

ANNUAL REPORT



PARENTS
INTERNATIONAL

20
24

INSTITUTIONAL DETAILS

Stichting International Parents Alliance (Stichting IPA,
Parents International)

registration no. 70900000

VAT no. NL858503268

RSIN: 8585 03 268

ANBI status since 1 January 2023

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ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS 2024

2024 was a year that contributed to internationalisation more than any previous year. A large percentage of our work was done outside of Europe, primarily in Africa and Asia.

Our associated membership has grown slightly and covers most of Europe, America, Australia and there is a growing number of members from Africa and Asia. We have established new collaborations, thus widening the scope of our activities and focusing more on working with professionals and training them to collaborate better with parents. We also had a good success rate with various applications for funding that will provide the resources for our work in the years to come.

Growing membership is still an important sign, although Parents International does not aim for representativeness, but will further pursue our goals on the basis of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and a strong evidence-base that we are also actively increasing while collecting and sharing new relevant research.

In 2024 we have also reached some major milestones:

- We have conducted research – partly as expert assignment - and published related articles.
- We have several new publications that support parents directly as well as the professionals working with them.
- Our work in the child rights field was acknowledged when our representative became the chair of the Child Rights Committee of the INGO Conference (Council of Europe)
- We started a formal collaboration with the International Confederation of Principals (ICP).

PUBLICATIONS 2024

GUIDES AND MANUALS

BioBeo Train-the-Trainer Manual

Training manual and practical guide on advocacy for including new, relevant topics in school.

PERFECT - Handbook for School Team Leaders

PERFECT - Empowerment Guidelines

These guides give detailed information about planning and implementing local projects, especially ones using performing arts as a vehicle for intercultural understanding. The second guide also helps users to use the same or similar methodologies for other topics and using various art forms.

DEMOCRAT Teacher Guide on Stakeholder Engagement and Activity Planning

This publication provides comprehensive guidance on organising participatory projects on education for democracy.

SILENT - Family Learning Toolkit for Hearing Families of Deaf Children

RESEARCH

Foodity Research on Family Cooking Habits and Expectations

TRAINING

Parents Engage Training Manual

This manual includes a full training programme on the engagement of migrant families as well as guidance on organising such trainings.

ADVOCACY

Policy Recommendations for the Engagement of Migrant Families

This set of policy recommendations – based on research and an analysis of policies (including teacher training policies) – are intended for different levels of policy making.

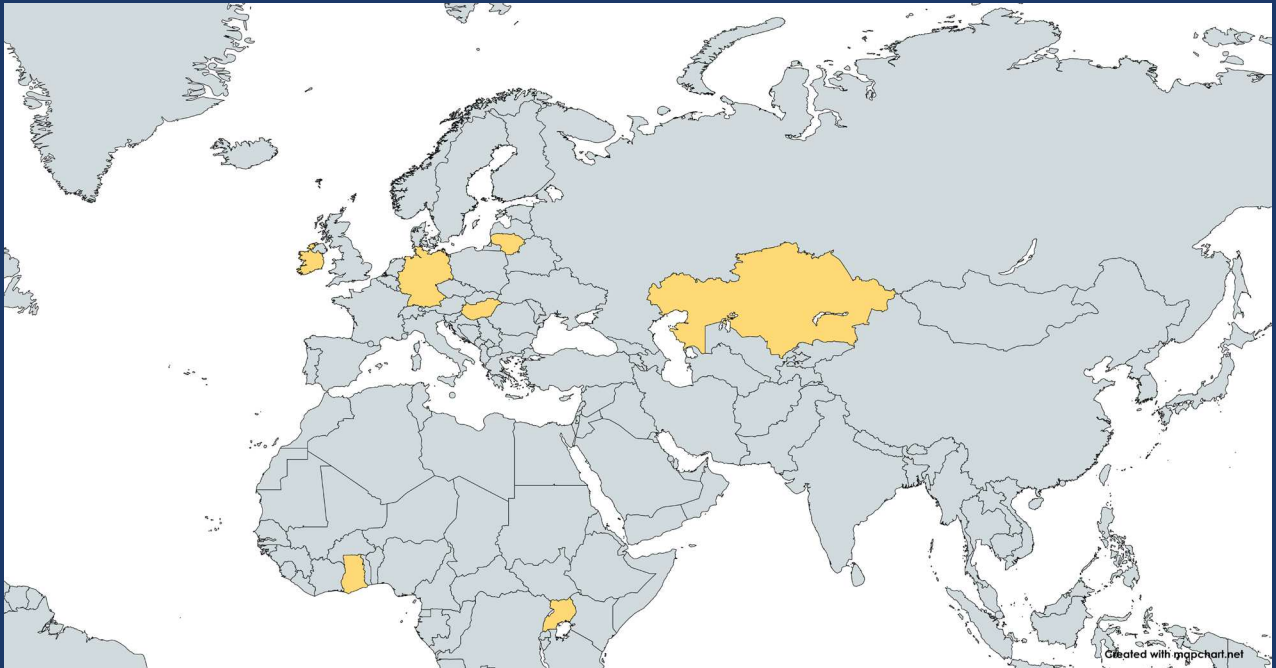
BioBeo Innovative Governance Guide

This publication analyses policies and practices in governance, and provides a blueprint for participatory governance and policy making.

EXTERNAL TRAININGS AND MAJOR PRESENTATIONS

In collaboration with local members and partners, we delivered teacher training for hundreds of teachers in

- Germany
- Ghana
- Hungary
- Ireland
- Kazakhstan
- Lithuania
- Uganda



Our work was showcased

- At the ATEE Conference in Bergamo
- At the eTwinning Conference in Brussels
- At the Fundamental Rights Forum in Vienna, Austria
- At the Global Health Education Summit
- At the Human Capability Initiative for all Gulf States in Saudi Arabia
- At the Learning Planet Festival
- At the School Leadership Forum of LISUM,
- In front of over 1000 school leaders at the ICP Convention in Mombasa, Kenya
- In the Edgehog Podcast Series
- In the Parental Engagement Webinar Series of Glasgow University

PROJECT WORK

In 2024 we continued working on some projects and had the opportunity start some exciting new ones.

PARENTS ENGAGE - ENDED IN JANUARY

Parents International coordinated another interesting project that will hopefully have an impact beyond its original direct target group, refugees, and will at least help the inclusion of all migrant children, including European migrants in school and society.

The PARENTS ENGAGE project is aiming to enhance the teachers' capacities to design effective responses for school – family links, informing refugee parents to be actively involved in their children education. For this to be achieved, PARENTS ENGAGE is addressing the multiple needs of its target groups, as follows:

a) Teachers: Considering the increased flow of migrant and

refugee populations since 2015 in Europe, schoolteachers struggle to work in multicultural environments, by improving the education of disadvantaged migrant and refugee students being in peril of ESL. As such, school staff needs to respond effectively to these challenges and be trained in multicultural environments on how to support these students and their parents. The project emphasizes on the provision of consolidated tools and training material for teacher staff, effectively supporting their professional development.

b) Parents: Migrant and refugee parents' participation in school life is hindered through multiple barriers and challenges within educationa and society. There is often less engagement by them in school processes and in their children education while many migrant students lag behind in educational achievements. Strengthening parental inclusion in local structures could enhance their involvement in their children' education.

PARENTS ENGAGE will focus on this potential, by leveraging the knowledge and initiatives already carried out by CSOs in collaboration with schools on parents' engagement in school education and in schools system.

c) Students: migrant and refugee children tend to show lower academic performance compared to non-migrant children or are

more likely drop out school. Thus, they need a safe and inclusive environment enabling their school life's integration. The active parental involvement can lead to higher academic success, more time spent on homework, and fewer discipline problems, with all features remedying disadvantage and tackle students' Early School Leaving (ESL). Hence, the enhancement of migrant children' education, by focusing on educational interventions that increase the refugee parents' involvement in their children education, is a primary aspiration of the PARENTS ENGAGE project.

In 2024, the project was fully executed and the final report was accepted. The final payment was received and distributed among partners.

PERFECT - ENDED IN APRIL

The PERForming and Sharing of Local Histories ProjECT (PERFECT Project) objectives are:

- To illustrate the design principles that inspire the project development.
- To orientate the collaborative work of partner schools.

- To give precise reference for the transversal competences to be developed using the Life Comp framework as a core reference.
- To propose how the development of cultural products may be organised in subsequent and parallel phases leading to a coherent result.

The PERFECT Project develops a holistic method to work out key transversal competences (cultural awareness and expression, citizenship, multilingual, digital, entrepreneurship, personal, social, and learning) through a transnational experience.

Students create a cultural product (drama or musical theatre, an exhibition including students' works, a multimedia product, etc.) that includes historic research, literature and art history, music, performing arts and digital skills. It starts with the identification and exploration of a local celebrity, or historical episodes connected to local history. There is collaboration in the development of parallel cultural products and sharing of resources for learning.

In 2024, IPA has contributed substantially to the project's practical outputs and the final conference. Due to delays by the Italian National Agency, the report is not yet accepted and the final payment is not yet received.

BioBeo

BioBeo is a 2 year, €2M Horizon Europe project with 15 partners, bridging theory and practice. Its overall aim is to develop and deploy an education programme to enhance understanding and engagement across society regarding lifestyle, circularity and bioeconomy, using 5 bioeconomy themes: interconnectedness, outdoor learning, forestry, life below water and the food loop. A network committed to promoting the bioeconomy concept will co-create and co-deliver the programme. EdBioEc will provide for better coordination between bio-science and education in schools by developing the Circular Economy Science-Society message with a particular focus on circular lifestyle/behaviours, and a governance framework on society-wide engagement in bioeconomy policy. EdBioEc will address social issues such as gender bias, disadvantaged youth groups, migrants and members of society with additional needs.

IPA was assigned the tasks of Gender Action in the management work package apart from the parental engagement angles. In 2024, we primarily held trainings foreseen in the project plan.

LET'S CARE

This Horizon Europe project aims to comprehensively understand and improve the caring dimension of educational inclusion and school success. The project's main objective is to identify determinants affecting student security as a root cause of underachievement, disengagement and school dropout, at 4 different ecological levels or pillars: 1. individual, 2. relational, 3. community and 4. political. LET'S CARE will create a theoretical and practical framework to foster Safe Learning, Safe Teaching, Safe Schools and Safe Education in each level, as an approach to break the chain of transgenerational transmission of educational and social exclusion. This approach is supposed to generate lower rates of school failure, poor learning outcomes and early school leaving.

In this project, Parents International was in charge of the project website, and is contributing on countries not in the consortium. We are also organising and managing a European Policy Maker Advisory Board (PMAB). This has been our most challenging project so far with major ethical and professional concerns. Due to these, we decided to leave the project in 2024 after the PMAB resigned. Our final report has been accepted, already in September, but the final payment has not been received as of May 2025.

PARTICIPATE

The overall aim of PARTICIPATE is to train a new generation of innovative early stage researchers (10) in highly transferable multi-disciplinary research skills, so that they can expand their employability in public and private sectors and make a significant contribution towards the development of policy and practice in parent-focussed cyberbullying prevention and intervention. The 10 PhD candidates are to research various aspects of this broad topic, with Parents International supervising the studies of one of them and focus on adults, especially teachers and adults in the immediate circle of trust, bullying children and the impact of that on children becoming bullies as a learned behaviour. The project is a Marie Curie-Skladowska Doctoral Network and Parents International is supervising a PhD student as an independent research organisation.

Our PhD candidate has been working on her research on the impact of being bullied by teachers or family members (as well as other important adults in the life of children) on becoming cyberbullies. We also hosted a network-wide training for the PhD candidates in Amsterdam in the Spring.

SILENT

The aim of this Erasmus+ project is to respond to the need for language acquisition (either spoken or sign language) of deaf children and to establish effective means of communication within the family by educating and empowering families – parents, siblings and grandparents of deaf or hard of hearing children – through a family learning approach, so that they are able to provide inclusive, nurturing and anxiety-free environment for early childhood development.

Project partners work together to develop:

- 1) Family Learning Toolkit
- 2) Pedagogy programme for parents / eLearning Course – a set of educational, training and information material to develop and strengthen language and communication skills, building resilience and becoming disability advocates
- 3) Educational online platform enabling digital learning
- 4) In-service Training Programme for Adult Educators – trained to fully harness the potential of the SILENT educational resources

By the end of 2023 it became clear that we have to develop an unforeseen actual family learning toolkit as the partners decided to limit development to a handful of videos and a tale for children. It was delivered, together with our own short, informative videos for parents in 2024.

We are in charge of the training programme for parents. We had to support partners more than expected due to the fact that some of them have no expertise in the fields they have pledged to develop training for, and some also lack pedagogical knowledge.

DEMOCRAT

The current model of liberal democracy is being challenged by internal and external factors. Education, and especially Education for Democracy (EfD) promoted by DEMOCRAT is to contribute to the defence and enhancement of democracy. This includes the values and principles encompassed within the UN's 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals. Goal 4.7, in particular, defines that education should promote sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity.

To reinforce the resilience and sustainability of democracy, DEMOCRAT aims, through a participatory approach, to elaborate curricula for EfD based on a framework of responsible democratic competences (RDCs), to test them in open, local, innovative learning projects and to develop a toolbox to support the development of transformative EfD practices in the EU and beyond. DEMOCRAT's ambitious research and innovation programme will provide insights into the points of comparison and contrast in EfD in the EU-member states, and will develop an innovative curriculum framework linking RDCs with digitalisation and sustainability. DEMOCRAT will test and analyse pedagogical practices and material considering its effectiveness for acquiring democratic competences and European identity with a particular focus on the relation between socio-economic and educational inequalities and political and social participation.

In DEMOCRAT, we are leading dissemination, and in 2024 we executed the plan successfully. We have also started developing the evaluation framework. After the first pilot projects started to be designed, we developed an extra deliverable on the overall planning and implementation of participatory projects on democracy.

DRONE

DRONE responds to the evolving landscape of teacher and student digital literacy education by recognizing the need for a more tailored approach that considers the increasing diversity of learners. The project adopts a threefold ecosystem approach, examining disinformation's viral spread, young people's ecosystem parameters related to decision-making, and engaging school leaders and parents. DRONE aims to explore gaps in digital literacy literature, conduct field research, pilot test training materials, and provide large-scale EU-level training, extending to Ukraine.

The project targets individual, organizational, and systemic impact, generating innovative teacher materials, integrating training into partner organizations' curricula, developing evidence-based policy guidelines, and establishing a Europe-wide network of DRONE ambassadors for project sustainability.

In 2024, we executed a scoping review on digital education policies in Germany, conducted research with children, parents, teachers and school leaders in Germany and the Netherlands, and supported the same in Hungary. We have authored scientific articles based on this that are being published and also showcased at scientific conferences in 2025.

EFFEct

The EFFEct research project is a dedicated initiative aimed at enhancing the quality of education in the EU. Recognizing the importance of high-quality education for economic growth and social progress, EFFEct focuses on providing evidence-based policy recommendations. The project investigates the effectiveness and efficiency of education systems and specific policies across EU countries to advance knowledge in areas such as teachers, trainers, and digital transition, as well as instruction and (adult-)learning.

With four interrelated objectives, EFFEct aims to address teacher shortages and the role of digital environments, evaluate policies related to instruction and upskilling of adults, bringing together a multidisciplinary research team from four European research universities, a research institute, and a NGO.

In 2024, we supported primary research in Hungary, and started an analysis on cost-effectiveness of digital education policy investments in Germany. We are co-leading dissemination in the project.

KITCHEN ADVENTURE

Funded by EIT Food under the Proof of Concept Societal Impact Call, Kitchen Adventure was launched in 2023 and aimed at transforming the way we perceive cooking. Starting from a simple yet powerful idea, The Kitchen Adventure blended culinary experiences, education, and family bonding to inspire positive behaviour changes that benefit both individuals and the environment. Its mission is turn cooking from a chore into an exciting adventure, promoting healthier dietary choices, fostering sustainability, and strengthening family bonds, paving the way for a brighter and more sustainable future.

The main task for IPA is to organise a participatory cooking event in 2026. We started preparing the event in 2024, but also contributed to the project by ethical advice for research and providing a parental engagement section to all lesson plans developed by other partners.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Following the calendar of special days, we celebrated special occasions such as

- International Day of Families
- Global Day of Parents
- International Literacy Day
- World Children's Day
- International Day of Education

As a supporter of Safer Internet Day, we promoted the SAILS resources for parents, school leaders and professional educators.

In 2021 IPA joined the European Pact for Skills, and the European Digital Skills and Jobs Coalition and made a pledge to support parents as (citizenship) educators as well as the development and recognition of parenting skill. In 2024 we continued working on the delivery with a high success rate. This was also the main driver behind joining the microcredentials movement.

IPA became a Supportive Partner of the new European School Education Platform as a continuation of our support for the School Education Gateway.

We have signed a new MoU Aflatoun with the aim of supporting each other's fundraising work.

The IPA newsletter kept gaining popularity with about 700 recipients by the end of 2024.

The ParentHelp Library is also attracting readers globally and became the to-go place for the topics we cover with 40-50.000 monthly visitors.

BUDGET EXECUTION

For 2024 Stichting IPA created a budget plan based on pre-financing received and foreseen in already contracted projects. and projections coming from invitations. Planning was still cautious due to the dependence on and sometimes unknown financial and human resources conditions of our partners. The overall as well as per category actual income and costs are close to the budget plan. Differences are mostly because of cost allocations. We have started the year with over 350,000 Euros in our savings account due to a high level of pre-financing in some projects that also contributed to exceptional income in the form of interest. By the end of the year, the savings balance was below 200.000 due to foreseen project work. The overall balance of the year is slightly positive including the project income deposited in the savings account.

INCOME

Expert income EUR 16,299.89

This income consisted of invoiced expert services provided to external partners outside of projects for expert work: contribution to events or research. The amount is below budget by nearly 20%, but due to project workload this is the maximum the team could cover.

Project income EUR 249,706.85

This income consisted of direct transfers related to various projects, mostly Democrat, EFFEct, BioBeo, but also included the final payment of the Parents Engage and CoMap projects. The source of this income is the European Commission. The actual income deviated downwards by about 10% from the original budget. It is partly because the pre-financing payment of 27.000 euros for Kitchen Adventure only arrived in 2025 instead of the spring of 2024.

Other income EUR 4,830.83

This amount mostly consisted of bank interest on deposit and subscription fees and services shared with the European School Heads Association, and it is five times the original plan.

Parent Summit EUR 1,567

There was a small income from the Parent Summit held in October, but most of its costs were covered from available EU-funding making it possible to provide free participation for most attendees.

Costs

Staff and office EUR 15,488.39

This amount consisted of regular costs of the IPA team including rent, mobile phone costs, postal costs, as well as the cost of staff and their trips to events covered by expert income. It is lower than the budgeted amount in line with the income. The balance of project work is positive

Board travel and subsistence EUR 0

This amount is the cost category for flights, train travel, accommodation and catering for the Members of the Management and Supervisory Board for Board meetings and representation. In 2024, the Supervisory Board met in person at a project event thus the meeting incurred no additional costs.

Networking and development EUR 6,536.17

The amount was much lower than budgeted and consisted of costs related to widening the network. It included participation at the Convention of the International Confederation of Principals and representation at the INGO Conference of the Council of Europe. Other networking activities were organised around project activities not leading to extra costs.

Project costs EUR 437,795.73

This amount consists of direct project related costs in European Commission funded projects as well as final payments to project partners in Parents Engage by IPA as coordinator. It was higher than actual costs in 2022 as foreseen in project workplans, and were fully covered by pre-financing and final payments received.

Exceptional costs EUR 0

This cost category is for exceptional costs related to the basic operations of the organisations such as legal or registration fees. No such costs incurred in 2024

BUDGETARY YEAR 2024

INCOME

Income and received project pre-financing	Y 2023 Previous Year	Y 2024 Budget Forecast	Y 2024 Actual	Y 2024 Difference	Y 2024 +/- Previous year
Expert work income	20,609.54	20,000.00	16,299.89	-3700.11	-4309.65
Project income	322,353.60	265,000.00	249,706.85	-15293.15	-72646.75
Other income	2666.26	2000.00	4830.83	2830.83	2164.57
Long term loan from members	0	0	0	0.00	0 00
Savings account	300000.00	350000.00	370666.26	20666.26	70666.26
Parent Summit	0.00		1567	1567.00	1567.00
Total	€ 645,629.40	€ 637,000.00	€ 643,070.83	€ 6,070.83	€ -2,558.57

BUDGETARY YEAR 2024

COSTS

Costs, prefinancing for later and savings	Y 2023 Previous Year	Y 2024 Budget Forecast	Y 2024 Actual	Y 2024 Difference	Y 2024 +/- Previous year
Staff and office	9995.34	20,000.00	15488.39	-4,511.61	5,493.05
Board meeting travel and subsistence	1208.54	2,000.00	0	-2,000.00	-1,208.54
Networking and development	10745.77	10,000.00	6536.17	-3,463.83	-4,209.60
Project costs	337513.13	450,000.00	437795.73	-12,204.27	100,282.60
Exceptional costs	0	1,000.00	0	-1,000.00	0.00
Savings account	370666.26	154,000.00	170120.24	16,120.24	-200,546.02
Parent Summit	0		11963.32	11,963.32	11,963.32
Total	€730,129.04	€ 637,000.00	€ 641,903.85	€ 4,903.85	€ -88,225.19