Fulfilling promises of EU Citizenship

About empowerment and repertoires

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BEUCITIZEN
BARRIERS TOWARDS EU CITIZENSHIP

bEUcitizen: fundaments

- EU Citizenship → more than a legal concept

- Citizenship → heterogenous and multi layered
  - EU, national, regional, local
  - History matters

- Variety of rights
  - Economic, social, civic & political

- Different categories of citizens
  - Gender, age, insiders & outsiders

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Barriers

for excercising EU Citizenship :

It matters:
- Who you are
- What you are
- Where you are
- Where you are from

What EU citizenship is in practice is highly dependent and highly differentiated and has very different characteristics for different people in different places and positions.

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Barriers

for excercising EU Citizenship :

➢ Economic, social, civic and political rights
  - ✓ Marketized citizenship becoming stronger in the EU – 'Market citizens' have strongest rights;
  - ✓ Differences between member states limit access to social rights;
  - ✓ Protection of EU-fundamental right limited for citizens that do not use free movement rights;
  - ✓ Political rights of EU citizens are underdeveloped.
  - ✓ Barriers are different for different groups: Woman, migrants, poor, vulnarable, outsiders and/or marginalized.

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Solutions

- Some directions

  ➤ Look at history for repertoires

  ➤ No 'one size fits all' approach

  ➤ Improve balance between social en economic rights

  ➤ Link fundamental rights & EU citizenship

  ➤ Social safety net for al citizens in EU independent from location and labourmarket position.

See Interdisciplinary Perspectives on EU Citizenship series
(Edward Elgar, 8 books in 2018)

Citizenship competencies

Exercising EU citizenship rights:

- Do we have the knowledge and skills?
- Can we apply these?

Active member of a –European- political community:

- Do we have the knowledge and skills?
- Can we apply these?

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Education for citizenship: European ambitions

"Promoting **equity, social cohesion and active citizenship** through school education is... one of the main objectives of the current Strategic Framework for European Cooperation in Education and Training which extends to 2020."

Source: Androulla Vassiliou (Commissioner responsible for Education, Culture, Multilingualism and Youth), Foreword to
Citizenship Education in Europe, Education, Audiovisual and Culture Exec Agency, (Eurydice) 2012.

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Conclusion from a comparative study in bEUcitizen project:

Secondary school pupils are hardly educated in what EU citizenship nor trained in exercising their rights.

Youth in Europe leave secondary school in general without the competencies to participate in the political communities they are a member of.

CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE
PROTEST MARCH
RESISTANCE

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"It's a good citizen's responsibility to question authority. Not *my* authority, of course."

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What can we do?

Don't portray the EU as 'far away', 'distant' or as 'a complex bunch of institutions'.

Let youth 'experience' –and do not only communicate- how the EU is connected with their daily lives; regulating, offering solutions and providing opportunities around issues that are relevant for all; and not more than 5 of less handshakes away.'.

Zie: http://euteachingpackages.public-cinema.com/

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What can we do? Beyond bEUcitizen

Empowering for a European Civic Culture

1. Train and connect

- from the perspective of the citizen, EU citizenship is (just) a part of the bundle of rights and of the set of political communities they are part of
- tools and competences to exercise legal rights
- relate to and train active participation on the local, national and European levels
- attention for the relationship between decisions made at the EU level and local and national policies and practices (and vice versa).

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What can we do? Beyond bEUcitizen

2. Broaden perspectives, focus on concrete situations

Researching in an interdisciplinary group the ability to take another ones perspective. Develop repertoires of action: linguistics, educational science and governance.

https://www.uu.nl/en/research/dynamics-of-youth/research/interdisciplinary-themes/change-your-perspective

Dealing with societal issues in classrooms, how to step out of (y)our bubbles, learning from European experiences, repertoires for dialogues about contested issues

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