



Project Website DEC (WP1)

EU-Programme

HORIZON.2.2 - Culture, creativity and inclusive society Main Programme

HORIZON.2.2.1 - Democracy and Governance

Topic

HORIZON-CL2-2024-DEMOCRACY-01-04 - The interrelation between social, cultural and political identities, as well as the sense of belonging, and democracies

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Preface

This document presents the We-ID project website, that will raise public awareness. It will host the project results, including the findings and insights produced through output produced in the We-PARL (WP7) and various media activities (see PEDR Plan for Exploitation and Dissemination). It will also provide open access links to the data produced and used in the project.

The website is a constantly changing tool that is adapted to the needs of project communication. The results generated in the project determine the formats used on the website, what leads continuously review and improvements, so that necessary adaptations can be made at any time. Regular improvements should be made based on lessons learned. All project partners will be involved in the process and kept regularly updated.

Purpose of the deliverable

Installing the We-ID project website is part of WP1. The deliverable D1.2 describes why a website was chosen as a communication tool for the We-ID project results and why it was designed in the form in which it went online in early April 2025.

Why do we need a project website? It offers plenty of space for comprehensive information compared with social media platforms. Presenting project results in context with useful background information strengthens the expertise of the project partners and builds trust in the research results. Especially when a project is as complex as We-ID you have the opportunity to provide detailed explanations on a website. A website with an availability 24/365 can quickly and frequently be updated and adapted. It contributes to stakeholder involvement, as quickly needed information or contact options are immediately available. If you provide information about current activities and research results on the homepage frequently, interested people will visit the website more often because they benefit from it. It also increases the visibility of the website in search engines. Social media presence can also pay off for website's visibility, since search engines can more easily assign it to a category based on the social media profile of the project and will reward this with higher ranking. Also valuable backlinks on social media will be collected, which will improve website's visibility. At the moment we analyse which channels our target audience particularly enjoys using to provide them with regular content (see PEDR Plan for Exploitation and Dissemination). A project website can be a cost-effective and targeted "marketing tool" to increase the visibility of the project and it becomes even more valuable if it is continually maintained and optimized.

Intended audience

The level of dissemination of this document is public. It is mainly addressed to the members of the consortium as well as to the members of the European Commission.

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Control Sheet

Version History			
Version	Date	Modified by	Summary of Changes
Homepage D1.2	31.05.2025		Initial Version

List of Participants

Participant No. *	Participant Organisation Name	Country
1 (Coordinator)	University of Goettingen (UGOE)	Germany
2	Bocconi University (UB)	Italy
3	University of St. Andrews (USTAN)	Great Britain
4	Institute for Population and Human Studies (IPHS)	Bulgaria
5	Institute of Social Sciences Ivo Pilar (IPI)	Croatia
6	Max Planck Society (MPG)/Population Europe	Germany
7	Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS)	IGO, Sweden
8	THE CIVICS Innovation Hub (CIVICS)	Germany

Objectives

The European Union's promise of prosperity and security is based on the principle of "unity in diversity" and the guarantee of fundamental freedoms, rights and democratic participation of its citizens. The vast majority of EU citizens share these values. At the same time, democracies are in crisis. Populist parties are fuelling fears and spreading the narrative that migration leads to a loss of identity. There is no doubt that migration always raises the question of identity and belonging. How do we organize integration and participation in such a way that cohesion is created despite diverse identities? The project "Identities - Migration - Democracy" (We-ID) is therefore concerned with the transformation of individual and collective identities, social and territorial cohesion and democracy under the conditions of demographic change, particularly with regard to migration and growing population diversity. We-ID follows an innovative research path by a) analysing the impact of migration on identities, belonging, cohesion and democracy, taking into account both the impact on host communities and the changes in the identities of migrants and their descendants, and b) elaborating the interrelationship between identities, cohesion, resilience and democracy. In addition to quantitative data analysis, we will use qualitative methods at the local level (e.g. pilot study in a border region, content analysis, case studies) to look for factors that strengthen resilient democratic

communities. By consistently pursuing a transdisciplinary approach within our Policy, Advocacy and Research Lab (We-PARL) throughout the project, we will create a platform for mutual learning between different stakeholders from the European to the local level, while at the same time contributing to evidence-based and thoroughly discussed policy recommendations. In addition, based on our findings, we will develop materials such as toolboxes that can be used by practitioners and local actors (We-SCOUTS).

In detail, We-ID pursues the following objectives:

- Objective 1:** Revise and evaluate the relevant conceptual issues concerning identities, belonging and cohesion, and establish their relationship with resilience and democracy, with a particular emphasis on migration.
- Objective 2:** Map trends and patterns of identities, belonging and cohesion together with their drivers, including geographic differences, gender, age and education, as well as immigrant status and employment.
- Objective 3:** Investigate how the social identities and political participation of immigrants and their descendants differ across European countries, what factors influence identity and participation of immigrants, and what assumptions can be made for the future.
- Objective 4:** Extending objectives 2 and 3 through a regional pilot study in a Bulgarian border region. To analyse, how migration flows affect both the migrant communities themselves and their identities, and the communities exposed to new and large-scale immigration.
- Objective 5:** Development of an inclusive concept for resilient democratic communities (ReDeCos), through the identification (five case studies) of local factors that hinder or strengthen belonging.
- Objective 6:** In addition, development of a Civic Competences Toolbox (CCT) for local actors (We-SCOUTS) equipped with civic skills and competences to support local communities, moderate conflicts and controversies and create spaces for participation.
- Objective 7:** Establish the We-PARL - Policy, Advocacy and Research Lab - transdisciplinary platform, the tool which supports all thematic research areas foreseen in the project.
- Objective 8:** To disseminate We-ID findings, drawing on the outcomes and findings from the We-PARL, communicating them to a broader audience.
- Objective 9:** The project will identify factors at both national and local level that hinder social and political participation and at the same time develop policy recommendations on how to achieve equality and mitigate discrimination against women, LGBTIQ+ and ethnic minorities.

We-ID Website

The We-ID project website is integrated into the structure of the Georg-August-University Göttingen website, as this is a requirement of the university but also offers numerous benefits. Online publications need budget and “havens”. The obvious foundation for website functionality is that they are easily accessible and have long-term technical support, what includes creation, hosting and maintenance. While being a subpage of the university website means on one hand you’re bound to the university’s pre-built website building blocks. But in the other hand, it offers the advantage that hosting and technical updates are automatically provided and we can leverage the expertise and infrastructure of the communication department of the university. A big advantage is that there are no additional costs for website development and hosting that burden the project budget. And the question of where the website will remain after the end of the project and who will be responsible for it is also irrelevant, since the Chair of Rural Sociology, to which the website is assigned, will remain responsible for the website even after the end of the project. An institution hereby assumes the long-term maintenance and archiving of the website content (see DMP Data Management Plan).

During the project period, the science communication staff member and the project manager will share responsibility for maintaining the website content. To ensure a continuous flow of text contributions, they are in close contact with the project partners. As editors, they ensure that the work is kept up to date throughout the project.

Homepage “We-ID identities – Migration – Democracy”

The project homepage can be accessed via the short URL: www.uni-goettingen.de/We-ID

This landing page provides a rough overview of the project’s topic and then links to the subpages: “Project Description”, “Current Events and Information”, “Publications” and “Press reviews” (not yet activated). All pages are available in both English and German. The language can be changed via an icon. With the information content being the main focus, texts are not too short, but also not artificially stretched.

For the German version, we have translated all explanatory text passages into “easy language” in the sense of low-threshold to our project content. This is essentially for a project that deals with migration and whose results will certainly also be of interest to people with migration experience and limited German language skills. By pressing the following icon, you can immediately access the text passages in “Easy language”:



To ensure high recognition, the We-ID logo is displayed on all subpages and the We-ID Colour Codes are used, where this is possible:



Colour Codes We-ID

Orange: CMYK (0/64/87/0) RGB (238/117/44)

Apricot: CMYK (0/29/38/0) RGB (250/198/162)

Dark Grey: CMYK (0/0/0/80) RGB (87/87/86)

Light Grey: CMYK (0/0/0/60) RGB (135/135/135)

We-ID Identities - Migration - Democracy

Cohesion through resilient democratic Communities

European societies are undergoing a profound demographic transformation: falling birth rates, rising life expectancy and migration are increasingly shaping the proportion of people in different age groups, ethnic diversity and cultural identities. At the same time, challenges such as climate change, the Covid-19 pandemic along with the associated economic crisis, the war in Ukraine and the crisis of the rule of law are putting pressure on Europe's integration processes. These crises are exacerbating lines of conflict that often run along issues of identity and democracy.

The European Union's promise of prosperity and security is based on the principle of "unity in diversity" and the guarantee of fundamental freedoms, rights and democratic participation of its citizens. The vast majority of EU citizens share these values. At the same time, democracies are in crisis. Populist parties are fueling fears and spreading the narrative that migration leads to a loss of identity. There is no doubt that migration always raises the question of identity and belonging. How do we organize integration and participation in such a way that cohesion is created despite diverse identities?

The new EU joint research project We-ID led by the University of Göttingen is specifically designed to analyse the transformation of individual and collective identities, social cohesion and democracy in the midst of migration, demographic change and current crises in Europe.

- > [Project Description](#)
- > [News](#)
- > [Publications](#)



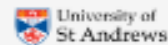
A joint research project funded by the European Union in the program HORIZON 2.2.1 Culture, Creativity and Inclusive Society - Democracy and Governance.
Grant agreement ID: 101177925

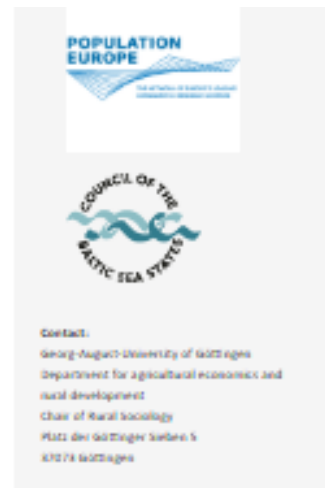


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In Cooperation with:





In addition to the logos of the project partners, the European flag with funding statement and the disclaimer are also shown here. On the German page both parts are translated.

Subordinate Website “Project Description”

Just like the landing page, the „Project Description“ homepage is a fixed page that does not change over the course of the project – unlike the “Current Events and Information”, “Publications” and “Press Release” pages.

This page introduces the contact persons for the We-ID project at the University of Göttingen and then describes the project in the chapters “Project Idea”, “Specific Objectives”, “Methodology/Conceptual Framework”, “Interdisciplinarity”, “Work plan and Resources” and last but not least, the project flyer is shown for download and printing.

[HOME](#) [STRUCTURE OF THE DEPARTMENT](#) [CHAIRS](#) [EVENTS](#) [DISCUSSION PAPER](#) [LIBRARY](#) [DARE-IT](#)

Project Description



The aim of We-ID is, to establish the links between identities, belonging, cohesion and democracy under the conditions of ongoing migration in order to develop a concept for resilient democratic communities (ReDeCos) culminating in recommendations for action to protect democracies, support social and territorial cohesion and build a diverse Europe together.

Project Idea

In the coming years, the effects of climate change and accelerating demographic processes such as ageing and migration will become even more noticeable and influence European societies in terms of their age structure, ethnic composition and social, cultural and political identities. The project “Identities - Migration - Democracy” (We-ID) is specifically designed to analyse the transformation of individual and collective identities, cohesion and democracy in the midst of migration. In order to protect European democracies from the potential threats of political crises and extremist hostility, it is essential to analyse and understand how resilient democratic communities can actively promote cohesion and a sense of belonging.

The project takes an inter- and transdisciplinary approach, involving researchers from the fields of sociology, demography, psychology, geography and political science, as well as a range of practitioners from local government and civil society.

The research questions will be addressed using mixed methods, utilising both qualitative and quantitative methods. The project will build on European and regional datasets on population trends, the development of political processes, regional disparities and identities, and will produce new case studies on selected communities in the partner countries.

Based on this data, we are creating a concept for resilient democratic communities (ReDeCos) and developing a Civic Competences Toolbox (CCT) to strengthen local actors (We-SCOUTS). An important innovation is the establishment of a Policy, Advocacy and Research Lab (We-PARL) with the aim of supporting the research process and reflecting on the results achieved in the course of the project. The We-PARL will be composed of academics, policy makers and civil society and will promote a double learning loop and feedback to enable the development of joint solutions. A number of activities are planned for structuring the We-PARL, including roundtable discussions (i.e. focusing on new ideas in an on specific research topics in the respective working group), dialogue forums (i.e.



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Specific objectives

The overarching aim of this transdisciplinary research project We-ID is to improve the understanding of the long term drivers and patterns of identity, belonging and cohesion and how they relate to resilience and democracy, with a particular focus on the impact of migration, and to use this knowledge to develop a concept of resilient democratic communities (ReDeCos) while empowering local actors (We-SCOUTS) with competences to stabilise and build these cohesive communities.

In detail, We-ID pursues the following objectives:

Objective 1. Revise and evaluate the relevant conceptual issues concerning identities, belonging and cohesion, and establish their relationship with resilience and democracy, with a particular emphasis on migration.

Objective 2. Map trends and patterns of identities, belonging and cohesion together with their drivers, including geographic differences, gender, age and education, as well as immigrant status and employment.

Objective 3. Investigate how the social identities and political participation of immigrants and their descendants differ across European countries, what factors influence identity and participation of immigrants, and what assumptions can be made for the future.

Objective 4. Extending objectives 2 and 3 through a regional pilot study in a Bulgarian border region. To analyse how migration flows affect both the migrant communities themselves and their identities, and the communities exposed to new and large-scale immigration.

Objective 5. Development of an inclusive concept for resilient democratic communities (ReDeCos), through the identification (five case studies) of local factors that hinder or strengthen belonging.

Objective 6. In addition, development of a Civic Competences Toolbox (CCT) for local actors (We-SCOUTS) equipped with civic skills and competences to support local communities, moderate conflicts and controversies and create spaces for participation.

Objective 7. Establish the We-PARL - Policy, Advocacy and Research Lab - transdisciplinary platform, the tool which supports all thematic research areas foreseen in the project.

Objective 8. To disseminate We-ID findings, drawing on the outcomes and findings from the We-PARL, communicating them to a broader audience.

The project will identify factors at both national and local level that hinder social and political participation and at the same time develop policy recommendations on how to achieve equality and mitigate discrimination against women, LGBTQIA+ and ethnic minorities.

Methodology / Conceptual framework

The **resilient democratic communities (ReDeCos)** lie at the core. These can be national or regional communities or more local ones, such as workplaces, associations and neighbourhoods, which ideally actively address social challenges through public negotiation and conflict resolution that oppose discrimination, marginalization and exclusion. They are inclusive and integrative social places, which (see Figure 1) are generated through identity, cohesion and a sense of belonging in the respective communities. At the same time, ReDeCos are created by inclusive local communities that respect cultural and social identities and enable all citizens to participate in public life. These reciprocal feedback loops can, therefore, prove to be either a virtuous or vicious circle. The aim is to develop conditions for the success of ReDeCos on the basis of empirical results and stakeholder dialogue.



Click on Image to enlarge!

We are living in an **era of polycrises** (Tooze 2022; Global Risk Report 2023), i.e., multiple crises characterized by the fact that they influence and exacerbate each other. The EU, nation states and people will continue to be exposed to crises, shocks and unpredictable changes in the future (Aassve et al. 2020) and they will have to live through and cope with them. Some of these changes may occur suddenly and unexpectedly (e.g., a pandemic, refugee flows, an armed conflict, an economic crisis) - others take place gradually but still have a huge impact (e.g., climate change, demographic change, digitalisation). Ongoing migration represents a particular current and future challenge for local communities, nations and the EU. We, therefore, pay particular attention to the impact of migration in our analyses. This multitude of simultaneous crises challenges the resilience of democratic communities, but can be cushioned through identity, a sense of belonging and social cohesion. On the other hand, resilient local communities can ameliorate crises and create identity and cohesion through participation, integration, and trust. Structural parameters: Identities, feelings of belonging and cohesion, and living together in communities are shaped by the (co)action of structural factors such as culture, religion, region, the welfare state, the organization of democracy and gender relations. Furthermore, identities, feelings of belonging and cohesion, and living together in communities influence each other, but it is not clear how the individual components interact.

Interdisciplinarity

Exploring the complex relationships between identities, belonging, cohesion and resilient democracies in post migratory societies requires a strong foundation in interdisciplinary research: Quantitative methods are essential to identify socio-demographic characteristics of particular groups, while the mechanisms of identity formation and other challenges addressed in the call also create a need for qualitative methods, e.g. regarding normative concepts, realities shaped by different perceptions of identities and their drivers, e.g. in public discourse or at the local level. We can build on the strong interdisciplinary experience within the We-ID consortium, which includes anthropologists, demographers, economists, geographers, historians, lawyers, linguists and communication specialists, political scientists, psychologists and sociologists, as well as experts in transdisciplinary dialogue. Not only will case studies be carried out in the participating partner countries, but the resulting findings will also be fed back to the participants in a Civic Competences Toolbox (CCT) for We-SCOUTS. The CCT is in turn part of the overall We-ID toolbox. In addition, the transdisciplinary co-production of knowledge with stakeholders and the involvement of policy experts will promote qualitative analysis and enrich our findings with practitioners' experiences.

Work plan and resources

The Work Plan recognises that the relationship between identity, migration and democracy is a scientifically complex and politically highly relevant issue that is currently being debated across Europe. For this reason, we have chosen a transdisciplinary approach that treats scientific work and stakeholder dialogue as two sides of the same coin.



Click on Image to enlarge!

In our work plan, these two sub-areas (science and stakeholder dialogue) will be deeply intertwined from the outset:

While one work package provides the conceptual underpinning, the next looks at trends and patterns in identities, belonging and cohesion in relation to resilience and democracy, one focuses on the relationship between identities and political participation among migrants and their descendants. Another work package explores in a pilot study the impact of migration on the identities of migrants and host communities in a Bulgarian border region, while one follows up with content analyses and five case studies on the development of ReDeCos in selected partner countries. All work packages are strongly networked and work together. An own work package is earmarked for the development of We-PARL with a devoted team of experienced science & policy communicators, and the scientific work packages will be embedded together the strands of research from the work packages and the experience of practitioners. In addition, as it is our main objective to understand the interrelationships between identity formation, demographic patterns, democratic resilience and migration, the scientific work packages themselves are thematically closely interlinked and findings will feed into each other. The policy recommendations as an output of the project will feed back into the work packages, so that we can present a set of thoroughly elaborated recommendations at the

The aim of We-ID is:

- to establish the role between identity, belonging, inclusion and democracy
- under the conditions of ongoing migration
- to offer to develop a concept for migrant democratic citizenship (WeDem)
- to identify its consequences for action
- to protect democracies, support social and political cohesion and to build a stronger Europe together

Identities Migration Democracy

Cohesion through migrant democratic citizenship

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Background and Ambition

European societies are undergoing a profound demographic transformation. At the same time, it witnesses both a decline in birth rate and a rise in immigration along with the economic and social changes. This has led to a growing concern about the role of migrants in the future of Europe's democratic societies. There is a need to develop a concept of citizenship that takes into account the role of migrants and democracy.

The future of Europe's concept of citizenship and democracy is under threat. It is a challenge to develop a concept of citizenship that takes into account the role of migrants and democracy. As the future of Europe's concept of citizenship and democracy is under threat, it is a challenge to develop a concept of citizenship that takes into account the role of migrants and democracy.

How do we integrate migration and participation in a way that respects the role of migrants and democracy?

The nature of our society with its diversity and its complexity is a challenge to develop a concept of citizenship that takes into account the role of migrants and democracy. This is the only way to ensure that our society is a stronger one together.

The Project

A new ID joint research project led by the University of Göttingen is specifically designed to develop the concept of a 'migrant and democratic citizenship' and to explore its consequences for action. It is a project of high social, political and cultural significance.

A key objective is to find out how 'migrant and democratic citizenship' can be implemented in practice.

We-ID follows an innovative research path to:

- analysing the impact of migration on the concept of citizenship, democracy and participation, including the role of migrants in the future of Europe's democratic societies and the changing role of migrants in the future of Europe's democratic societies, and
- developing the concept of 'migrant and democratic citizenship' and its consequences for action.

The project takes a multi- and interdisciplinary approach, involving researchers from the fields of sociology, anthropology, psychology, geography and political science, as well as a range of practitioners from local government and civil society.

Conceptual Framework

The research questions within the project are: What is the role of migrants in the future of Europe's democratic societies? How do we integrate migration and participation in a way that respects the role of migrants and democracy? The project will use qualitative methods at the individual level to explore the role of migrants in the future of Europe's democratic societies.

In addition to a series of interviews, the project will use qualitative methods at the individual level to explore the role of migrants in the future of Europe's democratic societies.

By conducting a series of interviews, the project will use qualitative methods at the individual level to explore the role of migrants in the future of Europe's democratic societies.

As a result of the project, the project will use qualitative methods at the individual level to explore the role of migrants in the future of Europe's democratic societies.

As a result of the project, the project will use qualitative methods at the individual level to explore the role of migrants in the future of Europe's democratic societies.

We-ID Flyer for printing

Subordinate Website “Current Events and Information”

The subordinate website „Current Events and Information“ is continuously updated, most recent event at the top.

» ARBEITSBEREICHE » PROF. DR. CLAUDIA NEU » PROJEKTE » WE-ID IDENTITIES - MIGRATION - DEMOCRACY » NEWS

» SUCHEN » ENGLISH

Current Events and Information

2025

April 9-10, 2025

Kick-Off in Brussels, at the Representation of the State of Lower Saxony at the European Union in Brussels (Rue Montoyer 61, 1000 Bruxelles).

This closed launch brought together policymakers, members of the European Parliament, and civil society representatives.

Prof. Dr. Claudia Neu, Principal Investigator of We-ID, presented the project's objectives, followed by a roundtable discussion with experts from We-ID. Together, we examined key policy challenges and opportunities shaping migration and social cohesion in Europe today.



Subordinate Website “Publications”

This subpage is also continuously updated, with the most recent publication at the top.

Publications

The 2025 German Federal Election from a Demographic Perspective

Interview with Claudia Neu

In this interview, Claudia Neu shares her thoughts on what we can learn from a demographic perspective about the outcome of this last German federal election.



On February 23, 2025, German citizens elected a new federal parliament. During the election campaign, polls showed that far-right parties were gaining increasing support, which was of great concern to everyone devoted to finding sustainable ways to build and maintain societal resilience.

[Read more](#)

Policy Insights

Integration Succeeds Locally: New EU-Funded Project We-ID Explores Resilient Communities

By Claudia Neu

Despite limited resources and investment in infrastructure, many communities find innovative ways to sustain public life and integrate newcomers. This new policy insight highlights the need for more equal spaces, partnerships between civil society, local administrations, and private enterprises, and intergenerational collaboration to tackle future challenges, including integration.



Begegnungsorte Berlin © Tobias Brömmel

“The cohesion of our society will depend crucially on how well we can utilise the potential of a diverse population while promoting stable, democratic structures locally. This is the only way to prevent these changes from becoming a threat to democracy in Europe.” (Claudia Neu)



We-ID Blog

Since blogs are the most accessible way to open research processes and results, we are currently exploring the technical possibilities of integrating a blog into the website. Blogs, along with websites, are the most sustainable form of digital science communication compared to social media posts, which quickly disappear. With good search engine optimization, exciting blog posts can still be found even years later. And they serve as a showcase for researchers' expert knowledge.

We are currently developing a strategy that will enable us to run a science blog about our We-ID research project as team. The aim is to reach our peers, as well as politicians, administrative staff working on the issue of migration, civil society activists and the broad, interested public (see PEDR Plan for Exploitation and Dissemination).

Conclusion

This document presents the We-ID project website with all its components. Some sections of this document will be updated throughout the life of the project in order to monitor progress and, if necessary, take corrective action. In this way, newly emerging ideas and their implementation can be integrated.