

A Call to Action



T-Kit
on
European Citizenship

As we have seen through the previous chapters, European Citizenship is a highly contested concept. You might be wondering what relevance this concept has for working with young people. Why is it important for a youth worker or leader to know about European Citizenship or to use it in their everyday work with young people?

If we are true to our conceptual framework, then the answer to this question lies in the challenge of individual and collective responsibility. As we have seen, citizenship and European Citizenship, both refer to much more than just a static legal status or recognition of the individual as belonging to a particular state. Rather, they are understood as dynamic, complex and integral concepts.

In practice, European Citizenship can be seen as a process of becoming responsible for one's surroundings, for other individuals and for the society in which we live, in a wider and more inclusive perspective which goes beyond national and continental limits. That responsibility can take many shapes and forms. It is not a responsibility which one can or should be forced to accept, using moral persuasion, but one which the individual freely chooses to engage in. It is a voluntary commitment to the development of a society rooted in values of respect. It is also an ethical response to the civilisational problems facing human kind and to the solving of those problems within local contexts. It is also a kind of agency, a kind of power, a kind of empowerment.

As has been mentioned at several moments previously, many young people have desires, passions and a will to participate and act for the betterment of society as a whole. It may not be expressed through voting or in formal ways, but it is there. This is where our concept of citizenship and European Citizenship can come in. It can be seen as a channel for those desires, passions and wills. In so doing, the youth worker or youth leader reshapes the youth activity or organisation as a tool for social, political, cultural and even economic change.

In the next sections of this T-Kit, we challenge you to integrate this notion of citizenship and European Citizenship into your everyday work with young people. We challenge you to engage in the process of reshaping the practice of youth work as a provocation to the status quo, as socially and politically constructive and as empowering young people to become actors for change.

We attempt to provide an educational framework for this, although as you will soon realise, we tend towards asking more questions than providing answers. We hope, that in so doing, we can provide a constructive tool for youth workers and leaders to develop activities that help young people to act out their desires, their passions and their will to change the world in which we live for the better. We like to think of this attempt as a call to action.

**“ We hope to help you to help young people
to act out their desires, passions and will to change
the world we live in for the better ”**

**A History of Europe
and Citizenship**

**Contemporary
Approaches
to Citizenship**

**Future
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Framework**

A Call to Action

**Contemporary
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**Our Educational
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**Citizenship
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