

General information about the research project “Values in democracy education – enhancing competencies and beliefs of teacher students through a joint study program (ValiDE)” at the University of Education Weingarten



General information

The project “Values in democracy education – enhancing competencies and beliefs of teacher students through a joint study program (ValiDE)” answers to the need to strengthen democracy education in primary schools on the level of initial primary school teacher education. It serves to enhance future teachers’ competencies to deal with social, cultural, religious and hence values diversity in the classroom and foster democratic values at the same time. For this target, three university departments of pedagogic science (located in Germany, Poland and Norway) and three local NGOs are working together, in order to create a substantial and innovative, long-lasting cooperation.

In a three-year implementation-period the Institute of Educational Science of the University of Education Weingarten, Germany is developing with the University of Agder, Norway and the Pedagogical University of Krakow a student course (online course and a three-weeks exchange programme), a handbook with learning and teaching material and examining characteristics of specific job-related value orientations of students focused on primary teacher students. Inspired by the idea of "World Ethics" (Global Ethics Foundation, Tübingen), enriched by educational concepts for peace and human rights (Arkivet, Norway) and complemented by the vision of harmony in a democratic society (ProHarmonia, Poland) the program intends to shape the students' competencies on values education in primary schools using a multilevel approach. This includes research and quality assurance of the developed offers.

The research bases on the aspects (1) importance of value orientations for values education in primary school, (2) quality assurance of the workshops (ValiDE student exchange program and online course) as well as the workshops materials developed for the lesson planning, learning and teaching materials and criteria, (3) identifying of keywords for values in democracy education to develop material that can be used for values in democracy education.

1. Procedure

Should you decide to participate, please take into account that we distinguish between groups of participants as follows:

- (1) Participants of ValiDE events (meetings, workshops, multiplier events)
- (2) Student teachers from primarily German universities participating in surveys on value orientation of teacher students
- (3) Students of the University of Education Weingarten (Germany), students of the University of Agder (Norway) and students of the Pedagogical University of Krakow (Poland) participating the ValiDE student exchange program.

Within the scope of the research project the following processing activities are carried out (numbering refer to the group of participants):

Lists of participants and photos

(1) Participants of ValiDE events have to sign a list of participation due to Erasmus+ requirements. On this list, each participant notes their name, signature and consent to the right to use the photos (yes or no). A separate list is created for each event. There is no general approval for all ValiDE events. Detailed information on the use of the photos can be found in the following chapter.

ValiDE research activities

The ValiDE research aims to gain empirical data on how future teachers think and feel about democratic values and their role as educators in this field. It also aims to develop an empirical tool to evaluate the study course in this project and other teacher education programmes focusing on values education. The study clarifies the reasons and concepts behind the development of value attitudes in initial teacher education and designs an instrument that can be easily used in different educational contexts.

Existing instruments in the field inform the questionnaire design, which is translated into the partners' official languages. Data analysis is conducted at each university and qualitative data, translated into English, is categorised using a system prepared by the University of Education Weingarten. We distinguish between two groups of participants in our research activities: Students not participating in the ValiDE exchange program and students participating in the ValiDE exchange program. Questionnaires in the framework of the ValiDE exchange program are prepared in English.

(2) In order to be able to use data from a control group, we offer student teachers from mainly German universities to participate in online surveys about how future teachers think and feel about democratic values and their role as educators in this field, e.g. the survey “Wertorientierungen von Lehramtsstudierenden” (engl.: “*value orientation of teacher students*”).

Participants of these online surveys, e.g. “Wertorientierungen von Lehramtsstudierenden” (engl.: “*value orientation of teacher students*”) will be informed about the survey, the general information and the information about handling of data with email or social media. By clicking the link to the survey, the participants accept that the IP address or other browser log data may be collected. For this reason, a reference to the general information and a consent text in capital letters for this data is inserted in the email text/social media post.

(3) Students of the University of Education Weingarten (Germany), students of the University of Agder (Norway), and students of the Pedagogical University of Krakow (Poland) have the opportunity to participate the *ValiDE student exchange program* to foster their competences.

The ValiDE exchange program serves to test the programmes (online course, different learning settings) and materials developed in the project. The accompanying research conducted during this period is part of the exchange programme. As compensation, each participant of the ValiDE student exchange program will receive a three-week trip with workshops organised, in which costs for transport, accommodation and meals are almost completely covered. By registering, they accept the provision of the data. For all other surveys and photos, the provision of data for research and evaluation purposes is voluntary.

For the organisation and implementation of the ValiDE student exchange program, the partner organisations exchange necessary administrative data. The students of the three universities remain enrolled at their respective universities for the entire duration of the ValiDE exchange program and are guests of the other institutions. The ValiDE partner organisations are given access to the image data of the events held within the framework of ValiDE and the teaching-learning materials created in the workshops. Research data is only shared with each other in anonymised form.

By registering and participating in the ValiDE student exchange program, students enter into a contract with the ValiDE project. The students commit themselves to participate in the accompanying evaluation for quality assurance and further development of the exchange programme, the online course and the materials in the form of online surveys. In addition,

the students develop Open Educational Resources, which are further processed within the framework of ValiDE and made available to the Community of Practice. For all other surveys and photos, the provision of data for research and evaluation purposes is voluntary.

Within the scope of the research project the following processing activities are carried out:

- (1) Online surveys about how future teachers think and feel about democratic values and their role as educators in this field use a standardised questionnaire to identify the characteristics of certain job-related value orientations (openness, caring, truthfulness, justice, responsibility) of teacher students. The tool we use for the online surveys is EvaSys.
- (2) ValiDE develops an empirical instrument to evaluate the study course in this project and other teacher education programmes focusing on values education. The study clarifies the reasons and concepts behind the development of value attitudes in teacher education and designs an instrument that can be easily used in different educational contexts. In order to gain empirical data on how prospective teachers think and feel about democratic values and their role as educators in this field, the ValiDE study includes an online questionnaire administered to participating student teachers and a control group at the three participating universities. The ValiDE student exchange online questionnaire consists of several parts:
 - a. Online-Self-Assessment (via standardised quantitative questionnaire) on basic teaching competences (based on the competences that the student exchange aims to develop) documents the effect of the three-week ValiDE exchange program. Students participating the program will reflect at the beginning and after the end of the program. The data from this survey will be used for quality assurance of the workshops that students complete during the exchange program. The survey is conducted via online self-assessments using EvaSys online survey. For the provision of the data for scientific data processing within the framework of the ValiDE project, the students provide this self-assessment in EvaSys for merging with a code that does not allow any conclusions to be drawn about the identity of the individuals. Description of the code see below.
 - b. In order to register which democratic values student teachers deal with in the context of democracy education, especially in relation to primary school, the participants in the exchange program document their reflections by means of scenario reflections (based on the teacher reflection instrument) and a logbook (reflection on the learning process during the exchange program) as a weblog. For the data to be made available for scientific data processing in the ValiDE project, these texts are copied into EvaSys and provided with a code for merging that does not allow any conclusions to be drawn about the identity of the individuals. Description of the code see below.
- (3) During the events organised by ValiDE (workshops and multiplier events etc.), photos are taken for marketing and dissemination activities.

The documentation and publication of the results of the research are carried out exclusively in anonymised form, without naming you and without providing information that would allow conclusions to be drawn about you personally. Results are only ever presented in processed, aggregated form.

2. Handling of data in the research project

Each questionnaire is generated and processed separately. For this reason, the pseudonymisation code is needed for the allocation to the data set during the revocation period for the online surveys about how future teachers think and feel about democratic values and their role as educators in this field, e.g. "Wertorientierungen von Lehramtsstudierenden" (*engl.: "value orientation of teacher students"*). It is the temporary participant ID. This ID is kept separate from the data. The pairing of your participant ID and your data is documented in a separate list.

The questionnaires of the exchange program are merged via the generated code that appears as the participant ID. The information in the participant ID does not have to be true, but is only intended to ensure that the participant uses the same pseudonymisation for each data set so that the data can be merged. The generated code is also required if the use of the data is objected to within the revocation period in order to delete it from the data set. The data will only be used anonymously after the revocation period. A later assignment to the pseudonyms is not possible, as these will be deleted. From this point onwards, the research data collected for this project no longer contain data that can be traced directly back to you.

During data collection, democratic values are collected and analysed for frequency across all data sets. The processing of the data takes place via keywords, which are measured quantitatively-statistically. Research results published in scientific journals etc. are presented in a way that does not allow the data to be traced back to individual participants.

The pseudonymisation code is generated with the following information. „Please generate a 5-digit-code that functions as a pseudonym for your data to replace your name and thereby your real identity. Use the following information: digit 1: first letter of your birthplace, digits 2+3: the two figures of your birthday (e.g. 21 or 04), digit 4: first letter of your mothers first name, digit 5: last figure of your postal code." You may also use other information for the 5 digits, but then you must write down the code yourself so that you can reconstruct it if necessary.

During the events organised by ValiDE (workshops and multiplier events etc.), photos are taken for marketing and dissemination activities. These are published in the interest of the funding organisation, e.g. on public platforms of the EU and on the ValiDE website. In

addition, flyers and short videos are produced to promote ValiDE or to provide insights into the work of ValiDE at scientific conferences or network activities.

The data is merged by the staff members responsible for evaluation at the University of Education Weingarten as the persons responsible for the project. The data is compiled within one month after the closure of each survey. After the data has been merged, it is made available to the other project staff members in anonymised form for evaluation. The raw data will be deleted after anonymisation. Because of this, a revocation option of one month after the last participation opportunity is granted.

3. Deletion periods and revocation period

A revocation period of 14 days is granted for the surveys. After data collection, the raw data will be merged and anonymised within 14 days. The IDs for the data sets are kept separately from the data. After merging, the raw data will be kept for the period of the revocation period. They are deleted 1 month after the end of the survey. During the project period, the anonymised data sets are made available to the partner universities for scientific use and to all project partners for inspection. In addition, the three partner universities will make it possible for students to write their final theses in the project. Anonymised data sets are made available to the students for this purpose. Anonymised data sets will be archived for a period of 10 years and made available for subsequent scientific use, also by third parties.