



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

ENHANCEMENT OF ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP AND DEMOCRATIC VALUES

Introduction

Being active in the societal activities and applying democratic values for such activities, particularly in educational programs of higher education, are the ongoing and developing phenomenon in the world. Active citizenship means to participation in civil society, community and/or political life, in terms of mutual respect and non-violence, with a respect to human rights and democracy (Hoskins, 2006). There are several characteristics of active citizenship as found in literature including the awareness of rights and responsibilities as a citizen, assumes responsibility for own actions, concern for wellbeing of fellow citizen and member of society, express argument with clarity and conviction, aware of own contribution, thinks of aims and missions of the group and community.

Equally, there are varieties of activities which facilitate to develop democratic values as an active citizenship including the provision of individual autonomy; equality; human rights; and freedom of thoughts, expression and peaceful assembly with the universal motto “all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights”. The enhancement of active citizenship and democratic values among academics, teachers and administrative staffs of higher education, particularly at university, are the recent concern of this training work package by enabling them to gain new skills, insights and understanding, applicability to the own process and characteristics of teaching/learning/evaluating and interacting with future teachers and students.

The development of community leadership and equipping with the service-learning strategies for the educational stakeholders within the context of active citizenship and democratic values are also the concerns of this training work package. Service-learning is understood as both teaching and learning methods, connecting meaningful services within the community with academic learning, entailing a significant personal development for those involved and the formation of civic responsibility where reflection and critical reflection are the means by which the desired learning outcomes are achieved. Thus, this work package of training will help learners to understand the role of active citizenship, democratic values, community leadership and service-learning for the professional development in their life under their educational, social and cultural context.

Intended Learners

Academics and University staffs within the department of teacher education program from the project consortium

Objectives

The following objectives are expected after completing this training course:

- To develop a theoretical understanding of the concepts of active citizenship and democratic values.
- To build the capacity of learners in appreciating importance of democratic values for the betterment of educational program.
- To be familiar with the evaluation process and tools used by active citizenship programmes
- To enhance the capacity of community leadership
- To explain the concepts of service-learning and analyse the characteristics of good service-learning in education.
- To be familiar with the applications of service-learning in the development the curriculum in education.

Learning Outcomes

The following will be the expected learning outcomes for the training of this work package:

- Get familiarized with theoretical concepts related to active citizenship and democratic values.
- Build a theoretical background related to the concepts in issue and identify implications on practice and experience, models of citizenship and citizenship education.
- Develop a strong sense of own culture and identity; knowledge and understanding of local community.
- Create strategies for supporting learners to explore active citizenship and community leadership.
- Appreciate critically the values and principles of the active citizenship and democratic values
- Critically reflect on barriers to participation, acceptance, inclusion and diversity and possible approaches to overcoming these barriers.
- Use reflection-based approach to tackle issues related to active citizenship and democratic values.

- Identify local structures and resources for community engagement, learning, leadership, service-learning, community-based learning.
- Use Community development approaches to the promotion of active citizenship.
- Exploring active citizenship issues from participants' own experience and the resources and opportunities available to address issues of concern through democratic and civic participation and engagement
- Competences to use evaluation process and tools for active citizenship programmes

Focus Areas

The training of this work package will be focused on the following key aspects for the professional growth of participants.

- Active Citizenship - key concepts, definitions and implications in educational, social and cultural context
- Democratic Values - key concepts, definitions and implications in educational, social and cultural context
- Evaluation process and tools for active citizenship programmes
- Community leadership development
- Service-Learning in Education

Delivery Modes

This work package can be delivered face to face, online and blended modes as for the need and availability of the learning resources and context

Ways of Learning Engagement

Participants of this work package will be engaged in diverse learning activities according to learning situation such as:

- Discussions on course lectures
- Think pair and share activities
- Team working and collaboration
- Reflection based activities
- Brainstorming and self-reflection
- Critical thinking, problem solving, creative and innovative activities

Evaluation Process

The following evaluation process will be applied to measure the effectiveness of the training in this work package:

- Feed-back questionnaires
- Project works and reflective diary
- Observation of participants' activities
- Self-reflection and presentation