

ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP

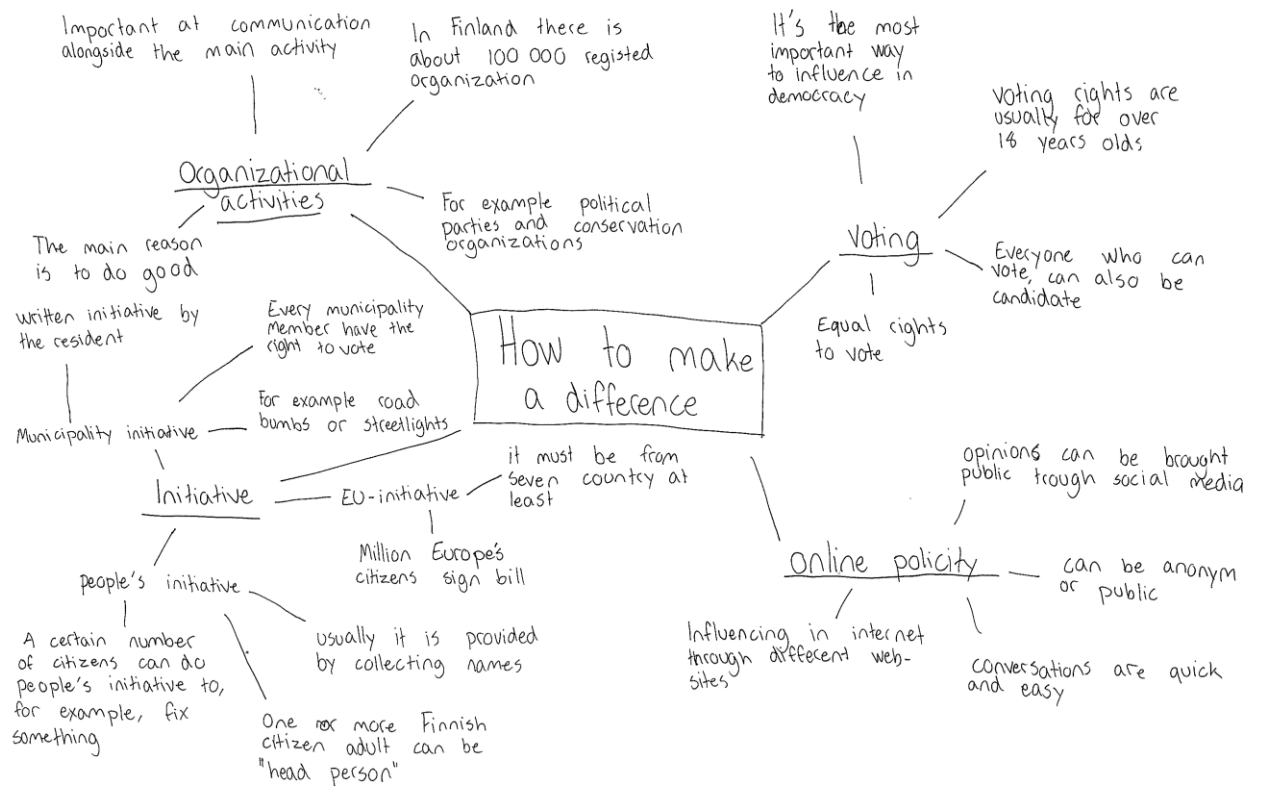
A guide for young people



ERASMUS+ KA2 –

FOOTPRINTS ACROSS EUROPE2017

**HOW TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE,
SUMMARY**





INTERNET PUBLICITY

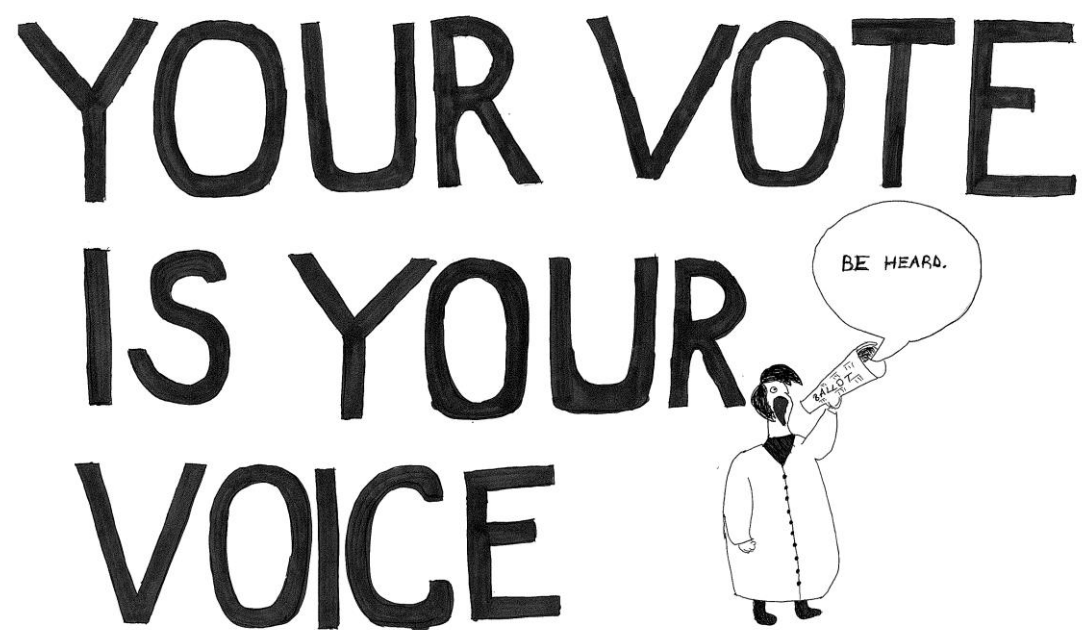
Internet publicity is affecting others through various websites. Internet is a fast and effortless way to bring out your opinion and reach big masses of people. It's also easy to affect as an anonym. It's effortless to have conversation about things instantly on the net. Internet easily helps to create a sense of community.

On the other hand, the internet has so much content that your own opinion doesn't always get noticed. A lot of older people might have difficulties using the internet and affecting others' opinions with it.

Nowadays, social media is very popular especially among youngsters and it's an easy way to make their opinions visible through to their followers.

For example politicians and other people of fame declare their opinions on many sites like twitter, facebook and instagram. Their

followers follow their thoughts and opinions all day like that. The followers can easily interact with them.



VOTING

Voting is the most important way to affect in democracy. There is many options in voting that can be chosed from the others. The option, that has gotten the most of votes, will be the winning one. As normally, members of community are in the same level so they have as much affect in voting. However, the age limit of voting is 18 years.

There can be anything to decide in voting and the voting of a person to do something important is called election. The candidates of voting can be non-attached members or basically belong to some political party.

There is a general protected suffrage in Finland so everybody over 18 years old more can vote at a public election. In this case gender, education, property or social status doesn't influence the chance to vote. The person that is entitled to vote can also be a candidate.

The most ordinary voting rules:

- In an open voting, everybody's opinion is public
- In a closed voting, everybody's opinion is covert
- In a ticket voting, people write the option that they support

By voting, people decide for instance president, members of parliament and shop steward of municipality and church. The state and the municipalities can arrange votings that give some advices for incorporation into bigger municipalities and currency exchange, for example. In the voting of municipality election, can also vote the persons in country that are members of EU, the citizens of Norway, Iceland and people who have lived in Finland more than two year before election. In the election of president, the candidate has to be Finnish by birth.



ORGANIZATIONAL ACTIVITY

There are also other groups that influence in politics than just political parties that seek election wins. For example different organizations. Organizations are important influencers, not just because of their work but also because of the communication that goes through them. There are about 100 000 registered organizations in Finland and about 65 000 of those work actively. These kind of organizations are for example political parties, different residents' associations, trade unions and nature conservation organizations etc. If you want to support things that you find important, you can get help and support from organizations.

Successful civil and organization activity is emotion, passion, attendance, partnership, meanings and commitment. Civil and organization activity is made of people's good intentions and substantial deeds. It is done in communities between other people

and for the good of people and communities. The big mission of civil and organization activity is to do good. That is what we need in this time: good deeds, pursuit of good, and good will. We people are capable of doing that if we want to. Finnish and international civil activity and the voluntary work are concrete examples of that. There have been done and will be done bad things too but it is fortunately just a marginal effect. In a free country everything can not be forbidden and stopped without it preventing most of the people from doing good. Because of that the autonomy of the civil and organization activity is one of the main reasons to the success. A variety of things can have been done and only the limits of our imagination are there to stop us, when we think all of those possibilities where our civil and organization activity- concept can be used.

In civil and organization activity things and tasks are important but the most relevant thing is still emotion, motivation and the will to be involved and act. If these parts are missing from the mission, it does not matter how important the mission is, the acts will be left incomplete. The passion towards the thing that people want to do together solves the success. Know-how is important but everything that is needed will be learned if there is enough passion and need to learn. The activity can be expanded and improved if there is will and the courage to do it. Money is found as well when you put yourself out there and start to work together with others.



Memorable moments in Finland:





