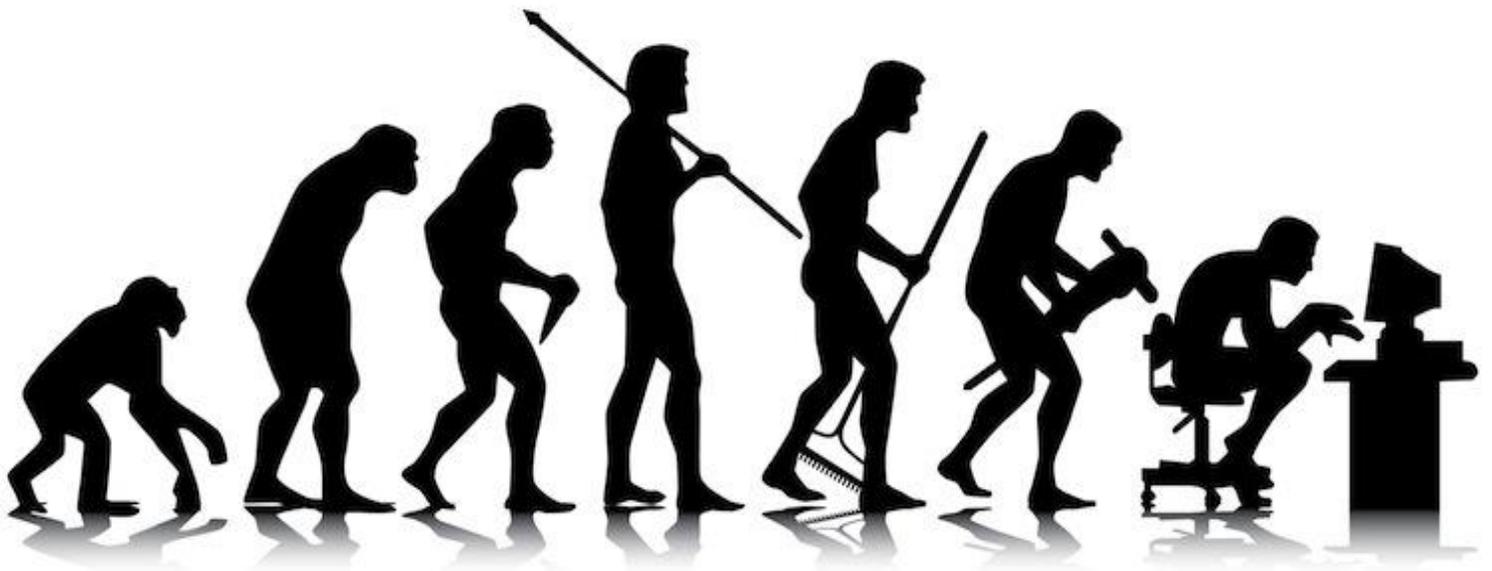


PROGRESS

Issue No.: 1
Nov 2016



*“Nowadays people know
the price of everything
and the value of nothing”*

Oscar Wilde

PROGRESS

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Active citizenship in our community

When it comes to the term active citizenship one should define it as membership of a particular community that builds good relationships with people within the community. Citizenship represents the collection of rights and obligations that define the members of a community. These rights and obligations encompass legal empowerment and justice, political participation and decision making, social engagement, economic rights and access to resources. In other words, active citizenship means people getting involved in their local communities and democracy at all levels, from towns to cities promoting nationwide activity. Active citizenship can be as small as a cleaning campaign at a local beach or as big as educating young people about democratic values and participation traits. The concept of citizenship is grounded in activity, responsibility and democratic values.

It should be clear that citizenship has two complementary aspects: citizenship rights and citizenship practice. Active citizenship is a combination of knowledge, attitude, skills and actions that aim to contribute to building and maintaining a democratic society. More and more, we see that extreme solutions are in demand when it comes to Europe's problems. Active citizenship has a crucial role to play in this context to allow citizens to search for real solutions to problems rather than indulging in discrimination and extremism. According to my opinion active citizenship is one of the most important and vital steps towards a healthy society.

It is critical that active citizenship is taught at early stages of one's life. Willingness and ability to exercise citizenship rights and duties tend to endure throughout adulthood if the foundations for civic engagement have been laid early in life. This can take the form of peer education, community service, community mobilization and activism (for example against corruption). Other activities indicative of active citizens could be active volunteering, donating and recycling. Governments, communities, youth networks and organizations definitely play important roles in creating such opportunities.

But what has active citizenship to add to your personality? What motives has someone to participate actively in his/her community? The first things that come to our minds, as an answer to this question, are creativity, a positive attitude and commitment. Additional qualities include the ability to make a team-minded decision during any situation, knowing what is right and wrong and understanding the consequences of each decision. Active citizenship builds trust and responsibility and can reduce violence. When given opportunities for civic engagement, people can bring energy, enthusiasm and new ideas to the development of their communities. What is more being an active citizen is important in caring for others, respecting the law, protecting the environment, improving the community and having respect for not only individuals in the community, but for the community itself. Last but not least, active involvement in the community can also result in developing leadership qualities such as honesty, good communication, confidence and the ability to inspire.

To sum up, it's of utmost importance people especially at a young age to be informed about the notion of active citizenship give an end to their passive attitude towards their community. After all, it's us plain citizens who should enhance our community standards and bring our community where we would like it to be.



The EU Values: Understand and Share

"The Union is founded on the values of respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities" reports Article 1(a) of the 2009 Lisbon Treaty. The document continues saying that "these values are common to the Member States in a society in which pluralism, non-discrimination, tolerance, justice, solidarity and equality between women and men prevail." These values represent guidelines for the internal and external actions of the EU and its Member States as well as basic criteria for enlargements. With the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty, the EU Charter of Human Rights also became legally binding and it gathers the human rights protected by the EU.

However, what does happen when the EU has Partners and relationship with States that do not respect these values? How does the EU behave in this case? Does it try to change the situation or does it refuse to have relations? Two examples can here be made and they are Belarus and Turkey.

As concerns the first, this country never asked to become a EU member but still some relations exist as Belarus is located in the proximity of the European supra-national organization. For instance, the EU recognised the State independence in 1991 and they have trade connections. However, the EU declared that some acts are against the human rights laws: Belarus still allows the use of the death penalty for crimes such as terrorism and other grave crimes. The latest execution was in April 2014.

As for Turkey, it is part of the European Neighbourhood Partnership (ENP) created by the EU to have a "ring of friends" formed by those countries located at the borders of the Union or applying to become part of it. However, the Turkish request to become part of the EU has been delayed more than once since 1987 as Turkey have some controversies in human rights law. Human Rights Watch reports that "the government has demonstrated a growing intolerance for political opposition and freedom of speech". Indeed, newspapers have been accused to misrepresent comments while the Kurdish conflict led to different human rights violations as torture. Furthermore, violence against women remains a significant concern.

These circumstances go against the values enshrined in the EU treaties and protected by the EU. The Union and its member have relations with these countries and promote the need for freedom of speech, gender equality and so forth. The continuous exchange and contacts and efforts by the EU and its members may lead the other States to understand the importance of these values and begin following them.

Standing up for human rights

Understanding our human rights

Human rights a difficult subject to touch, in our modern and "progressed" Society there are some fundamental rules that we all have to go with so we can all live in synch harmony and at piece. But often we find that this is not happening anymore there is something going on in europe some of our rights are been intruded and trespassed and through this article we are going to investigate what is going on in some European countries and what people do about it

Let's start with Cyprus, in Cyprus the main issue that had trespassed lots of human rights and it still doing so is that the island was invaded cruelly and half of it is illegally occupied a major issue that our politician try to resolve with not such a great success to be honest. There are a lot of efforts happening in the island to bring the people back together and reunite it once again

Moving on to Slovakia we discover that there is a major issue there with racism in a multilevel of ways, racism between locals racism from locals to foreigners but also foreign gypsy's towards the locals. In Slovakia the problem is mainly governmental due to the lack of control and bad educational system. The people in Slovakia are some sort divided some of them are just protecting their selves and maybe their self but there are also those who try to make a difference creating something new and proposing ideas that will maybe improve the situation.

And what about Croatia? Some people there think that all of the human rights are being intruded there, in one way or another. There are lot of problems with unemployment, discrimination of minorities, media is being controlled by people with power and on "certain positions" etc. And what do they do about it? Some people are passive and do nothing and some are more active. The active ones are joining groups and NGOs that help the ones that need help, they do demonstrations, volunteer in local communities. But who is to blame? People! All of us are born equal so all of us should be equal. Treat people the way you want to be treated.

Let's move to Spain. The main problems in Spain are the refugees and immigrants from northern Africa. These people are treated very badly and the facilities that they are put in look like jails. They get abused there and these places are overcrowded. The main thing is that government does nothing in this matter. They don't write any regulations, they don't secure the facilities and don't care about their basic human rights. Young Spanish people participate in demonstrations against this topic and work for organisations that are fighting against this problem.

And Estonians, some of them feel that their human rights are not intruded and they don't have big problems with violating them. Also they never had a need to defend their human rights. But in situations when they have to defend some others people's human rights that do nothing and just act passively and the others take a lot of action to stop these situations.

But thinks in Poland are totally opposite because people who are getting intruded every day by their own belief and that's a major issue. The Catholic Church has a huge level of power and influence in the socioeconomic and political system and they opres the freedom's of the citizen trying to force the belief system. The good think in Poland is that people are actually doing something about it students create lots of campaigns in the social media fighting the injustice but the also actively claims their freedoms and rights by protesting in the streets... A change is coming

And lastly we are going to Cover Greece. Greece as a nation goes in the ages and that could make you think that such and old and "wise" nation will have fue issues, but in Greece lots of human rights are getting intruded in different ways some of these are racism and discrimination of sexuality also woman in politics are not treated equally and imagine that comes from the birthplace of democracy but the most serious issue in Greece now is the lag of work unemployment is in a huge rate and people are actually suffering from it this and many of Greece issues are a result of the governments failures that through the country in to crisis, the poor educational system and also the religion influence. The people in Greece are considered the laziest nation in Europe but the statistics says otherwise and we can see that by all the campaigns protest and fights that people do every day to bring a change to the system and improve their life's.

In general throughout the research we did for the creation of this article, human rights are not so respected in Europe country but that's not an intended action but the result of the culture of the countries some times of their religion also but the good think is that people are revolving people are moving on change is coming and we have the power to claim everything that's is fundamentally ours and create a better Europe and a better world for all of us.



European democracy model:

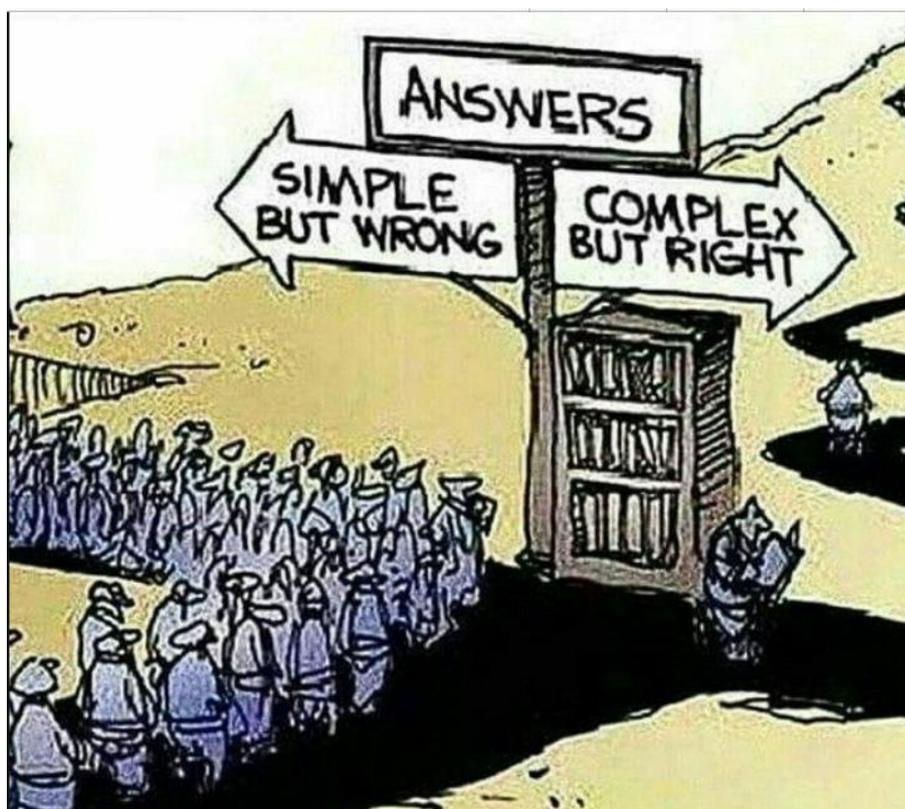
What is it for?

What is actually the Democracy? Democracy, in modern usage, is a system of government in which the citizens exercise power directly or elect representatives from among themselves to form a governing body, such as a parliament. Democracy gives person a power to rule being represented by the people of his personal choice; he was given an opportunity to make. It is about freedom to promote any idea and have a chance to be supported and defended.

The EU's political system represents European citizens via three different channels: through the European Parliament; indirectly through their governments in the Council; and through domestic elections, which hold these last democratically accountable to national parliaments or citizens.

European Parliament was created in 1979 and given the power to approve or reject EU legislation. The reason for its electing was the concept of a democratic deficit within the European Union that is the notion that the governance of the European Union (EU) in some way lacks democratic legitimacy. The term was initially used to criticise the transfer of legislative powers from national governments to the Council of (national government) Ministers of the EU.

Now the EU institution tries to represent maximal possible amount of views. The EU Democracy Model makes people feel involved into the process of making decisions and taking actions in order to improve their level of life. That makes people feel protected by the governing body and keeps their interest in active citizenship.

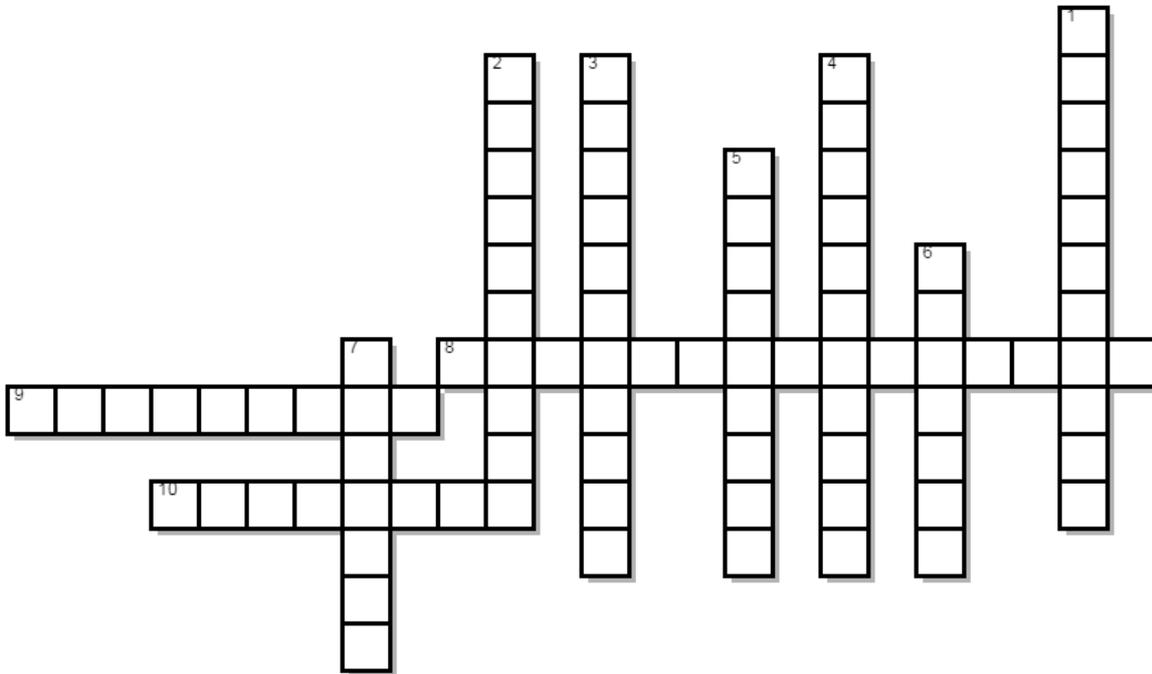


Game no.: 1

N O I T A N I M I R C S I D
 L K D W G R R N Q X M L W J
 D T Y I K N O A E R L Z Q T
 C D N P S I I N C B G P W M
 U R D E T A O Y P I R B B N
 L R E A M P B N L E S G R Z
 T X N L H S D I J L Z M J N
 U Z T O I Z S U L D U V P Z
 R T B J R G D A N I Z B D Y
 E I R J W I I T R W T N N L
 A G Q W C D X O X A M Y N Y
 N Z D E Y B D D N L H Z Y D

- | | | | |
|---|--|----|---|
| 1 | Discrimination or prejudice based on race | | single, usually independent government; a country |
| 2 | A fear of strangers or foreigners | 8 | The quality in a person or society that arises from a concern for what is regarded as excellent in arts, letters, manners, scholarly pursuits, etc |
| 3 | A personal or institutionalized system grounded in such belief and worship | 9 | A blustering, quarrelsome, overbearing person who habitually badgers and intimidates smaller or weaker people |
| 4 | An unfavorable opinion or feeling formed beforehand or without knowledge, thought, or reason | 10 | Treatment or consideration of, or making a distinction in favor of or against, a person or thing based on the group, class, or category to which that person or thing belongs rather than on individual merit |
| 5 | A physical or mental handicap, especially one that prevents a person from living a full, normal life or from holding a gainful job | | |
| 6 | Persistent attacks and criticism causing worry and distress | | |
| 7 | A relatively large group of people organized under a | | |

Game no.: 2



ACROSS

- 8 treatment or consideration of, or making a distinction in favor of or against, a person or thing based on the group, class, or category to which that person or thing belongs rather than on individual merit"
- 9 a blustering, quarrelsome, overbearing person who habitually badgers and intimidates smaller or weaker people"
- 10 the quality in a person or society that arises from a concern for what is regarded as excellent in arts, letters, manners, scholarly pursuits, etc "

DOWN

- 1 A fear of strangers or foreigners"
- 2 an unfavorable opinion or feeling formed beforehand or without knowledge, thought, or reason"
- 3 Persistent attacks and criticism causing worry and distress"
- 4 a physical or mental handicap, especially one that prevents a person from living a full, normal life or from holding a gainful job"
- 5 A personal or institutionalized system grounded in such belief and worship"
- 6 Discrimination or prejudice based on race"
- 7 A relatively large group of people organized under a single, usually independent government; a country"

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