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Citizenship Learning in a Shifting Society

Social and community action



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## Objectives

In this workshop, you will learn:

- to define and identify social actions
- how to better identify and understand your community
- how to work together with your community in creating social actions
- how to search and apply for funds
- how to plan and create social actions in your community



## Content

1. Activity 1 - What is a Social Action?
2. Activity 2 - How to identify social actions
3. Activity 3 - Steps in creating a social action!
4. Activity 4 - Define your Community
5. Activity 5 - Imagine your ideal community
6. Activity 6 - How to engage your community?
7. Activity 7 - Create your Social Action plan
8. Activity 8 - Participatory systems
9. Activity 9 - Funding opportunities

Duration: 5h



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### 3.1.1 Introduction to Social Action

Your definition here:

Create the definition of Social Action in small groups following the steps from the Lesson Plan.



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## What is Social Action?

Def: Social action is about people coming together to help improve their lives and solve the problems that are important in their communities. It can include volunteering, giving money, community action or simple neighbourhood acts. It might be referred to as volunteering, active citizenship, community engagement, acts of service



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## 3.1.2 Identifying social actions

Why should you engage in social actions?

- To learn that working together gives people power
- To tackle the feeling of being helpless and must be taken care by government
- To learn that taking effective action is a process that involves specific skills
- To develop a caring community
- To develop citizenship skills
- To develop critical thinking skills
- To develops motivation to take action in the future

**What would you add?**



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## 3.1.2 Identifying social actions

Watch the video below and write down the social actions you can identify



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=14EYaUThB9Q>



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## 3.1.2 Identifying social actions

Go to [www.menti.com](https://www.menti.com) and use the code 6296 5213

Share similar actions from your  
community/work



SCAN THE QR CODE:



Create your own Mentimeter and share the code/QR code here.





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## 3.1.2 Identifying social actions

What difference do you think they made in your community? Write them down:



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### 3.1.3 How to create a social action

#### Steps:



#### UNDERSTAND

Understand your community and the issues they are encountering



#### IMAGINE

Imagine what would you like to see, improve in your community



#### BRING PEOPLE TOGETHER

Gather a group of people from the community that would help you achieve your goal



#### CREATE

Create an action plan for your social action together with the group and get excited about doing it together




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## 1. UNDERSTAND

To better support your community, you have to deeply understand their needs and views on life issues.

This can be done through different research methods: interviews, focus groups, observations, surveys.

But firstly, let's see what Community actually means. 





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## 3.1.4 Define your community

What does **community** mean:

A unified body of individuals: such as

- a) the people with common interests living in a particular area
- b) a group of people with a common characteristic or interest living together within a larger society
- c) a body of persons of common and especially professional interests scattered through a larger society
- d) a body of persons or nations having a common history or common social, economic, and political interests
- e) a group linked by a common policy





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## 3.1.4 Define your community

Describe the community you are living in/working with:

- 
- 
- 
- 
-



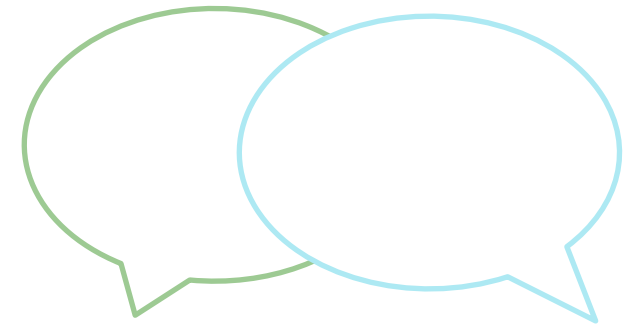
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## 3.1.4 Define your community

Think about these questions and share your answers in pairs of 2:

- What is your favorite thing about your community?
- Can you tell me about a place where you feel like at home?
- Can you tell me about a time when you felt appreciated in your community?





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## Community Organizing Processes



### **Pseudo community**

When people first come together, they try to be "nice" and present what they feel, are their most personable and friendly characteristics.



### **Chaos**

People move beyond the inauthenticity of pseudo-community and feel safe enough to present their "shadow" selves.



### **Emptiness**

Moves beyond the attempts to fix, heal and convert of the chaos stage, when all people become capable of acknowledging their own woundedness and brokenness, common to human beings.



### **True community**

Deep respect and true listening for the needs of the other people in this community.



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## 2. IMAGINE

Now that you got a better idea of what community means, how it works and how you see your community, we can start thinking about what are the needs of this community and what we can do to tackle them.







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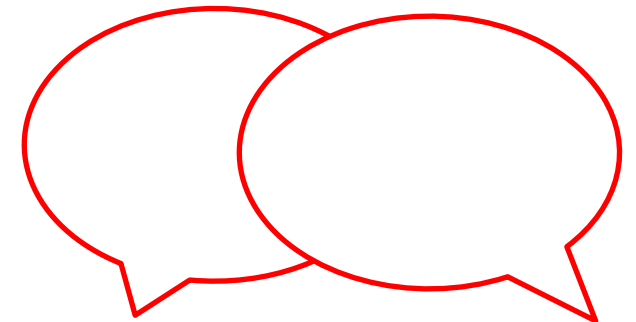
## 3.1.5 Imagine your community

Think about these questions and share your answers in pairs of 2:

- What would you like to see in your community in 5-10 years time...?
- What are your hopes for yourself and your community?
- What can you bring in your community? (ideas, projects, skills, knowledge, attitudes etc.)

### **WHAT INSPIRES YOU?**

Find out what makes people feel strong. Whether it's another person, a song, a place or a memory - we all have things that make us feel energised & inspired.







## 3.1.5 Imagine your community

- Set a goal for your community
- Make it SMART
- Create the Vision board based on this goal

Don't forget to be realistic!

<b>S</b>	<b>Specific</b> Clearly State your Goal
<b>M</b>	<b>Measurable</b> Ensure you can Measure Success
<b>A</b>	<b>Attainable</b> Set Goals you know you can Achieve
<b>R</b>	<b>Relevant</b> Set Goals Relevant to your Career or Education
<b>T</b>	<b>Time-Based</b> Set a Deadline for Completion



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## 3.1.5 Imagine your community

Reflection: Share your result with the group

- Why did you include the things you did?
- What are the things you can bring into reality?



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### 3. BRING PEOPLE TOGETHER

We tried to understand our community, then we imagined what we could do better and now we have to gather the people that will help us implement it.

The most important thing is bringing together the people from the community we are working with, so they will feel directly connected to the community and the final goal and at the same time bring extra insights from their daily lives.





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### 3.1.6 What is community building?

Community building is a practice that fosters connection and a sense of belonging between people with similar interests.

Community building activities are small events that promote friendships and a feeling of community between like minded people. The purpose of these activities is forging a group identity and give participants a feeling of belonging to something greater than themselves.



### 3.1.6 Tips for community building activities

- 1. Stick to a schedule and regular rhythm** – community building requires constant involvement. Keeping the community active and engaged means regularly planning activities and facilitating discussions. When encounters happen regularly, the group would safe space in their busy schedules.
- 2. Make conscious efforts to foster inclusion** – some people might be shier than other, so you, as a facilitator, will have to try to engage the people and make them speak between each other and find common interests. Also, make the group a safe place where people could express freely their different ideas and make everybody feel included.
- 3. Pick activities with mass appeal** – try to include activities that everybody likes, so people could discover common grounds of discussion
- 4. Let the community shape the programming** – You should build the activities around group members' interests, take feedback and suggestions from the group and even let group members lead certain activities and take initiative from time to time.



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## Example of activities:

Monthly cooking together, game nights, thematic walks in the neighborhood, exchanging skills/knowledge day, a corner for exchanging objects/clothes etc.

Ask the community for proposals – make a wall where they could write.

For bringing the people to work on a certain topic, use the activities you can find in the Tutor's handbook.





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## 4. CREATE

You got your group together, now is the time to create the Action plan for your Social Action!

Brainstorm and choose 1 or more actions that you want to implement. Make a timeline, split the responsibilities according to the skills and interests. Make a list with possible partners and stakeholders and think about funding opportunities.





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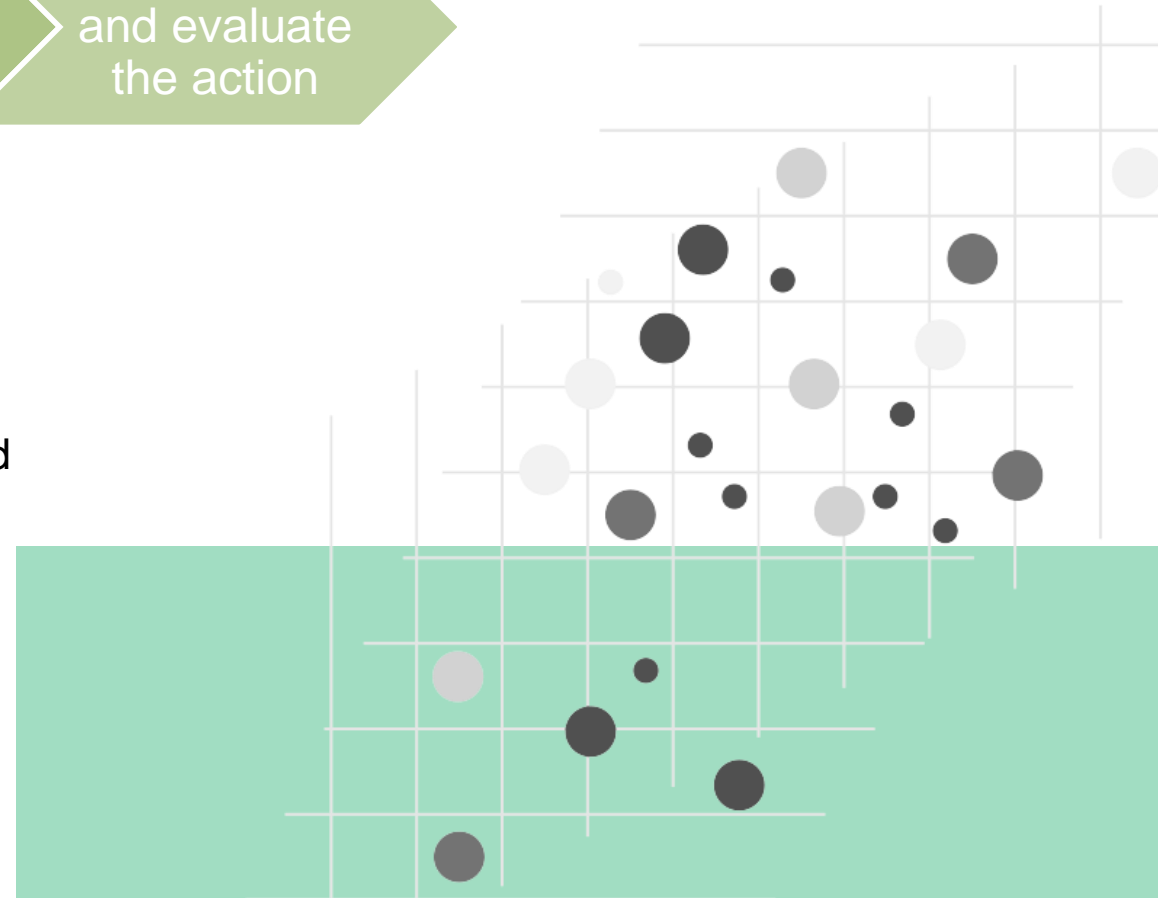


## Main steps in creating your Social Action plan



The final task will be to fill up the Social Action plan with the insight information you gathered from your community, choose a realistic and achievable solution, state your steps one by one and then implement and evaluate your action.

This part is to be done with your group/community.





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## Participatory systems

**Community development** is a process where community members come together to take collective action and generate solutions to common problems (UN definition)

**Social planning** - is a process that involves local governments and community members working together to address social issues and build healthy communities. Integrated with other types of planning, social planning focuses on the people themselves in a community planning context.



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## Participatory systems

**Systems advocacy** involves working for long-term social change to make sure legislation, policies and practices support the rights and interests of people with impaired decision-making ability. This can include influencing; The creation of new laws or changes to current laws.

**Coalition building** is the process by which parties (individuals, organizations, or nations) come together to form a coalition. Forming coalitions with other groups of similar values, interests, and goals allows members to combine their resources and become more powerful than when they each acted alone.



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## Funding opportunities

### 1. Local funding :

- check on your local municipality website for funding opportunities and local grants
- sponsorships from local companies
- grants from local Universities

### 2. National funding: crowdfunding opportunities

### 3. European funding:

[https://commission.europa.eu/funding-tenders/find-funding\\_en](https://commission.europa.eu/funding-tenders/find-funding_en) - various funding opportunities by topic

[https://youth.europa.eu/solidarity/young-people/solidarity-projects\\_en](https://youth.europa.eu/solidarity/young-people/solidarity-projects_en) Local solidarity projects, up to 30yo



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# THANK

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@startpoint.project



[www.startpoint-project.eu](http://www.startpoint-project.eu)



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# START POINT



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