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The Good European Citizen

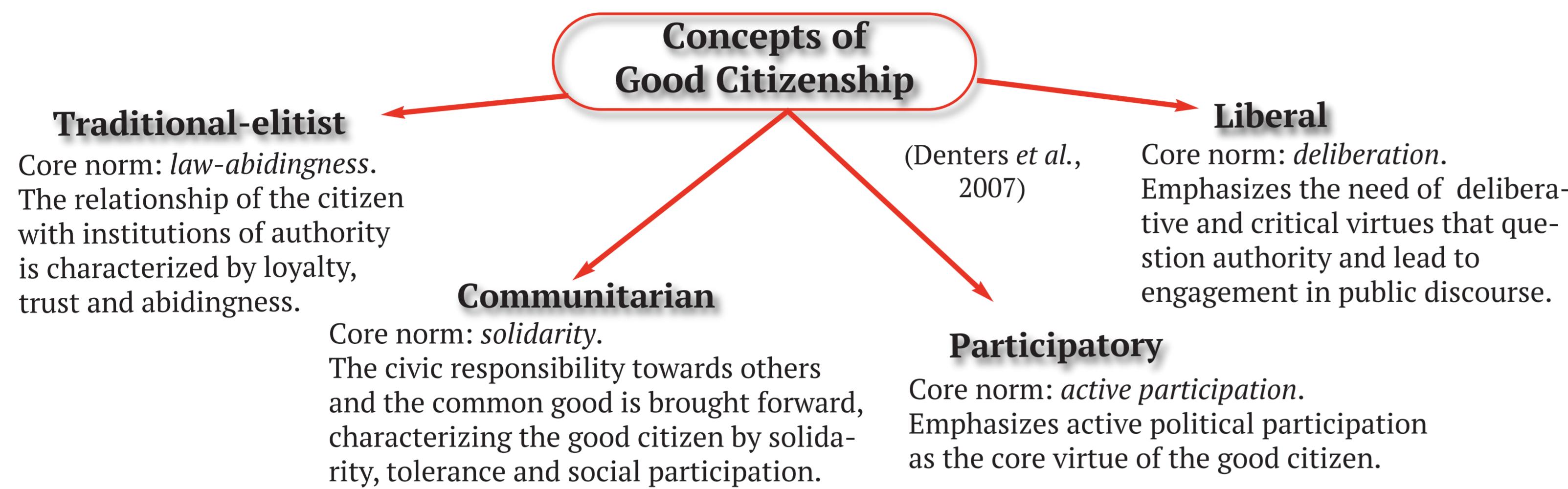
Person-centered Analysis of Citizenship Norms and their Correlates in Young People from Seven European Countries

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Background

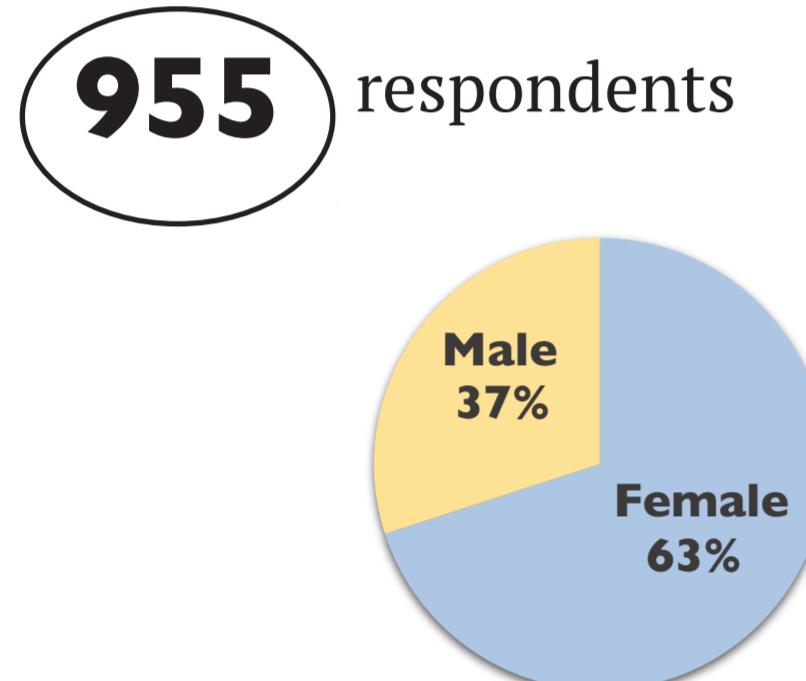


Research Questions

What are the patterns of adhesion to different notions about who is a good European citizen in young people?

How are these different groups characterized by socio-demographic characteristics, levels of participation and attitudes related to the political sphere and the European context in particular?

Sample



2 Age groups:
Adolescents 16 - 19 years old 52%
Young adults 20 - 26 years old 48%

7 EU countries: Italy, Czech Republic, Greece, Germany, Portugal, Estonia, Sweden

Method

Person-centered approach in order to identify distinct groups of young people with different conceptualizations of citizenship (Hooghe et al., 2016; Reichert, 2016):

Latent Profile Analysis with Mplus software

Socio-demographic characteristics and political attitudes → Latent profiles
3-step method for latent class predictors (Vermunt, 2010): multinomial logistic regression.

Latent profiles → Types of participative behavior
BCH method for continuous distal outcomes of latent classes (Vermunt, 2010).

Paper and online **questionnaire**. Measures:

- EU Citizenship norms: 8 items. E.g. "In order to be a good EU citizen, how important would you say it is to... support people who are worse off than yourself."
- Forms of participation behavior in the last 12 months: 6 items. E.g. "Signed a petition/ Collected signatures/ Taken part in a legal demonstration or strike." (activism)
- Political alienation: 6 items ($\alpha = .88$).
- Political support for order: 4 items ($\alpha = .67$).
- Tolerance towards immigrants: 10 items ($\alpha = .81$).
- Nationalism: 3 items ($\alpha = .73$).
- Satisfaction with the EU: 4 items ($\alpha = .68$).
- Identification: European (2 items) and national (2 items)

Results

The results identified **FOUR LATENT PROFILES** that represent groups holding distinctive European citizenship norms (Fig 1.).

These profiles tend to differ in the level of participation and in some preferences for particular types of participative behaviors (Fig. 2.)

Membership in the different profiles is influenced by some of the predicting variables considered (Table 1). Political alienation, nationalism and European identification did not have significant effect on the latent categories.

Low normativity (5,97% of the sample).

A numerically small profile is characterized by lower scores of importance on most citizenship norms considered in our measure, suggesting a possible refusal of mainstream notions of citizenship.

- Generally more passive (especially in online activities)
- Higher levels of *unconventional participative forms*

Lower media consumption on political, economic and social issues

Deliberative-critical notion of citizenship (5,76%).

The smallest group of youth consider especially important for the EU citizen to be informed, to form their own opinion about EU independently and to raise their voice concerning EU topics. Not someone who abides the law and votes.

- Generally more active
- Activist* forms, but not civic ones.

More males than traditionalist and pluralistic profiles

Less support for control and restrictions on civic liberties

Less satisfaction with the EU vs. traditionalist and pluralistic profiles

Traditional-solidaristic notion of citizenship (48,27%).

The largest group assigns relatively high importance on law-abiding, voting, solidaristic, informed norms, as well as on forming one's opinion independently. Less likely to think that the European citizen should be active politically and civically.

- Generally more passive
- No preference for a particular type of activity

More satisfied with the EU

Pluralistic notion of citizenship (40%).

All considered citizenship norms are endorsed as highly important in the second largest profile.

- Higher levels of activity
- Particularly in *civic participation*

More tolerant towards immigrants and refugees

Higher national identification

References

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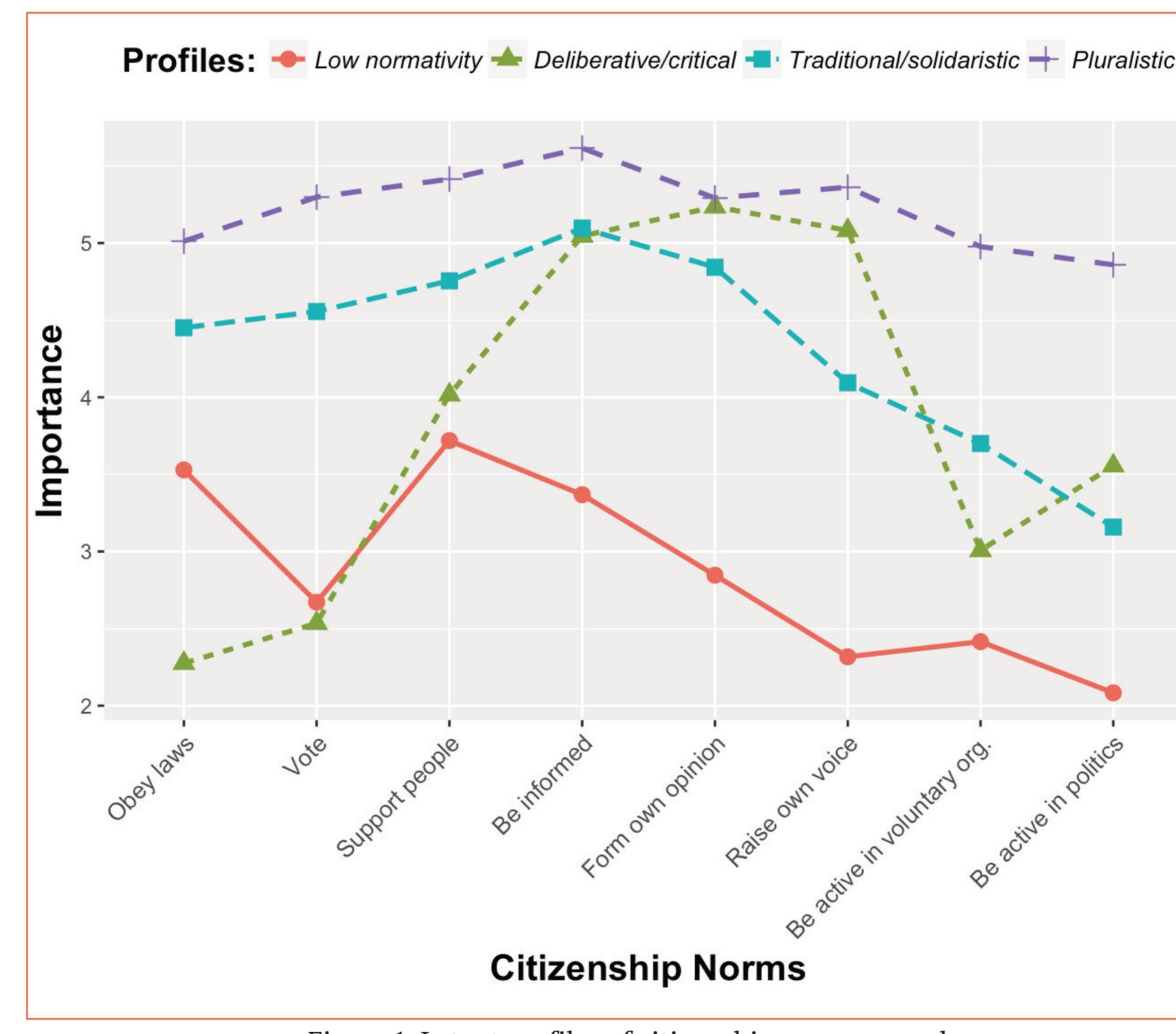


Figure 1. Latent profiles of citizenship norms: sample means.

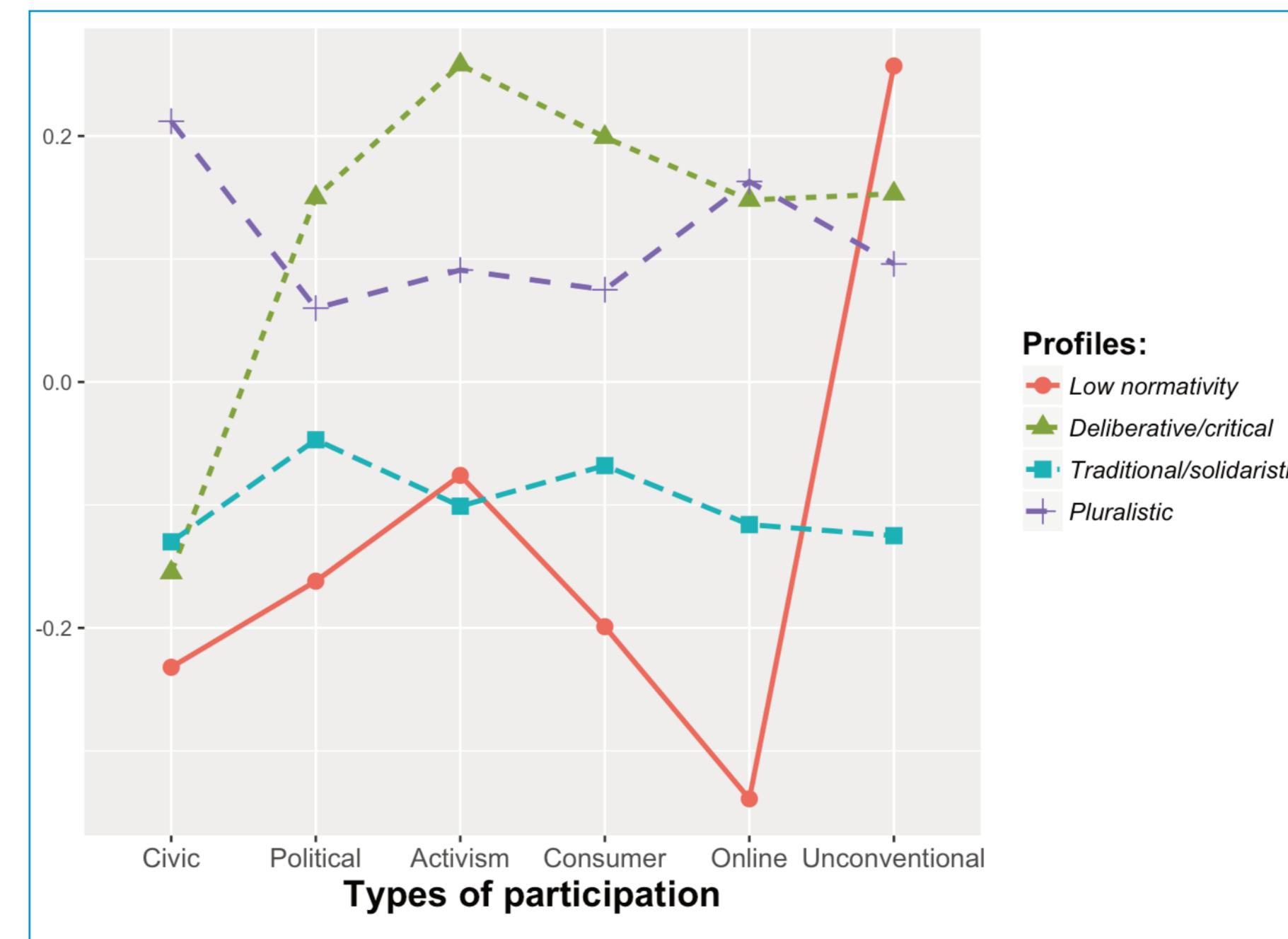


Figure 2. Types of participation predicted by membership in profiles of citizenship norms: means (standardized scores).

Discussion

Our findings suggest that most young respondents support different citizenship norms in an integrated way (Denters et al., 2007), linking traditional, solidaristic, deliberative and active virtues as important for the good EU citizen. However, we also found distinct views of more critical stance among youth, differentiated by either refusal of mainstream notions or by endorsement of solely deliberative norms. These results confirm the need to take into account youth population heterogeneity when addressing their ideas of active citizenship.

Acknowledgements

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