
- In general, the focus groups revealed that these individuals felt that they had **no voice** because they were not taken sufficiently seriously by older adults
- These individuals also felt that they were viewed as being 'at risk' more than as citizens, and in some cases they felt that politicians were not genuinely interested in their issues
- They were also aware of their **limited capacity to influence politics**, and felt that they did not have the competences, the power or the access to information, resources and opportunities to have any influence
- Actual **participation experiences** largely involved environmental groups, voluntary work, signing petitions, demonstrating and recycling

- The focus groups also revealed that there was ***tension between identity and citizenship for ethnic minority and migrant individuals*** due to their ambiguous position in relationship to their countries of origin and to the countries in which they were now living
- Problems related to ***racism and discrimination*** were also salient for ethnic minority and migrant individuals
- In general, there was a ***distrust of politicians***
- There were also ***ambivalent perceptions of the effectiveness of civic and political participation***: on the one hand, they thought that most forms of participation are not effective, but on the other hand they did recognise the effectiveness of action at the local level which could produce change
- The European level, and even the national level, was ***seldom mentioned*** spontaneously by the participants
- Other family members, teachers, youth workers, peers and the media were referred to by the participants as their main ***sources of influence and information***

# The second phase of WP6: Interviews

- **Interviews** were then conducted with some of these other individuals who had been identified during the focus groups to be important sources of influence on the focus group participants
- These interviews primarily involved **parents, teachers and youth workers**, as these were the most frequently cited sources of influence
- The interviews revealed that the **conceptions of citizenship** held by these influential individuals tended to focus mainly on the legal status of citizenship and practical issues related to participation opportunities
- The interviewees stressed **the need to overcome institutional discrimination** in order to promote equal access for young people, ethnic minorities and migrants
- They also emphasised the **connection between education, employment, financial situation and full-rights citizenship**

- They recognised the general interest and involvement of young people in ***environmental and human rights issues***, despite their levels of engagement and participation often not matching the interviewees' expectations
- They also recognised that there is often ***a lack of interest in other civic and political issues***, with low levels of participation occurring because of limited opportunities and a lack of information by young people
- The ***strategies*** which the interviewees used to encourage civic and political involvement among young people included:
  - Providing opportunities and information
  - Trying to overcome parental disinvestment in the education of their children
  - Counteracting the inflexibility of school curricula by creating conditions for the promotion of civic and political participation
  - Encouraging flexibility, commitment and freedom of choice
  - Acting as role models

# The third phase of WP6: A quantitative survey

- On the basis of the theoretical models developed by WP3 and WP4, and on the basis of the findings which have emerged from the focus groups, a ***quantitative questionnaire*** has been designed
- This questionnaire is currently being used in ***a large-scale survey*** of 16- to 18-year-olds and 20- to 26-year-olds in all of the participating countries
- Data are being collected from ***a minimum number of 240 participants*** from each national group, ethnic minority group and migrant group that is being studied within each country
- ***Statistical analyses*** will subsequently be conducted to test the theoretical models which have been developed by WP3 and WP4 in detail

- The ***variables which are being measured*** in the survey include all of the following:
  - Civic and political participation experiences
  - Political interest
  - Political attentiveness
  - Political knowledge
  - Internal and external efficacy
  - Trust in institutions and in government
  - Motivations and emotions regarding participation
  - Perceived barriers to participation
  - Perceived social norms
  - Social well-being and interpersonal trust
  - Sense of community
  - Strength of national, ethnic and religious identifications, and religiosity
  - Support for minority rights
  - Detailed demographic information about each participant

# Work Package 7: Theoretical integration and practical recommendations

- This *final work package* will begin in September 2011, after the WP5 analyses and the WP6 analyses of the survey data have been completed
- The *two main aims* of this final work package will be:
  - To construct *a multi-level process model of civic and political engagement and participation* – this new model will aim to integrate the *macro, social* and *individual* level factors which have been explored by WP3 and WP4 into a single overarching model
  - To formulate *a series of policy recommendations*, including specific recommendations for interventions and practices which can be used at EU, national and regional levels to enhance civic and political engagement and participation

# Presentations on the PIDOP project which are taking place at this conference

- **WP3:** Symposium 1 - Political Agency: the missing link between individual and collective action?
- **WP6:** Symposium 3 - Citizenships conceptions and experiences across generations, genders and social groups
- **WP6:** Symposium 4 - Civic and political participation and discrimination
- **WP2:** Round Table Discussion - Active citizenship in Europe: strategies for participation, dialogue and civic engagement
- In addition, several members of the PIDOP Örebro team are presenting a symposium on a major longitudinal study which they are currently conducting in Sweden: Symposium 2 - Young people's civic interests in parliamentary and extra-parliamentary modes of engagement

# Further details of the PIDOP project

- You can download copies of all our Newsletters and Policy Briefing Papers directly from the project website:

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

- If you would like to receive further information on a regular basis about the PIDOP project, please send an email to the Project Manager, David Garbin:

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Processes Influencing Democratic Ownership and Participation

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