



# Active Participation in Local Culture



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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

PROJECT AND PARTNERS .....	03
1 - WHAT IS ACTIVE PARTICIPATION? .....	05
1.1 Benefits of active participation.....	06
2 - ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN EDUCATION.....	07
2.1 What is active participation in classroom? .....	08
2.2 How does active learning help students? .....	09
3 - ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN POLITICS/ DECISION MAKING.....	10
3.1. Development of policies on youth participation in decision-making .....	10
3.2. The role of local governments in youth participation .....	11
4 - ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN SOCIAL LIFE .....	12
4.1. The Importance of social participation .....	12
4.2 The Consequences of social exclusion.....	13
4.3 The role of governments and organisations in increasing social participation .....	13
5 - ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN WORK LIFE .....	13
5.1 The Dimensions of work life participation .....	13
5.2 What can be done to increase youth employment? .....	15
CONCLUSION .....	15
REFERENCES.....	18

## Disclaimer

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The module is open and available  
through the project's website

<http://www.prosoarural.ilabour.eu/outputs/>

for all learners who are interested in it.

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## PROJECT AND PARTNERS

The project “**Prosoa Rural - Promoting Social Awareness in Rural Area (2018-2-ES02-KA205-011523)**” aims to develop materials that support educators in rural training centers so that they can transmit these values to young people. The materials will be based on a methodology focused on the promotion of active participation and social entrepreneurship linked to the conservation of Cultural Heritage and Traditions at local, regional, national and European level. The project is funded by the Spanish National Agency within the Erasmus Plus of the EU. The project consists of the following partnership:



**Acción Laboral**

<http://www.accionlaboral.com>

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**IED**

<http://ied.eu/>

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**INOVA+**

<http://www.inova.business>

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### **Futuro Digitale**

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### **International Labour Association**

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**Learn more about the project on:**

**Website:** <http://www.prosoarural.ilabour.eu>



**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/prosoaruralproject>

## 1 - WHAT IS ACTIVE PARTICIPATION?

The answer to this question really depends upon the context in which it is asked. For a student, for example, active participation can mean engaging with course material in a way that promotes the synthesis of ideas and concepts. For a patient, on the other hand, it means taking an integral role in treatment by working with caregivers to establish the best standard of care rather than just being "treated." In all settings, active participation means doing rather than having done to you. It improves learning outcomes in the classroom, as students champion their own educational experience and self-advocate, which can especially help at-risk students get the most benefit. It improves treatment outcomes, as well, by motivating and empowering patients to make decisions and feel in control. In the workplace, it improves productivity and morale.



Active participation is an approach that enables individuals to be included in their care and have a greater say in how they live their life in ways that matter to them. This can also be described as direct student participation in the teaching process. Ultimately it means taking responsibility for your own state, whatever it might be, and not letting yourself be relegated to the sidelines.

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### 1.1 BENEFITS OF ACTIVE PARTICIPATION

Active participation can provide many benefits to young people:

- Increased independence
- Higher self-esteem, self-confidence and self-awareness
- Better overall wellbeing
- Opens up more opportunities for activities, social contact and relationship-building
- Increased opportunities for learning and development
- Better relationships between the individual and their care staff
- Increased physical activity and general health
- Decreased likelihood of abuse
- Decreased vulnerability

## ❖ EXERCISES

- ❖ Confronting Opinions → <http://tiny.cc/aoz9iz>
- ❖ Lost on the Moon → <http://tiny.cc/auz9iz>

- ❖ Philip 66 → <http://tiny.cc/xvz9iz>
- ❖ The normal group → <http://tiny.cc/fxz9iz>
- ❖ Where do you stand → <http://tiny.cc/hyz9iz>



## 2 - ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN EDUCATION

The student is in the position of providing active participation in the course, directing questions, making comparisons, investigating and reaching conclusions. This principle emphasizes the importance of "learning by doing-living" and states that the student will learn better in an effective environment. According to the research conducted to keep time constant, people remember 10% of what they read, 20% of what they hear, 30% of what they see and hear, 50% of what they say, 70% of what they say and 90% of what they say. This shows once again that the student's personal participation in the application greatly increases the efficiency and persistence of learning. Example: physical education teacher teaches the rules of handball to his students by enabling them to perform handball match shows that he has acted in accordance with the principle of activity. Education in the countryside is quite important. The key point of developing social awareness and developing rural areas is to ensure active participation in education. Effective participation in education forms the foundations of development and socialization. Especially young people who are educated in limited opportunities are brought into society through an active education system. In this sense, the active participation of young people in education in rural areas is very important. For example, in an interactive education, students can analyze opportunities in cities. As a result, they may try to move those opportunities to the countryside. Rural-educated young people are leading the way in increasing job opportunities. In a conscious and educated society, fertile agricultural opportunities also develop.

Social awareness in agriculture increases production and interaction between different groups. Thus, social injustice and cultural harmony are formed.

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## 2.1. WHAT IS ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN CLASSROOM?

Whether you're facing a lecture hall filled with 300 students or a seminar table with 15 students, one of your primary goals for the class should be to actively engage students with the material. Students learn more when they participate in the process of learning, whether it's through discussion, practice, review, or application (*Grunert, 1997*). This is in stark contrast to traditional styles of teaching, where students are expected to sit for hours, listening and, theoretically, absorbing information presented by the instructor.



Incorporate active learning strategies into every component of your course design. For example, encouraging short partner discussions during lectures (i.e., think-pair-share), adding problem- or case-based research projects to the curriculum, and incorporating time for small-group critical analysis exercises during seminars are all great ways to actively engage students in learning.

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## 2.2 HOW DOES ACTIVE LEARNING HELP STUDENTS?

### ***Benefits of active learning***

#### *Develops collaborative skills*

Collaboration is a pillar of most active learning approaches. In increasingly team-oriented workplaces, students whose only experience is with essay writing and exams will find themselves at a disadvantage. By working together in breakout groups, students develop the abilities they'll need to collaborate in the workforce.

#### ➤ **Encourages risk taking**

Students may initially resist the move to active learning – after all, it's easy to sit in class and take notes (or zone out) until the talking is done. Active learning pulls students out of their comfort zone by creating an environment where risk taking is encouraged. As they get more comfortable sharing their thoughts, defending their conclusions and building on each other's ideas, they'll gain confidence and self-possession

#### ➤ **Requires student preparation**

Thinking back to your college days, there were likely courses that didn't require much day-to-day effort beyond simply showing up to class. You could be tired or disengaged, and the prof likely didn't notice – especially if you hid in the back rows of the lecture hall. But in an active learning classroom, no one's invisible. It's immediately apparent when students haven't taken the time to prepare, so there's greater motivation to show up – in mind and body.

#### ➤ **Increases engagement**

Students who are actively learning are actively engaged. Whether solving a problem, debating an issue or researching a concept, they are processing ideas and forging deeper understanding. If you're looking for new.

➤ **Increases retention**

According to Dale's Cone of Experience, students remember about 10% of what they read, 20% of what they hear, but 90% of what they do. Active learning classrooms are, well, more active. Students are often applying their ideas, working on collaborative projects or using approaches like design thinking or the agile process to solidify their learning.

➤ **Fosters real problem solving**

The ability to solve complex problems was called out by the World Economic Forum as the most important skill needed for future jobs. Students in active learning classrooms understand that no one has all the answers, so it's up to them to figure them out.

## ❖ EXERCISES

- ❖ Make a new farm → <https://tinyurl.com/w9s7s42>
- ❖ Traditional job to do → <https://tinyurl.com/vzb6r6b>
- ❖ Enhance your town → <https://tinyurl.com/vb3fnm5>
- ❖ Sing together traditional → <https://tinyurl.com/t7kb452>
- ❖ Dance together traditional → <https://tinyurl.com/ufr754m>

## 3 - ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN POLITICS/ DECISION MAKING

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### 3.1. DEVELOPMENT OF POLICIES ON YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN DECISION-MAKING

The United Nations has played a leading role in youth studies. In the 1992 Rio de Janeiro Earth Summit Declaration, it was decided to keep the youth at the forefront of participatory mechanisms and processes. In this declaration, youth is considered one of the main elements in the framework of the development of pluralistic and participatory policies of democratic implementations. Therefore, the elements which are related to the living standards of young people had taken place in national and international documents.

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### 3.2. THE ROLE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN YOUTH PARTICIPATION

In order to develop the potential of young people and to prepare them to play a responsible role in the development of settlements, cooperation with local governments, especially with private sector, non-governmental organizations, other non-governmental organizations and neighborhood-level administrations has always been important. The United Nations Johannesburg Implementation Plan emphasizes that need to promote youth participation and youth councils in all programs and activities for sustainable development. Young people have the right to influence decisions. This is a common decision that accepted in the documents on youth and participation. In this context, active participation of young people is expected to be ensured starting from the local in order to provide a more democratic environment. All tools must be developed to ensure that this right is exercised.

In conclusion, due to the end of the 20th century, it was clearly accepted that young people gained importance as social actors and had the right to understand the issues that concern them and to participate in decision-making and implementation processes and to encourage their work for social change. In practice, there has been public debate in many countries and efforts are continuing to transform them into state policy.



## ❖ EXERCISES

- ❖ Warm Up Activity → <http://tiny.cc/7ow9iz>
- ❖ How to make the best decision → <http://tiny.cc/2pw9iz>
- ❖ Role play & simulation for active citizens → <http://tiny.cc/crw9iz>
- ❖ Silent Design → <http://tiny.cc/1rw9iz>
- ❖ Explore your city and traditions → <http://tiny.cc/vsw9iz>

### 4.1. THE IMPORTANCE OF SOCIAL PARTICIPATION

Human beings are social animals and the tenor of someone's social life is one of the most important influences on mental and physical health. Without positive, durable relationships, both minds and bodies can fall apart. Individuals begin life dependent for survival on the quality of their relationship with their primary caregivers. The nature of that relationship typically influences all the others in that person's life; they develop an attachment style that influences their personal and professional relationships. Human survival as a species similarly hinges on the capacity for social living. Most of human history was spent in small groups in which humans were dependent on others for survival and evidence suggests that this is the condition in which humans are best adapted. Moreover, technology has changed the way people interact with others in their daily lives, but it has not affected the basic need to form supportive bonds with other people and to feel that they are part of a community. As such, it is very important for individuals to be active in the social life of rural areas where the population may be scarce or limited.

As a result of the development of technology, increased educational opportunities and online communication, young people can have more socialization opportunities than ever before. It is very important to socialize with different people in order to avoid radical conservative attitudes in small spaces where everyone knows each other. For instance, in villages or towns, the vast majority of the population may be far from city opportunities. However, socializing and creating social awareness is not only about having more opportunities in bigger cities. Talking to people from different cultures means getting to know them and building good relationships in order to communicate effectively. As such, it can be concluded that the socialization of young people allows them to be open-minded, tolerant and sharing. A region with high levels of social participation may increase the capacity for strong values to develop, cultural exchange to occur, and community cooperation to be enacted.

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## 4.2. THE CONSEQUENCES OF SOCIAL EXCLUSION

However, if people do not feel that they are actively participating in their communities or contributing to the social life of their local regions, social exclusion may occur. According to the Council of Europe (2019), social exclusion is a state of isolation that causes a deep rift in the natural social bonds between the individual and the society.

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## 4.3. THE ROLE OF GOVERNMENTS AND ORGANIZATIONS IN INCREASING SOCIAL PARTICIPATION

Local governments, non-governmental organizations, and youth workers play an important role in increasing social inclusion and improving cultural exchange and socialization prospects for young people. It is vital that young people can connect with one another, not only for the physical and mental health of the individuals but also for the future development of the region: social participation builds connections and creates future development opportunities. One way of facilitating social participation is by organizing local projects or activities that allow young people the opportunity to socialize with one another. For instance, the European Commission has implemented several socially significant projects in rural areas that aim to help local youth to empower themselves and connect with people from other cultures. International youth projects and intercultural exchange can be a way for young people in rural areas to have new experiences and discover other cultures outside of their communities (*Salto Youth 2010*).

### ❖ EXERCISES

- ❖ Teamwork for marketing → <http://tiny.cc/0mjkjz>
- ❖ Station → <http://tiny.cc/0ojkjz>
- ❖ Matching Cards → <http://tiny.cc/aikkjz>
- ❖ Social Enterprise Documentaries → <http://tiny.cc/mjkkjz>
- ❖ Film & Critic → <http://tiny.cc/nkkkjz>



### 5.1. THE DIMENSIONS OF WORK LIFE PARTICIPATION

Employment participation can be defined as the opportunity for employees to play a role in decisions that affect their work, whether in relation to work tasks or organizational issues at the workplace. According to a 2013 study published by Euro fund, 38 % of EU employees worked in organizations with low organizational participation. The study also showed that there was a big difference in participation between countries: with Nordic Countries presenting high levels of involvement compared to Southern nations including Greece, Spain, and Italy. However, many people are never allowed the opportunity to enter into the workplace at all as unemployment remains a pressing issue in many European countries. On average, one in four young people in Europe are unemployed. In some Southern European countries the number is even higher: one in two is considered to be in unemployment. The situation is especially dire in rural areas where the unemployment rates for young people tend to be significantly higher than in urbanized centers (*European Network for Rural Development 2016*).



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## 5.2. WHAT CAN BE DONE TO INCREASE YOUTH EMPLOYMENT?

Firstly, it is important to help young people develop the necessary skills they need in order to find future employment such as communication or cooperation skills. The European Network for Rural Development (2016) suggests that that one way of achieving this is to create local activities or spaces where they can achieve these skills. However, they also highlight that any activities should be on the youth's terms and that they must be guided by the principles of youth participation. As such, any projects aiming to increase employment in the region should focus on listening to the voices of young people and work towards making them active participants rather than passive observers (*European Network for Rural Development 2016*).

## ❖ EXERCISES

- ❖ 3 Round Storify → <http://tiny.cc/f9vbzj>
- ❖ Forum Theater → <http://tiny.cc/j9vbzj>
- ❖ Frozen Tradition → <http://tiny.cc/49vbzj>
- ❖ People bingo → <http://tiny.cc/79vbzj>
- ❖ The child's dream → <http://tiny.cc/gawbzj>

## CONCLUSION

The small rural towns, today, are considered as open-air museums. Yes, it is true that they are part of a historical heritage envied around the world, but it is also true that to be such should not and cannot be left to its fate. For example, when there is a catastrophic event like an earthquake, we focus on the reconstruction of the cities, small villages destroyed do not count, in fact most of the inhabitants prefer to leave his home and move to the city.

Much more comfortable to live in the city, easy transport and quick, everything you need in the house, so many people and all possible services. All this has led to the depopulation of the small rural towns. Cities have always been the place of regeneration and change, not only of reconstruction. A change that has fed demolitions, of betrayal, of misuse. How many churches they were built on pagan temples, confusing forms and materials; how many squares are born from previous ruins, by a Roman hole, from a ruin. If our fathers have given us beautiful villages and high quality landscaping at times, it does not mean that we must continue to preserve and how to preserve them in museums. Museums, perhaps, not suited to the life of the community and their safety.

What is needed to return to the places that our ancestors have left us? Make them sure, first of all, the safety of people, cities, countries, because it is an essential need, without which the people leave and the community is dissolved. This is the basic requirement to create continuity, no community has no sense everything else, including the preservation of evidence.

Unfortunately, the villages are visited by city users, people who stay there, poor tourists from other continents or without the hotel. We must ensure that the centers of our city become a place where it freezes the status quo, where the incomes of those who already live our places, preventing the actions of those who could be the new user, where they try to stop the flow of history, as it happens for historical centers that are still there, such as museums or become the

business center of the modern city.

This is what sustained some intellectual. All have natural, historical and cultural extraordinary entities often forgotten or ignored. A heritage present mainly in the historical centers of rural municipalities where, however, showed a strong contrast between the wealth of history and neglect of beauty.

These town centers, although characterized by strong historical and natural characterizations of undoubted value, have suffered over time a considerable deskilling that caused the depopulation and, in many cases, desertification. So how are you wasting away, day after day, the tourist attractiveness of town centers which should be direct expression. Moreover, it is increasingly difficult for municipalities to program urban revaluation routes and economically sustainable land that guarantee to town centers to find new life in the folds of time.

It becomes necessary that local government, have to intervene for a sustainable recovery of the territories, for the raising of social and economic development opportunities for local communities, for reuse and conversion of historic urban housing stock, to promoting artistic and cultural resources of the smaller towns and inland, of repopulation of city centers and growth opportunities for tourism development in the region.

Each historical village has its own theme, its story, its particular emotional authenticity, which will be explained and transmitted to the visitor, both from architectural artifacts, from the workshops of ancient crafts and related training schools, culinary and cultural traditions, from the workshops typical and related professional schools, clans' museum and informative exhibits.

Another way to bring people in small rural centers covers the right balance between the manifestations of tradition and the ancient sites of the city. The events are in fact original, and not are emulated, more than anywhere express the culture of a people, its traditions and its origins. You need to harness the appeal of the various religious events and anthropological, and

inclusive of ethnic and linguistic minorities to increase the enjoyment of the historic centers. In this way each municipality will retain its own identity and will provide a direct interest that will not compete with that of others, but will constitute a single part of a deal.

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