

VALUE - Citizenship workshop

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PÉCSI TUDOMÁNYEGYETEM
KÖZGAZDASÁGTUDOMÁNYI KAR



Learning active citizenship

Dr. Valéria Pavluska



New concept of citizenship: the active citizen

- The notion ‘citizenship’ has changed a lot in the recent 2-3 decades
 - As a consequence of the welfare state, the traditional understanding of the concept reflects mostly on *passive*, formal, legal attributes (being a member of a nation state, having civil, political and social rights)
 - Traditional concept of citizenship stresses apparently the relationship between citizens and the state. The focus is on the issue how people can take their parts *from* the society (See e.g.: Marshall, Thomas H. (1973): *Class, Citizenship and Social Development*. Westport CT., Greenwood Press)
 - From the last third of the 20th century a new-old understanding of ‘citizenship’ has started to emerge. This is the *active* citizenship concept. Active citizens take part *in* the society → renaissance of the idea of civil society
 - The concept of active citizenship is a reflexion on the crisis of the welfare state and also on the challenges of modern democracy (society, governance, politics etc.) The idea of civil society occurred as an alternative respond (there are others, too)





Active citizens: protagonists of civil society

- Civil society can be defined as a network of networks, communities, other social groups and individuals, which are formed
 - in the open space
 - voluntarily (not compulsory, no legal or other external pressure)
 - for different common purposes (agreement among members)
 - from voluntarily offered resources (work, donation, support)
 - through cooperation, common responsibility
- ↓
- Civil society does not come into existence anywhere and anywhen. For having a vivid civil society specific external and internal conditions are required
 - democratic hardware
 - democratic software
 - democratic humanware



- **Democratic hardware** - legal and political frame
 - guarantee for equal rights
 - guarantee for civic and political rights (e.g. liberty of speech, right of assembly and association, suffrage
 - publicity
- **Democratic software** - programs of civil society
 - initiatives of citizens
 - activities of citizens, participation
- **Democratic humanware** - human resources of civil society
 - social capital - resources coming from relations (e.g. trust, information, common interest and values, cooperation
 - human capital - all the attributes of individuals, which make them capable to behave as an active citizen



Democratic humanware

Democratic humanware - attributes, dimensions of active citizens

- **Emotional potentials - democratic values, norms, attitudes**
 - AC is tolerant, solid, ambitious, reliable, self-confident, self-conscious, assertive, responsible, takes risk, correct, accurate, creative, open minded, critical, sensitive to social issues etc.
- **Cognitive potentials - know-how**
 - knowledge, education, information - understanding, analysing, evaluation, comparison,
 - specific competencies, abilities - know how to do communication, handling conflicts, working in groups, organizing, convincing
 - knowledge of discursive techniques, creative techniques
- **Behaviour potentials - bringing things into effect, participation**
 - behaviour patterns
 - activities, performance

Human capital can be developed via formal, informal and nonformal learning





- **Formal learning**
 - literacy, general knowledge, information, understanding, evaluation (e.g. learning rights)
- **Nonformal learning**
 - trainings (communication, discussion, problem solving, convincing etc.)
 - techniques (discursive, creative etc.)
- **Informal learning - way for most of the required attributes**

You can not learn swimming from a book!

 - socialization process (family life, school)
 - experiences in different domains of life (work, schools, etc.)
 - practice (social participation, volunteering, working in NGOs)



Contact

Dr. Valéria Pavluska

Associate professor

University of Pécs

Faculty of Business and Economics

valeria.pavluska@ktk.pte.hu

