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Citizenship Learning in a Shifting Society

Module 1: Introduction to democracy and citizenship



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DEMOCRACY

DEMOCRACY = The word literally means **rule by the people**.

The term is derived from the Greek **dēmokratia**, which was composed from two words: **dēmos** (“people”) and **kratos** (“rule”).

Source: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/democracy>



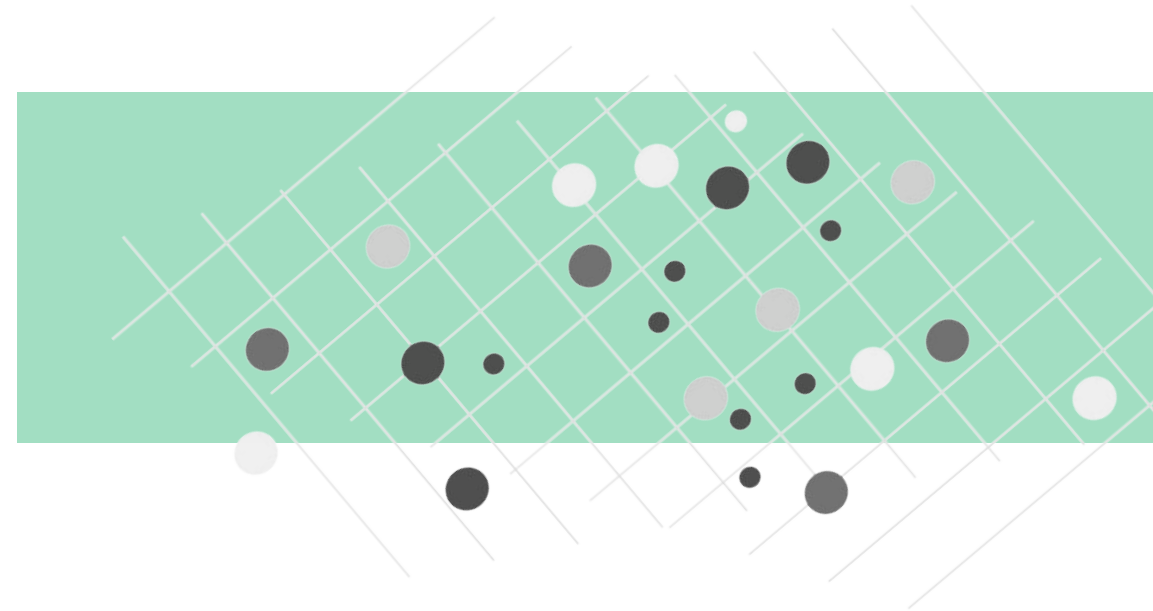


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MAIN PRINCIPLES OF DEMOCRACY

There are some basic principles, which
must exist in order to have a democratic
government.



These principles often become a part of the constitution or
bill of rights in a democratic society.

We know 13 main principles of democracy

Citizen participation	Equality	Human rights
The political tolerance	Accountability	Transparency
Regular, free and fair elections	Economic freedom	Control of the Abuse of power
Bill of rights	Accepting the results of elections	Multi party system
	The rule of law	



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CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Citizen participation is not only citizens' right, but also duty.

It means that anyone can be a candidate for the elections, vote, volunteer, pay taxes and protest.





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EQUALITY

All people are equal.

They can have different race, religion, ethnic group, gender or sexual orientation, but are all worth the same, and have the same opportunities.





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HUMAN RIGHTS

All democracies try to respect and protect human rights of citizens.

Human rights are values that show respect for human life and dignity. Every human being has it's value.

Human rights include freedom of expression, the right of *equality and education.*



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CITIZENSHIP

Citizenship is a relationship between a person and a state. A citizen owes loyalty to a state and in return the state protects the citizen.

Each state makes the rules and sets the conditions under which someone can be a citizen and decides when that status is taken. Citizens usually have automatic civil, political and social rights that non-citizens do not have. Also the right to a passport, the right to leave and return to the country of citizenship, the right to live and work in that country.





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Who is an European citizen?

An European citizen is a qualifying citizen of an European Union member state that enjoys the right to free movement, settlement, and employment across all 28 countries of the union.

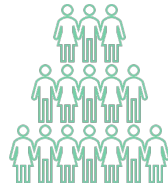
While the process for becoming a European citizen varies between states, in general, the minimum requirement is for you to live in the country for a certain amount of time, provide proof of legal residence in the country and lodge your European union citizenship application.



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6 Ways of becoming an EU citizen



Citizenship By Descent

In order to qualify, you need to have either parents, grandparents, or in some cases, great-grandparents who are/were born citizens of the European country in question.



Citizenship by Naturalisation

Naturalisation is the process by which a non-citizen may acquire citizenship or nationality of certain country. Each European country has its own requirements and processes in order to become a naturalised citizen.



Work

In almost every European country, you can qualify for residence if you get a full-time job there, start paying taxes etc. After some time of this conditions (usually about 5 - 10 years), you can apply for citizenship.



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6 Ways of becoming an EU citizen



Marriage

If you marry an EU citizen, you can usually get a residence permit and citizenship in a quick procedure. The whole process is similar to naturalisation, but the timeframe can be significantly shortened.



Business

Many European countries offer residence permits to people who start a business. There are usually strict criteria about what is a 'real' business and you should physically live in the country during the process.



Investment

For those who have funds this is the best way to get citizenship as it has less requirements. But when make your investment, you are not immediately granted citizenship. You will need to go through the naturalisation process just like everyone else.



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What are social movements and why they are so important



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- ★ **Social movements** are networks of individuals and organisations that come together for collective action to address specific problems.
- ★ Social movements are a perfect way to practise citizenship.
- ★ At this moment, social organisations and activists around the world are discussing different issues, from the economy to the environment to women's rights, and joining together for collective action.
- ★ Social movements propose changes and try to change public opinion and/or influence the powerful.
- ★ Social movements are organized groups trying to work for a common goal.
- ★ These groups might be trying to create change (Occupy Wall Street, Arab Spring), resist change (anti-globalization movement), or to give a political voice to those who otherwise do not have it (civil rights movements).

Social movements create social changes.



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A good citizen of the EU (or any other country) actively exercises his/her civic duties, respects EU values and contributes to the EU's aims = **CIVIC PARTICIPATION**

In this way, we are co-creating the future and caring not only for our own world, but also for the world of our descendants.



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