



Project 2021-1-BG01-KA122-ADU-000035679 Safety and success, Erasmus+  Co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union

PROMOTING CIVIL ENGAGEMENT

Project 2021-1-BG01-KA122-ADU-000035679 Safety and success, Erasmus +
Partners:
Association of European Development - Applicant
EOS DEVELOPMENTAL SA – Hosting organization


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DEFINITION AND CONSTRUCTS

Civic engagement is defined as working to make a difference in the civic life of one's community. It also involves developing the combination of knowledge, skills, values, and motivation to make that difference. These activities enrich the lives of youths and are socially beneficial to the community. Four interrelated constructs have been identified in the research literature as necessary for civic engagement.


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ACTING CAN INCLUDE SOME OF THE KEY FOCAL POINTS OF CIVIC ENGAGEMENT:

- Political participation through voting, voter registration, or being an election judge;
- Educating Americans on government and history;
- Volunteering in organizations that build community well-being;
- Advocating for legislation and models;
- Representing fellow citizens by appointment or election


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MAJOR OBSTACLES TO CIVIC ENGAGEMENT:

Lack of Civility – For many citizens, politics is seen as “hostile territory,” and “lack of reasoned discussion and debate” alienates public participation and dialogue.


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MAJOR OBSTACLES TO CIVIC ENGAGEMENT:

Lack of Attention to Public Affairs – Trust in news sources is on the decline. Many citizens are unsure of where to go for information, leaving them less likely to be informed about a wide range of perspectives, and even less likely to be engaged.


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MAJOR OBSTACLES TO CIVIC ENGAGEMENT:

Lack of Role Models – “Citizens are made, not born,” but with fewer discussions about public affairs and fewer politicians exemplifying “leadership and devotion to public service,” there are fewer opportunities for a civic-minded population.


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MAJOR OBSTACLES TO CIVIC ENGAGEMENT:

Lack of Civic and Political Skills – Communication, networking, and even running for public office are processes and skills can help engaged citizens make communities better places to live.


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MAJOR OBSTACLES TO CIVIC ENGAGEMENT:

Lack of Awareness – The combined forces of “incivility, misinformation, and the active marketing of cynicism” have left many citizens disillusioned and unmotivated to engage in their communities.

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HOW DO YOU WANT TO MOVE THE NEEDLE ON AN ISSUE

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DOES YOUR COMMUNITY KNOW YOUR NAME?

Consider how well you know your community, and how well they know you. To begin getting involved, the trick is to start local. Issues and stories are local – the best place is right on your block.

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DO YOU KNOW YOUR LOCAL GOVERNMENT?

Whether you are interested in being a national leader or getting involved in your state, leadership starts locally and radiates out. To expand your network and understand local challenges and what is happening in your community, you need to know your local government and how your city works.

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HAVE YOU DEVELOPED YOUR FINANCIAL ACUMEN?

Interacting with the people who lead your community and local city agencies is key to being further involved and becoming a leader. A large component of this is knowing how to responsibly manage the finances that keep your community running smoothly. Part of being a leader involved developing a financial acumen and knowing where to focus your time. Reviewing the financial of your town is also a great focus for your Policy Circle.

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DO YOU KNOW HOW THE MOST VULNERABLE ARE ASSISTED IN YOUR COMMUNITY?

The most vulnerable in your community are also the most likely to be overlooked. Caring for neighbors in need, families in crisis, and the community at large is the kind of work done "on the ground" but is also key to being able to connect the dots, foster connections, and make an impact. Part of this entails knowing and understanding services provided.

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HAVE YOU BUILT YOUR NETWORK OF COMMUNITY INFLUENCERS?

Civic leaders are not lone riders; they have broad networks of people with various expertise, focuses, and backgrounds. They themselves can demonstrate their abilities by assuming roles in the networks related to their professions, and ensuring other roles are properly filled. This involves knowing how to play a leadership role in your community and community's association, knowing where to start, and how to prioritize.

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

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