



# #ACT

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT  
ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP AND HUMAN RIGHTS





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Co-funded by Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union





# INTRODUCTION

The youth exchange Active Citizens Together took place in Bánk Hungary between 11-17th of April 2018. The project involved 35 participants coming from Cyprus, Lithuania, Romania, Turkey and Hungary. The project was founded by Erasmus+ and organised by the Theater Creators informal group.

The concept of the project revolves around the analogies between the word active citizenship and theater methods to recognize, analyze and develop the key competences using non-formal education and self-directed learning.

This newspaper was created by the participants during the program. By turning the pages you will have the chance to see how we manage to achieve the objectives by using educational and of course fun activities. We organised this youth exchange as European Union believes education about citizenship is an important step towards healthy societies. It helps people learn about citizenship and human rights through an understanding of the principles and institution in their countries.

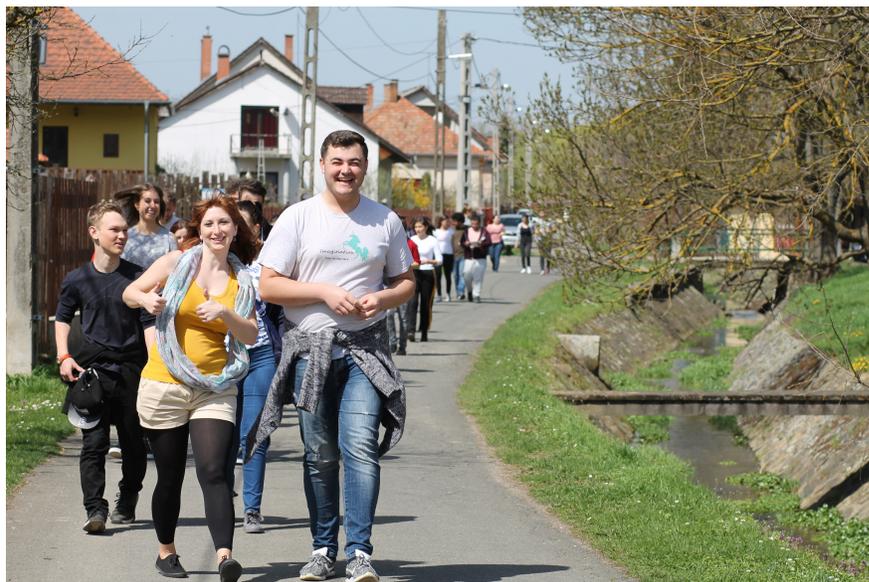


## PARTNERS

- Romania - Asociatia Nevo Parudimos
- Lithuania - Tarptautinis bendradarbiavimo centras
- Turkey - Turkiye Avrupa Vakfi
- Cyprus - PlanBe, Plan it Be it
- Hungary- TheaterCreators (in cooperation with AssociationCoEfficient)



# TEAMBUILDING



# INTERCULTURAL NIGHT

## Cyprus



The night opened by cyprriot team whose got their own T-shirts as a symbol of their country. They started with a team building game with interesting facts about Cyprus. They have show us some pictures of the main attractions of their culture.

Food and drinks:

Loukoumi, flaouna, soussioukos etc.

## Hungary

We continued with the hungarians. We were singing traditional song ( Erik a szolo) in a karaoke together. We had got a lot of laughing ,great energy and we were amazed by the complicated language. Than they translate the lyrics of the song, which were about two farmers who are going to the fields and they have just onions for lunch (auch!)

Food and drinks:

Sport szelet, Balaton szelet, Túró rudi etc.



## Turkey

The turkish team amazed us with beautiful and colorful pictures. They were teaching for us some basic words, for example: Merhaba!(hello), Tesekkurler (thanks), Nasilsin? (How are you?) etc. We were dancing one of their national folk dance (Damat halayi) followed by background music. Everyone enjoyed it to the full.

Food and drinks:

Lokum, cezerye, salgam suyu etc.

## Lithuania

We were seeing some funny parodies /videos from lithuania team about mentality and stereotypes. After that we were dancing lithuanian folk dance named” Kepe Mocia Blynus”. They gave everyone of us some beautiful handmade bracelets with the national flag’s colors.

Food and drinks:  
Sakotis, midus etc.



## Romania

The last one but not the least group were romanians. We were watching a cute and funny advertisement which was absolutely describing Romania. After that, we were watching another video showing the national values. We ended the night with a serbian/romanian dance named “Sarba”.

Food and drinks:  
Chocolates, pufuleti etc.



# TREASURE HUNT

In the middle of the project we visited Budapest, where the participants fulfilled more than 10 tasks in smaller international groups. For example they asked people on the street what active citizenship means to them, created a living statues in front of the Parliament related to the topic of the project, and promoted human rights by giving the people excerpts of the 30 Human Rights.



# CITIZENSHIP TOWER

Four culturally mixed groups had a task to build a 1.5 meter tall citizenship tower. While having different backgrounds and only being able to use the tools that were given, it was not only an amusing experience, but also challenging and demanding task.

We were given some limitations that we had to work with, for instance first group had many working members, but little resources. Second group had a dictator and their members could not speak and give advice to each other. Third one could not speak at all, and some of the members in the last group could only hold the tape or the scissors.



Everyone could manage to accomplish the tasks in a calm and relaxed manner, though we had many different barrier factors that we had to deal with. There was a great harmony and atmosphere throughout the work. Some groups started with a little brain-storming in order to find the most effective way to build the tower.

Many had a leader who was coordinating the group. In some cases we divided the tasks based on the things we could or could not do. We trusted and helped each other as we could, that was real teamwork.

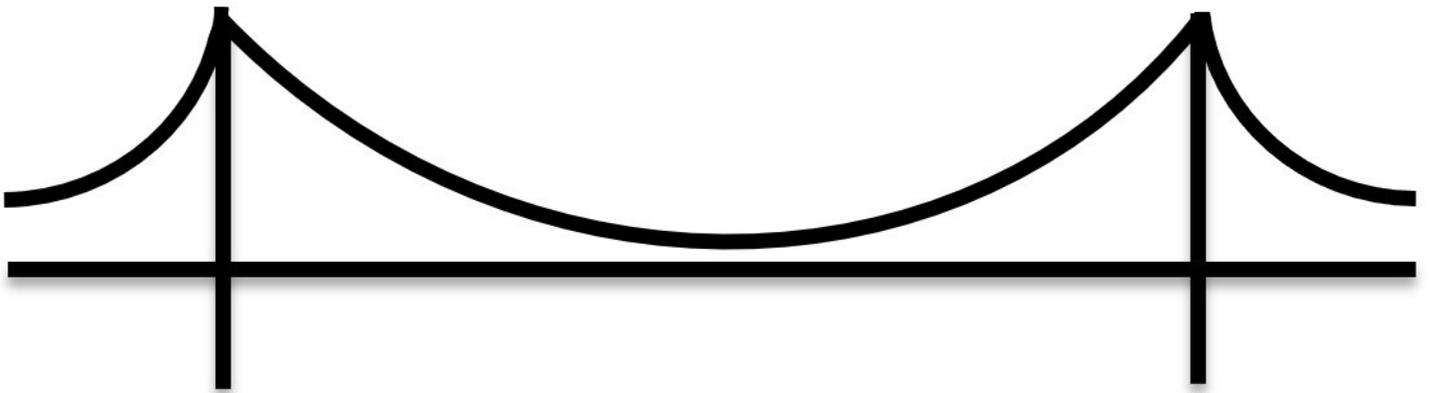


The result showed that even with difficulties we are able work productively in teams if we have a common goal and this exercise helped us to understand the 4 important aspects of citizenship: the economical, political, social and cultural part of it.



# OPINION BRIDGE

Democratic parliaments of countries pass laws to make life easier and to cease the disobediences caused by wrongdoers. Many of those legislations go almost unnoticed by the citizens but sometimes those laws cause a bone of contention. On the activity “Opinion bridge” five countries discussed the most controversial laws passed by governments in the past few months. The participants had the chance to choose either they agree or disagree with the statements that contained controversial laws about abortion, alcohol, public



The most heated debate was either only the woman should have the right to say what she wants to do with her body or if the husband’s opinion could have an impact as well. Also how it was different in various situations and cultural backgrounds.

The aim of the activity was to give each participant a chance to express their opinion and to adopt the beliefs of others. By doing that participants broadened their horizons and raised awareness about the differences of cultures.

*“Government can easily exist without laws, but law cannot exist without government” – Bertrand Russell*

# WORLD CAFÉ

The method is aimed to involve the participants in interactive discussions and to share their ideas about given topics. In our exchange we organized the session related to active citizenship.

You can read a summary of the results below:

## WHAT THE PEOPLE - ESPECIALLY THE YOUNGER ONES - COULD DO IN ORDER TO BE (MORE) ACTIVE CITIZENS?

Volunteering, charities, social work  
Critical thinking  
Supporting the minorities and respect their cultures  
Promoting cultural values  
Getting experience abroad  
Take part in discussions  
Fighting for their rights  
Reading news, magazines, books -> being aware of political issues

## ARE THERE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN BEING CITIZENS ON NATIONAL AND ON EUROPEAN LEVEL?

On national level you have all the rights, on European level there are different laws.  
You have right to have a job in more countries.  
I don't feel the difference between my Hungarian and European identity. They strengthen each other.  
On European level there are strict safety regulations on food, health and education.  
I don't really feel the difference. If you are active, you are active not only in your country.

## WHAT CONDITIONS ARE THERE IN YOUR COUNTRY TO BE A CITIZEN?

You need to speak the national language

To be born in the country

If one of your parents has the citizenship, you

You can invest in property in order to get the citizenship

will receive it too

To respect the laws of the country,

You might be invited to the army.

## WHAT CONDITIONS WOULD YOU SET UP FOR SOMEONE WHO WANTS TO GET CITIZENSHIP IN YOUR COUNTRY?

Respect the culture, religion(s) and people

To know the history and basic language of the country

To be aware of politics

To have residence and work permit

To be aware of the rights and laws in the country

Being active from all points of view

To have a yellow-slip in order to work

## HOW CAN WE BE MORE ACTIVE EUROPEAN CITIZENS?

Learning more European history; being aware of other countries' news/issues

Being tolerant

Protesting to gain our rights

Volunteering (EVS). Help others

Establish or being a member of an NGO

Love, peace

Respect other cultures, habits, traditions

Learning languages

# THE MOST SIGNIFICANT ADVOCATE OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Demonstration of humans' rights is probably one of the most important achievements of the history but unfortunately for a lot of people are still a luxury. People all around the world had fight and sacrificed their life in order to everyone gain the right to live, not to be a slave, to say whatever they want, to be protected by the law etc. but humans' rights are still a utopia.



*Vermont was the first colony which prevent salver in 1777*

*Demonstration of humans' rights after French revolution in 1789*



This story of how people should behave goes centuries before, when prophet Mohammad wrote about rules about love and kindness and Moses wrote the Ten Commandments (don't kill, don't steal, respect your family etc.). From then a lot of things have changed. The humans' rights firstly demonstrate after French revolution. Also, there are many organizations worldwide which are trying to protect humans' rights like the Red Cross. Furthermore, World War II changed social structure of the world. The United Nations, which established after this war has main purpose international cooperation and prevent future conflict.



*Early in 20th century Nelson Mandela advocate action against apartheid*

*Voting right to women in New Zealand, 1893*



Red Cross  
February 1863

Nowadays, in 21th century the situation has improved a lot but we definitely do not live in a perfect world. That is why it is important for our future, all of us to become active citizens and fight for our rights. If we believe it and aim it, we can change the world.

# TOP 5 MOST IMPORTANT HUMAN RIGHTS

## What are Human Rights?

Human rights are the fundamental principles of humanity created to make all human beings equal and respected by one another.

This is our opinion, not a universal.

## WHY IT IS IMPORTANT FOR US TO ACKNOWLEDGE OUR RIGHTS?

We ought to know our human rights as they are the framework in which society can function healthily. By knowing these basic rights, you achieve your full capacity. You should be aware of what you can and cannot do. For that reason, you need to realize your rights. We highly recommend you do check the rest of your rights by using the means given to you like internet, books, etc.



## DO NOT DISCRIMINATE

We have the right to dress and act the way we wish. We ought to respect the same right of other people.

## THE RIGHT TO LIFE

We have the right to live free and in a safe environment.

## FREEDOM OF THOUGHT AND EXPRESSION

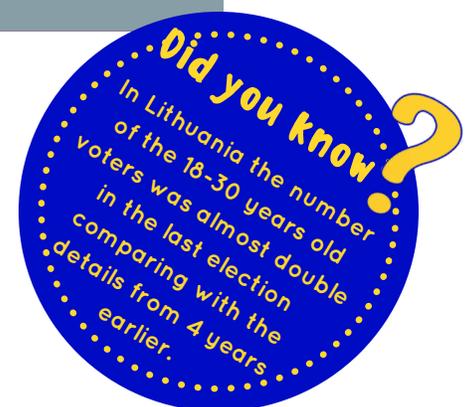
We have the right to our own thoughts and beliefs as well as to express them free. We ought to respect others' opinions as well.

## WORKER'S RIGHT

We have the right to a job, to a fair and equal wage, to have a normal working hours, and to join a trade union.

## RIGHT TO EDUCATION

We all have the right to educate ourself, to learn our rights, to expand our horizon in order to build our personality and participate fully as citizens.



# ONE STEP FORWARD

Step forward is an activity which is used in a number of Erasmus+ projects that deal with social inclusion, human rights, discrimination etc. The main idea of the activity is to point out the big social, cultural, geographical and financial gaps in our modern day society (food, housing, social expression, cultural expression, religious expression etc.)



My name is Christina and I come from Cyprus. In the game my character was a 17-year old roma girl who never finished primary school. Walking in others people's shoes could be extremely challenging as I never how difficult it was to move forward in life. I felt discouraged and shocked, as the other participants were moving forward and I only moved once. At that point I realized how privileged I am in real life. Sometimes the most basic things as having a decent housing with a telephone are so far away....



My name is Iasmin, I`m 25 years old and I come from Romania, my character role in the activity was "You are a 19-year old boy who lives in a remote village in the mountains" for sure it is difficult to imagine what kind of life that boy had, however I went into the character, tried to imagine that kind of life and tried to feel it, the conclusion after the statements were read was pretty shocking because looking at my fellow colleagues with whom we did this some of them were way in front and some of them in the back and others didn`t even manage to take a step, so in the end the social/financial gaps are there, some are more privileged than others, some have more RIGHTS than others and from what I know from the Human Rights it is stated there clearly "ALL humans are born equal".



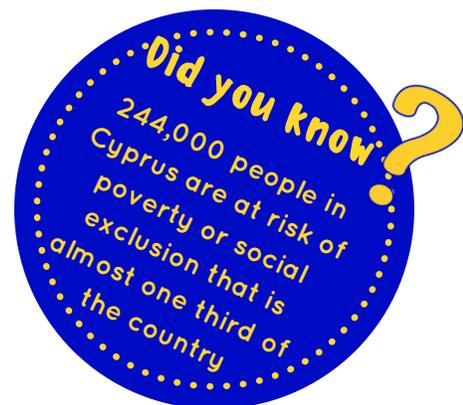
My name is Dima, and I am from Republic of Moldova but now I live in Romania! My character was a daughter of the local bank manager and. You are the student at economics at university”. When I started to play I didn’t looked around me and I felt like I don’t have limits. But at the end when I looked behind me I was shocked. So many persons stayed away from me. All people have the same rights, but unfortunately we don’t have the same opportunities.



I’m Irute Gudebskaite 19 years old and I’m from Lithuania. I played disabled young man who can only move in a wheelchair. I felt that I can do everything but at the same time I can not. Some people even though they do not have any health problems are not enjoying life. When I see people in wheelchairs I feel sorry for them. Last year I met a girl who is in the wheelchair and she is one of the most inspiring people that I have ever met. She is traveling around the world, volunteering and enjoying life. Of course she has some struggles but she is not taking them like a reason to stay in her comfort zone.



My name is Urte I’m 16 years old and also from Lithuania. In this activity I felt my character would do more than others, I had everything, all the opportunities. I was the owner of a successfull import-export company, it is obvious I had money and hadn’t had any struggles. I really felt confused when I looked back: some people were not move at all, not even one step. But in the same time as an owner of a successful company I had to move forward.





## ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● Domestic violence ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●

The third act was about a family abuse. Here the father was really violent with his wife and children, for him it was important just to drink and bet without being hired. The team decide to play this act topic because it's a real problem in present in Europe and the main idea it was that the authority and sometimes the people are afraid to do something. In the art. nr.5 from Declaration of Human rights you can find that „No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

## ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● Equality ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●

The next performance was about equality. There were 2 university students graduated from the same university and applying for master scholarship for Japan. One of these girls was rich and known in the country and the other one was a refugee immigrant coming from a poor country. When the council took the decision, they ignored the qualities, so chose the rich girl. In the art.26 (2) of Declaration of Human Rights, it says, equality promote understanding, tolerance, and friendship among all nations, racial or religious groups.



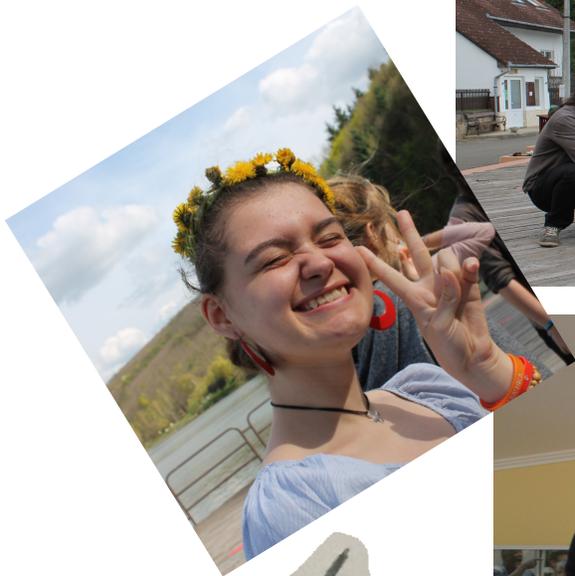
## ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● Discrimination LGBTQ and cultural religion ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●

The last act was about a really religious family they had a son who was gay and atheist. The family couldn't accept him exactly how he is. They were indoctrinated because of that they called a priest to talk with him to change his mind. It was imposible and the family in the final just decide to reject their son. In the art. 2. of Declaration of Human Rights there is presented one idea that all the people are equal and are entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration without any distiction. (ex : sex,religion etc.).



At the end of each act the participants tried to change the final of the act with finding a good way to solve all the problem showed before. They changed the oppressed person and they started to improvize. Sometimes it was impossible to change the situation, because in reality it's different, but we tried to think out of the box because we are really caring about our rights.





LOVE  
PEACE

LOVE  
PEACE





You can see the official video of the project [HERE](#)

CREATED BY THE PARTICIPANTS OF ACTIVE  
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