

The role of universities in enforcement of citizenship values

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Abstract:

The academic institutions can significantly help to enforce the citizenship values. The paper introduces the project of the Faculty of Mass Media communication at Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Trnava which appreciates and highlights various activities of schools in the area of social responsibility and enforcement of citizenship values.

Key words: university, social responsibility, values, society, culture

A university fulfils many important roles – the preparation of students for life within a society being one of them. One of the key goals of current school education is the preparation of a student as a citizen and development of his civic competencies.

What does having civic competencies mean?

It means:

- respecting the values and attitudes essential for life in a particular (democratic) society and following them;
- participating actively in the development of a society;
- acting in accordance with its (sustainable) development;
- being aware of the importance of creative expression of thoughts, experience and emotions;
- supporting the values of a national, European and world culture.

The civic competencies are according to the Common European Framework divided as follows:

- respect for human rights including the equality as the basis of democracy;
- understanding and awareness of the differences among values systems of various religious or ethnic groups as the basis of positive approach;
- **sense of responsibility;**
- demonstration of understanding and respect for common values necessary to ensure the social cohesion;
- respect for democratic principles;
- support of social diversity, cohesion and sustainable development;
- willingness to respect other people's values and privacy.

The civic competencies are listed in the national education program as the target categories of school education:

- the ability to realize the basic humanistic values, meaning of national cultural heritage, application and protection of democratic principles;

- the ability to objectively understand one's own interests in connection with the interests of a broader group or society;
- the ability to understand one's own rights within the context of a responsible approach to one's duties, helping to realize the rights of the others;
- open-mindedness to cultural and ethnic diversity.

A university has several possibilities how to develop students' civic competencies. The education to citizenship might be carried out via:

- formal curriculum (course);
- informal curriculum (activities, projects);
- hidden curriculum (climate of a school)

Project FMK UCM in Trnava – Granát (Engl. – garnet)

Idea of competition: To support and spread social responsibility ideas within the conditions of educational institutions.

Goal of competition: The competition allows informing, motivating, supporting and acknowledging of unique activities dealing with social responsibility in favour of civic society.

Evaluation criteria

innovative contribution, originality, contribution, communication, economy, continuity and the quality of elaboration.

1st year winner – Basic school in Muránska Dlhá Lúka

We have materially and financially supported the book project *We live among you*.

The book of gypsy children is intended for white citizens to make them understand the culture, mentality, traditions, emotions and habits better.

We support the school materially and financially, we have created a calendar together; we have made a film about them.

The main idea of the project: The children do not have a hope for better and happier future without the support and support of their education!

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