

CHILD-UP: What's in it for researchers?

CHILD-UP (Children Hybrid Integration: Learning Dialogue as a way of Upgrading Policies of Participation) is a Horizon 2020 project funded for the period 2019-2021 and coordinated by the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, in collaboration with other nine partners. CHILD-UP addresses the issue of integration of children with a migrant background in schools, social services and communities, through the identification of relevant data on children's condition, policies and best practices, by using an interdisciplinary approach which includes anthropology, sociology, social work, pedagogy and linguistics, law and political sciences.

The strengths of CHILD-UP are its theoretical approach, the complex methodology, the production of several outcomes for future policies and practices and collaboration with the subjects and the organisations participating in the research.

Theoretical Approach

CHILD-UP is based on a complex theoretical approach, revolving around two concepts: children's agency and hybrid cultural integration. Although acknowledging the complex intersection of the different macro-dimensions influencing the life of migrant-background children, the general objectives of CHILD-UP is the analysis (1) of the enhancement of migrant children's agency, i.e. their ability to participate in changing their social and cultural conditions of integration, and (2) of the way agency is enhanced in

educational interventions and policies, and in the children's relations with social protection services, families and communities. Agency allows negotiations that produce hybrid identities, i.e. loose, unstable manifestations of cultural identities. Thus, in CHILD-UP integration is seen as hybrid integration, in a non-essentialist and non-assimilationist perspective. Moreover, CHILD-UP combines an agency-based perspective with a gender approach, in which gender is conceived as a social construction, enhancing expectations, values, identities, roles and relationships.

Methodology

CHILD-UP provides collection and merging of (1) literature reviews, (2) existing data on policies and practices (3) and quantitative and qualitative data about promotion of agency and hybrid integration. Qualitative methods are particularly relevant for the collection of views from children and professionals (interviews and focus groups), and the ethnographic observation of school and group activities (video and audio recordings). The quantitative and qualitative field research is realised in selected areas of seven countries: Belgium, Finland, Germany, Italy, Poland, Sweden and United Kingdom.

Outcomes

CHILD-UP is an applied research project that will provide tools for professional training (including a Massive Online Open Course),

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guidelines for interventions and suggestions for future policies regarding innovative education. These outcomes will be based on the results of research, which will highlight best practices in the education system. These practices will be documented through a digital archive.

Collaborations

CHILD-UP has implemented a Scientific Advisory Board including six members from different universities and countries. The project has also implemented an international stakeholder committee and local stakeholder committees in the research areas, which ensure both suggestions and collaboration in research activities and dissemination of research results and outcomes.

Strengths of CHILD-UP are theoretical and methodological complexity, a wide range of connected results leading to integrated report, important outcomes for children, parents, professionals and organisations at local, national and European level.

The Consortium is strongly interested in any opportunity to explain the project and/or to discuss it and confront with researchers of different fields.

Researchers

How to contribute to CHILD-UP?

If you are interested in playing an active role in the project, the CHILD-UP's partnership firmly supports the involvement of stakeholders in the implementation of its activities.

How to join or get in touch?

- Contact the project manager or UNIMORE secretariat:
claudio.baraldi@unimore.it
Or the project manager:
piersola@unimore.it
- Find local research partners on: www.child-up.eu/about-child-up/partners/
- Contact the communication and dissemination working group:
communications@child-up.eu

