

# European values and civic engagement

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# What is civic engagement?

Explain the two:

**CIVIC**

**ENGAGEMENT**



# Defining civic engagement

- Civic engagement means working to make a difference in the civic life of our communities and developing the combination of knowledge, skills, values and motivation to make that difference. It means promoting the quality of life in a community, through both political and non-political processes.

# How one can civically engage?

- Attending or organizing a protest
- Writing to a member of Parliament or a newspaper
- Reading the news and discussing it with others
- Voting
- Volunteering for the community
- Helping socially and economically vulnerable

*More?*



## FOUR CONSTRUCTS OF CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

### Civic Engagement

Working to make a difference in the civic life of one's community.

Civic Action

Civic Commitment or Duty

Civic Skills

Social Cohesion

- **Civic Action**, or participation in activities such as volunteering or service-learning to help better the community (Bobek, Zaff, Li, & Lerner, 2009)
- **Civic Commitment or Duty**, or the willingness to make positive contributions to society
- **Civic Skills**, or the ability to be involved in civil society, politics, and democracy
- **Social Cohesion**, or a sense of reciprocity, trust, and bonding to others

**A good citizen,  
who is s/he?**



# **THERE ARE THREE KINDS OF CITIZEN:**

## **First: Personally Responsible Citizen**

Acts responsibly in his/her community. Works, pays taxes Obeys laws Recycles, gives blood. Volunteers to lend a hand in times of crisis.

**Sample Action:** Contributes food to a food drive

**Core Assumption:** To solve social problems and improve society, citizens must have good character; they must be honest, responsible, and law-abiding members of the community.

# **THERE ARE THREE KINDS OF CITIZEN:**

## **Second: Participatory Citizen**

Active member of community organizations and/or improvement efforts. Organizes community efforts to care for those in need, promote economic development, or clean up the environment. Knows how government agencies work. Knows strategies for accomplishing collective tasks.

**Sample Action:** Helps to organize food drive.

**Core Assumption:** To solve social problems and improve society, citizens must actively participate and take leadership positions within established systems and community structures.



# **THERE ARE THREE KINDS OF CITIZEN:**

## **Third: Justice-Oriented Citizen**

Critically assesses social, political, and economic structures to see beyond surface outcomes. Seeks out and addresses areas of injustice. Knows about social movements and how to effect systemic change.

**Sample Action:** Explores why people are hungry and acts to solve root causes.

**Core Assumptions:** To solve social problems and improve society, citizens must question and change established systems and structures when they reproduce patterns of injustice over time.

**Table 1**  
**Kinds of Citizens**

	<b>Personally Responsible Citizen</b>	<b>Participatory Citizen</b>	<b>Justice-oriented Citizen</b>
<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<p>Acts responsibly in his/her community</p> <p>Works and pays taxes</p> <p>Obeys laws</p> <p>Recycles, gives blood</p> <p>Volunteers to lend a hand in times of crisis</p>	<p>Active member of community organizations and/or improvement efforts</p> <p>Organizes community efforts to care for those in need, promote economic development, or clean up environment</p> <p>Knows how government agencies work</p> <p>Knows strategies for accomplishing collective tasks</p>	<p>Critically assesses social, political, and economic structures to see beyond surface causes</p> <p>Seeks out and addresses areas of injustice</p> <p>Knows about social movements and how to effect systemic change</p>
<b>SAMPLE ACTION</b>	<p>Contributes food to a food drive</p>	<p>Helps to organize a food drive</p>	<p>Explores why people are hungry and acts to solve root causes</p>
<b>CORE ASSUMPTIONS</b>	<p>To solve social problems and improve society, citizens must have good character; they must be honest, responsible, and law-abiding members of the community</p>	<p>To solve social problems and improve society, citizens must actively participate and take leadership positions within established systems and community structures</p>	<p>To solve social problems and improve society, citizens must question and change established systems and structures when they reproduce patterns of injustice over time</p>



# European values and civic engagement

- ❖ Human dignity
- ❖ Freedom
- ❖ Equality (and diversity)
- ❖ Solidarity (and cooperation)
- ❖ Citizen's rights (democracy)
- ❖ Justice (and the rule of law)

***Charter of Fundamental Rights  
of the European Union***

## **Westheimer and Kahne, 2004**

- Personally Responsible Citizen
- Participatory Citizen
- Justice-oriented Citizen

## **Hoskins, 2018**

- Liberal democratic and neoliberal market global citizen
- Civic republican citizen
- Global citizen and critical citizen