

MONITORING AND EVALUATING THE STATE OF THE RIGHTS TO EUROPEAN ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP

Taking the Rights to European Active Citizenship Seriously

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Rationale:

Two major paradoxes in European attitude towards citizens' organizations:

- Despite the increase relevance in official documents and public discourse, the reality of ACOs is relatively unknown. Little to no information on what citizens' organizations do, what problems they face in their relation with public institutions, what is their contribution to a bottom-up European integration and the building of a European citizenship.
- While several rights of citizens as individuals have been established in the European Charter of Fundamental Rights, a juridical void on their rights as organized entities does exist.

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Objectives

- **Information:** gathering and organizing data on the state of implementation of rights to Active European Citizenship in a sample of member states and at community level;
- **Evaluation:** experimenting the possibility to compare different situations and evaluate them with reference to the actual state of rights to European Active Citizenship;
- **Toolbox:** setting up and testing tools to be used to gather information and evaluate the practice of rights to European Active Citizenship.



Framework

- European Charter of Fundamental Rights
 - Nice 2000, individual rights for European citizens and citizens living in EU countries.
- European Charter of Active Citizenship:
 - Set up in 2006 by ACN and Fondaca, with the support of the European Commission and in partnership with 10 partner organizations.

Rights of the Charter

1. Rights related to **activities**:
 - intervention;
 - carry out prevention activities;
 - consultation;
 - evaluate;

2. Rights related to **procedures**:
 - access;
 - qualified interlocution;
 - respect of time and obligation to give a feedback;
 - trust and equal dignity;
 - facilitation and support measures.

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Countries Involved

1. Bulgaria
2. Cyprus
3. Czech Republic
4. Greece
5. Germany
6. Italy
7. Poland
8. Slovenia
9. Romania
10. Turkey

A highly experimental project

- Where we:
 - set up, tested and reviewed a common toolbox for the improvement of the implementation of active citizenship rights in Europe
 - A concrete exercise of two very important rights of the ECAC: the right to intervention (no. 5) and the right to evaluate (no. 9).

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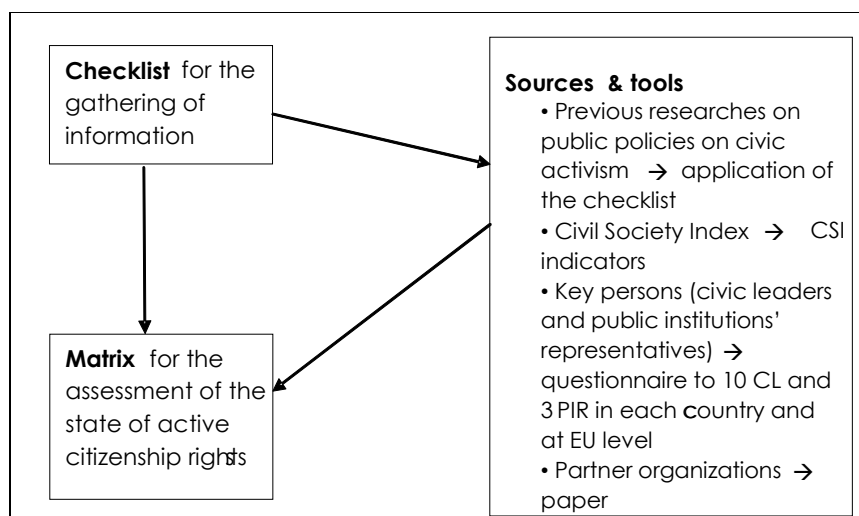
Project Development

- Drafting Proposal of Indicators
- Expert meeting: revise indicators
- Drafting of Tools
- Experimentation of Checklist (Nat./EU)
- Experimentation of Matrix and Scoring (partner meeting)
- Redrafting of Tools and Handbook
- Revision, Evaluation and Follow-up (Final Seminar)

Outputs:

- a framework of the state of the implementation of the rights to active citizenship in the target countries as well as in the European Union based on the **Checklist**;
- a comparative evaluation of the degree of implementation of these rights in the same environment, based on the **Scoring Matrix**

A Tool Box and Handbook





Follow-up to the project

- Translation of Tools in the language of countries that participated
- Meetings at national level
- Presentation of the project (Civicus, ISTR)
- Special Toolbox webpage with links to partner organisations, ACN and FONDACA



In conclusion:

To take the rights of active Citizenship seriously

- Need to develop a **European policy** regarding Active Citizenship (norms, rules, procedures, attitudes, behavior).
- Develop **European Standards** (benchmarking for national, regional and local) based on the ECAC.