
The MPMC Project

The Multicultural Policies and Modes of Citizenship in European Cities (MPMC) project is an international comparative research programme on the participation of immigrant and minority groups in 17 large European cities: Amsterdam, Antwerp, Athens, Barcelona, Birmingham, Brussels, Cologne, Liege, Marseilles, Milan, Oeiras, Paris, Rome, Stockholm, Tel Aviv and Turin.

In 1996 the project was adopted by UNESCO's Management of Social Transformation (MOST) programme for international policy-oriented social science. The project is a collaborative undertaking of several European research institutes, universities and policy makers.

In the research project social scientists from a variety of disciplines undertake research and comparative analysis within selected urban contexts characterised by a substantial presence and activity of immigrant and ethnic minority groups. Working with policy makers and members of local organisations, their task is to assess the development and interplay of both 'bottom-up' (community led) initiatives and 'top-down' (municipality created) policies aimed at better integrating immigrant and ethnic minorities in public decision making processes.

Key questions

Of central concern to the project are what we shall term 'channels of activation and mobilisation' in European cities; organisations, actions or institutions through which immigrant and ethnic minority communities (are supposed to) make their interests and concerns known to municipal decision-makers and other significant actors in the various societal domains.

The key-questions to be answered by all research teams can be summarised as follows;

- how do local authorities activate immigrants and ethnic minorities to participate in political decision making in general and in relation to their position in particular;
- how do immigrants and ethnic minority members mobilise to improve their position and to influence policies relating to that position;
- how do activation policies of authorities and mobilisation of immigrants and ethnic minorities interact?

In order to ensure international comparative research each research partner has detailed the socio-economic and the political structures of the city and basic data on the minority groups (composition, socio-economic position etc.) in a *city-template*

In a number of cases it is possible and worthwhile to establish more specific comparisons between a limited number of cities. Researchers have therefore joined forces in three clusters:

1. Migrant organisations, political opportunity structures and political participation of migrant communities.
2. Immigrants and ethnic minorities in the city political systems.
3. The role of the local in multi-ethnic social inclusion.

Workshops

Three MPMC workshops have so far been organised; one in 1997 in Amsterdam (The Netherlands), one in 1999 in Liege (Belgium) and one in 2000 in Zeist (The Netherlands). In the first two workshops research material was presented and the participating teams decided on the structure of further research and the dissemination of material. In the third workshop research partners of three cities presented the case of their city together with a politician and representative of that city.

Co-ordination

The MPMC project is co-ordinated by Dr. Marco Martiniello (CEDEM, Liege), Prof. Dr. Rinus Penninx (IMES, University of Amsterdam) and Dr. Steven Vertovec (Oxford University). The secretariat of the MPMC project is founded at the IMES under co-ordination of Mrs. Karen Kraal.

The co-ordination group is responsible for the implementation of the activities of the project, the organisation of workshops and the co-ordination of research and other activities.

Deliverables

Following documents can be found on the website of the IMES (www.pscw.uva.nl/imes) or UNESCO (www.unesco.org/most):

- The city templates of the 17 cities
- The newsletters of the project
- Reports of the workshops
- Key notes of Prof. Dr. Rinus Penninx
- Working Papers (to be expected in September 2000)

In the year 2000 two volumes will be published:
City Template Book

This volume is based on the city templates of: Athens, Barcelona, Birmingham, Brussels, Marseilles, Oeiras, Stockholm, Tel Aviv, Zurich and Amsterdam. The various teams have rewritten the templates as chapters for the volume. The editorial committee (Jean Tillie and Alisdair Rogers) will prepare these for publication.

Clusterbook

This volume will be based on the three clusters of the project. Each part will consist of several chapters delivered by the various research teams who have committed themselves to the concerning cluster. Whereas the City Template book shall present the data, the Clusterbook will give analyses on specific topics.

Collaboration

The Project is supported by UNESCO and will be carried out with:

- *Centre d'Études de L'Éthnicité et des Migrations* (CEDEM), Université de Liège, Belgium
- *Centre for Research in Ethnic Relations* (CRER), University of Warwick, Coventry, UK
- *Centre d'Études et de Recherches Internationales* (CERI), Paris, France
- *Centro Interculturale*, Turin, Italy
- *Cultural Planning Research Unit* (CPRU), De Montfort University, Leicester, UK
- *European Centre for Work and Society*, Brussels, Belgium
- *Fondazione Cariplo per le Iniziative e lo Studio Sulla Multi-etnicità* (ISMU), Milan, Italy
- *Fondazione Censis*, Rome, Italy
- *Forum suisse pour l'étude des migrations* (FSM), Neuchâtel, Switzerland
- *Forschungsstelle für interkulturelle Studien* (FiSt), Universität zu Köln, Cologne, Germany
- *Gabinete de Investigação em Sociologia Aplicada* (SOCINOVA), Universidade Nova de Lisboa, Lisbon, Portugal
- *Institute for Migration and Ethnic Studies* (IMES), University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands
- *Katholieke Universiteit Brussel* (KUBrussel), Brussels, Belgium
- *METROPOLIS Project*: initiated by the Canadian Ministry for Citizenship and Immigration, *Ottawa & the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace*, Washington D.C., US
- *MERGE*, *University of Umeå*, Stockholm, Sweden
- *National Centre for Social Research* (EKKE), Institute of Urban and Rural Sociology, Athens, Greece
- *Oxford University*, Oxford, UK
- *Uppsala University*, Stockholm, Sweden

Further information about the project can be found at :

- MPMC Newsletters
- UNESCO MOST Newsletter
- <http://www.pscw.uva.nl/imes>
- <http://www.unesco.org/most>
- *International Social Science Journal* 156/1998

or obtained from:

Mrs. Karen Kraal or Prof. Dr. Rinus Penninx
Institute for Migration and Ethnic Studies (IMES)
Rokin 84
1012 KX AMSTERDAM
The Netherlands
Tel: + 31- (0)20-525 3627
Fax: + 31 -(0)20-525 3628
E-mail: Kraal@pscw.uva.nl
Website: <http://www.pscw.uva.nl/imes>



IMES

Institute for Migration and Ethnic Studies

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