

# Introduction and Methodological Background

## Active citizenship

COURSE FOR BEGINNERS

GE4Youth /Global Education for Youth Workers

## Active Citizenship

### Area introduction

The module on active citizenship illustrates how it is linked to moral values that people must possess in order to live peacefully and correctly, and how its implementation improves our relational life by raising the quality of civil coexistence.

Everyone has their own values, that is, something they consider important for themselves and for building their future: some people focus on affection, some on culture, some on money...

But while everyone may have different values, a community must share some of them. To live in an atmosphere of serenity and security, all members of the community must pursue, for example, the values of legality, peace, justice... And everyone must make a contribution to the growth of these values, no matter how small or large.

Responsible behavior is proper to free people. Freedom, in fact, does not mean satisfying one's desires all the time. Being free means being able to control impulses and behavior, being able to give up something to achieve an important goal, being able to impose rules on oneself. Without rules, human society would live in chaos and insecurity.

Active citizenship is also considered a transversal competence; in fact, it is part of the European objectives born with the Lisbon Strategy 2000. And its importance is increased by the realization that it can also educate for participation in social life so it extends the value of education outside and beyond the school setting. Active citizenship, moreover, can and should continue well beyond compulsory schooling since it consists of a mix of formal as well as non-formal and informal learning.

### Methodology background

The methodology used is centered on the reading and analysis of two excerpts from Plato's dialogues, Protagoras and Republic, which is fundamental to be able to frame in a theoretical sense and with a moral emphasis the meaning of citizenship.

The theoretical background is philosophical, and in fact there is also an introduction to Plato's philosophy. The study and exposition of the concepts contained in the two dialogues will be important as it will provide tools for a critical reading of moral values and the importance they have within a community, having a regulatory and in some cases deterrent function for actions that would undermine the quiet life.

The third part, is practical activity that will stimulate students to critically observe the surrounding environments and situations of everyday life always holding firm to the objective of the entire module and that is the development of active citizenship.





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