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MASTER THESIS

ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP AND ITS ROLE IN THE QUALITY OF LIFE

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Statement

I, Amra Jakupi Jashari, a postgraduate student at the Faculty for Contemporary Social Studies at the South-East European University, claim to be the original author of this academic paper.

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Abstrakti

Përpunimi i temës së “Qytetarisë aktive dhe rolit të saj në cilësinë e jetës” në këtë shkrim ka për qëllim zbulimin e rëndësisë së madhe që e ka në jetën e përditshme të individit duke u paraqitur si rezultat i çështjeve aktuale në shoqëri. Qytetaria aktive ka qenë fusha ime hulumtuese, të cilën e kam paraqitur si koncept i pranuar nga pjesëtarë të kompanive, të institucioneve arsimore dhe të përfaqësuesve zyrtarë dhe jo-zyrtarë të shteteve gjatë zbatimit të përgjegjësisë të tyre në shoqëri dhe rrethit ku jetojnë-por dhe ndikimit të pashmangshëm të globalizimit dhe të teknologjisë. Në këtë punim trajtohet historiat, nevojat, llojet, mënyrat dhe shkaqet e lajmerimit të Qytetarisë aktive dhe ndërkohë përpunohet qëllimi i saj në arritjen përfundimtare të zbatimit të “Njerëzisë së brendshme”. Gjatë shkrimit janë përdorur libra të publikuara, shkrime, biografie, artikuj të ndryshëm, të dhëna nga interneti, televizioni, të dhëna nga intervista dhe sondazhe të realizuara, por edhe të dhëna nga përvoja personale.

Abstract

Treating the theme of “Active citizenship and its role in the quality of life” in this paper has the intent of pointing out its enormous significance in the everyday life of the person resulting from the actual issues in the society. Active citizenship has been my research field which I have presented as a concept accepted by company representatives, educational institutions, and official and unofficial representatives of states while performing their responsibilities in the society and the environment they live in-but also the inevitable influence of globalism and technology. History, needs, types, ways and reasons for the appearance of Active citizenship are treated, and the ultimate aim in performing the “Inner humanity”. While writing this paper I have used published books, writings, different articles, biografies, internet data, television data, data from interviews and polls and data from my personal experience.

Апстракт

Обработувањето на темата “Активно граѓанство и неговата улога во квалитетот на животот” има за цел откривање на големата улога која ја има во секојдневниот човечки живот, појавувајќи се како резултат на актуелните општествени состојби. Активното граѓанство беше мое истражувачко поле, кое го претставив како концепт прифатен од страна на претставници на компании, на образовни институции и на официјални и неофицијални претставници на земји во склоп на остварување на нивните обврски кон општеството и околината во која живеат-но и неизбежната улога на глобализацијата и технологијата. Во овој труд се разработува историјатот, потребите, видовите, начините и причините за појавата на Активното граѓанство, а притоа и неговата крајна цел во претставувањето на “Внатрешната човечност”. За време на пишувањето на трудот користени се објавени книги, списанија, писмени трудови, биографии, разни статии, податоци од интернет, телевизија, податоци од извршени интервјуа и анкети, но и моето лично искуство.

To whom it may concern

Subject: Editing and proofreading

Magdalena Jakimovska

I, the undersigned, hereby do certify that the paper “Active Citizenship and its role in the quality of life” by Amra Jakupi-Jashari, has been accurately edited and proofread.

Date and place: 05 April, 2021 Kumanovo

Magdalena Jakimovska

English Language teacher and Court appointed translator and interpreter from Macedonian to English.

RECOGNITION

Since I was a student in secondary school, I always wanted to help people and help the community I live in. Later in life, I took part as a social assistant in the Helsinki Committee for Human Rights in Skopje, Center for Conflict Resolution, and was one of the Volunteers at the VIA (Volunteers in Action) stationed in different areas of North Macedonia- which I think has influenced my overall perception that we as individuals have to react when something is not right for our community and our environment. I worked with young influential students on important matters for the society like different ethnicity, prejudice, cultural differences, conflict resolution, etc. Especially it is important to stress out that acting as an active citizen is something that you primarily do for yourself, for acting naturally as a responsible person-but ultimately you do it for your children and for the ones that will come after you. You attempt to make the world a better place for everyone. In this thesis I have treated Active citizenship and its role in life in several aspects; what it means, where it is present, what kind of effects it has and examples of it, which are the main fields that are treated by its occurrence and also its role in spreading Diplomacy in resolving conflicts. I truly hope that this thesis may result in a positive outcome and becomes a base for a future book and on top of that an engine for making progress regarding Active citizenship here in North Macedonia. I wish to thank my parents for their part in making me reach out to the limitless possibilities and making me feel capable of reaching any goal in life while bringing subjective and objective decisions. I wish to thank my family for their patience, encouragement, and motivation, and my mentor for his friendly and methodological approach always giving me optimistic thoughts encouraging me to continue with my project until the end. I hope these people stay in my life to realize together many more life projects.

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Introduction and description

The importance of this thesis is great enough because the subject of Active citizenship until now was not treated as such in the Republic of North Macedonia, while it has tremendous importance on life itself. I had some difficulties in finding the appropriate material for writing this paper, because the issue was not domestically treated, but the SEEU Library and the National and University Library in Skopje were my primary sources. While searching for the materials I came to find new ideas, make new questions and write this paper that will hopefully bring courage for each person to want to improve his/her own life and actively participate as a citizen in the community they live in. I also suppose that there will be items that will bring further interest for the students and/or readers regarding further research and new scientific researching.

- *Research field*-my research field is the Active citizenship and the role it has on quality of life of each citizen. As referring to a concept that has been adopted by organizations and educational institutions according to which members of companies, citizens of a state, cities and representatives of cities and nation-states have certain roles and responsibilities to society and environment, even though those members do not have a specific governing role.

It will also have insight into the different types of active citizenship, compared to other neighboring, European and transnational countries. However, I wish to process my master thesis on the grounds of non-governmental involvement in the active citizenship initiatives as they might have occurred, how they occur, the possible lack of them, why this happens etc., but I must briefly mention the opposite sides of this phenomenon i.e. with the “official” involvement of the government”. I think that this thesis is not realized enough in our society, and has a huge impact over various fields of our lives (mental, social, economic, security). As a term that has appeared after the World War II, I believe that our need of active citizenship is drawn by the need to actively participate in the consent or discontent with a certain policy, with the wish to promote our society internationally, to promote certain ideas and actions and to have the sense of belonging to, as I would put it: “Achievement of a certain goal and realizing your inner humanity” as an integral part of democracy.

- *Aims of the research*-this Master’s Thesis has a practical and scientific role in exposing the things that we lack as a society, and hopefully bringing out certain ideas that will amend those mistakes. I also think that this thesis is among the rare ones that analyses the problematic of Active

citizenship in various aspects, starting of the types it can appear and how we can use them in our society to the types that we have tried using. Also, the aim of this research is coming to a conclusion and receiving additional knowledge on the active citizenship and the influence it has on the quality of life; not only theoretically describing and putting into certain qualification, I will try to achieve in explaining the reasons why it happens and the results active citizenship offers. Hopefully, when completing my thesis I might achieve a concrete “scientific discovery”, but if not, I will however give my own scientific prediction according to experience.

Citizens are not aware of the role they might have in creating a better life for themselves and the community; they are also unaware of the impact they can have as a group regarding a resolution of a certain problem; I hope I will at least make them aware.

- **Research Methodology**-during the research methodology I used data from primary and secondary sources, i.e. data from published books, different articles, data from the internet, television, and also the data received by the performed polls and interviews, and those based on my identification as such. I have used methods of analysis and synthesis that have influenced the logical presentation of the research object; the method of induction and deduction-that helped me easier to come to my conclusions and my further recommendations regarding this problem; method of the survey by understanding what real-life situations and real-life experiences of people are on this issue.

- **Hypotheses**- My main hypotheses is that “Active citizenship has a key role in improving the quality of life of the citizens”, and my specific hypotheses are that “Active citizenship is a democracy and diplomacy tool, that “In countries with developed Non-Governmental Organizations the quality of life is better regarding the places that do not have developed NGOs”, and the “Key factors that constitute life are improved by the practice of Active citizenship”.

1. CHAPTER I

THE DEFINING AND THEORETICAL ASPECTS OF ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP

When trying to think about the point in proposing this subject on ‘active citizenship’ occurrence, what goes to my mind, especially in these circumstances we are living at the moment, is “being brave”. Active citizenship means taking the initiative to lead people on a path that has a lot of potential for success and is meant to be worthwhile.

Many times, people and youth especially, know what is right and what is wrong, but need an extra push, or a tube to express that. I think that active citizenship is the most appropriate way to do so.¹.

Divided in words, “active” implies being on the move, and “citizenship” would stand for a modern-day definition of a person being a member of society. Even a person that has no afore knowledge of the term, can easily conclude that it has to do with “doing” something in the society you live in, and not be motionless about things happening in your surroundings. Mostly, the term “active citizenship” is used by organizations and educational institutions when referring to ordinary citizens, i.e. people that do not have governmental roles.

Sometimes, the term active citizenship is identified with “volunteering and helping the less fortunate”². However, this term is quite new and, different definitions related to the interpretation can be found, most probably because of the great number of activities it embraces.

Still, no universal definition can be given on the meaning of Active citizenship or a standard word on the characterization of what the active citizen is. The fact that it refers to the involvement of individuals in *public life* and the *public affairs*, about a problem on a *local, national* and *international level*, is indisputably a claim everybody agrees on.

This term “on a local level” points out the citizens who are actively involved in the community affairs, trying to amend the problems the community is facing and, do not accept changes when they are not good for the society. Active citizens are those who develop the skills, knowledge, and

¹Jonathan M. Tisch College of Citizenship and Public Service www.activecitizen.tufts.edu/education/ visited 06.03.2015

² Jonathan M. Tisch (April 27, 2010). "Active Citizenship: A New Approach to Volunteering". Huffington Post. Retrieved 2010-06-16.

understanding to be able to make informed decisions about their communities and workplaces- with the aim of improving their quality of life.

And the theoretical aspects of active citizenship are the interpretations of the definition of active citizenship according to a certain point of view, in this case, my point of view. Active citizenship, in itself, means being rebellious about certain policies, happenings, and occurrences, and you cannot see yourself, or the people you live with, face with such a fact. However, as much as we think of a rebellion positively, certain people might not perceive it as such; people can start being rebellious on really positive things, and inclined by an opponent “they” will not accept a certain policy or truth.

What I would like to say, and many books claim the same, is having the meaning of grasping the theoretical aspects, according to the genuine good, with integrity (of course integrity with the different levels each individual has). So, the aspects of approaching the theory of active citizenship are numerous, and various, depending on the level of involvement, way of involvement, reasons for involvement, reasons for continuation, etc. In this direction, I can mention several, like helping the poor and unfortunate, volunteering, not throwing litter on streets, helping the elders and children, seeing injustice and pointing up to it, making a group on forming a policy or movement for improving the condition in the society, etc.

1.1 Ideological orientation of active citizenship

The active citizen believes in a certain ideology; that he is a part of an association or an organization that will give him strength and push him forward in realizing his/her important activity in proselytizing an ideology of change. Even with the individual initiative, the active citizen thinks that much can be done altruistically (“for the people, for the country”)³.

The ideology itself behind which stands the initiative means sharing a set of beliefs by members of a social group, which forms a basis for political, economic, or other systems.

Regarding the ideological orientation, or the ideology comprehended by the group that grasps the idea of active citizenship, the active citizen participates indirectly in the activities for the policy-

³ Janoski Thomas, *Citizenship and Civil Society: a framework of rights & obligations in the liberal, traditional, and democratic regimes*” Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 1998, pg.97

making, he/she is concerned about the people in the group, he/she is often engaged in a conflict with established elites and most often approaches problems from the grassroots level.

Active citizenship can be divided into three main groups or types: **responsible, participatory and justice-oriented**"⁴. In other words, the division is made according to the greatness of involvement in the ideology. The citizen that is *responsible* avoids littering, picks up litter for others, volunteers, donates blood etc; in the *participatory* type the active citizen takes an active part in civic and social affairs and social life of the community and assumes leading roles, and *the justice-oriented* citizens are those who can critically analyze the structures of inequality, consider collective strategies to measure injustice and when possible address root causes of social problems⁵ (poverty, climate change, unemployment etc.). In all of these descriptions we can find ourselves...however, is it enough?

1.2 A proof that democracy exists in a society

Democracy exists in a country if there is a political system that gives the possibility of choosing a government via free elections, but also exists if there is active participation of the people as citizens in the social life and if protection of the rules for human rights is ensured for all.

The phrase "active participation of the people as citizens" I believe is the piece or notion, we are seeking for. The term democracy itself originates from the Greek (*dēmokratía*) "rule of the people", in the 5th century BC.

If we should ask a person that is studying politics about stances that define democracy, most probably he/she would mention the election type, the participation of citizens in all of the political processes, the possibility to see how different things are developing in the society and of course a developed civil society. So, real democracy in its principles is built upon these values, and people living in a democratic society are asked to be active and put their efforts into its existence. "Civil society cannot function on its own, citizen participation in the political, social and other processes is essential for the existence of these main principles democracy is built upon"⁶.

⁴ What Kind of Citizen? The Politics of Educating for Democracy Joel Westheimer; Joseph Kahne American Educational Research Journal; Summer 2004; 41, 2; ABI/INFORM Global pg. 237

⁵Adult learning and education, Kjell Rubenson, Elsevier, Oxford, 2011, UK, pg 110

⁶Maria Eremenko, National Research University – Higher School of Economics "Political participation: Model by Verba in the EU and Russia"

With the participation of citizens in the society, there must be active communication with the government officials about the problems that the citizen is concerned about and make the politician give a response about that, or give a solution-a democratic approach to the problem.

One of the definitions on active citizenship with a democratic pinch is the one made by the American political scientist Sidney Verba⁷: “activities that have the intent or effect of influencing government action - either directly by affecting the making or implementation of public policy, or indirectly by influencing the selection of people who make these policies; that participation is not obligatory and receives no pay or financial compensation”. From this, we can conclude that active citizenship in a democratic society means doing politics.

A recent knowledge, for me, is that democratic societies are also known as *participatory democracies*, (of course, each state at a certain level), like unions of states with good developed democracies USA and EU, where it exists, as opposed to other states with no developed democracies like Russia, Ukraine, Syria etc. Regarding EU and participation of the citizen, it exists via their representatives (European Parliament, European Council and Council of Ministers), which are accountable for the national parliaments elected by their citizens.

In a society with no democracy, like Russia, the only way for the citizen to participate in political processes is to vote through elections, because demonstrations and marches are officially forbidden. The mass-media is not free in the classic liberal approach and it is not able to express the views of ordinary people or just fair views as it usually belongs to the people who have connections to those who have power. Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) and Non-Profit Organizations (NPO), always risk being abolished if their activities somehow are opposed to the governmental activities.

Also, history has a lot to do with developed democracies and existing democracies; depending on the political climate it was preceded by, whether it was monarchy, totalitarianism, communism, and authoritarianism or similar to it. I would mention Romania in this context and the negative history of Nicolai Ceausescu⁸, which still haunts the state.

⁷ Sidney Verba (26 May 1932, New York), an American political scientist, a Carl H. Pforzheimer University Professor at Harvard University, and director of the Harvard University Library from 1984 to 2007.

⁸ Nicolai Ceausescu was a Romanian Communist politician. He was general secretary of the Romanian Communist Party from 1965 to 1989, and the second and last Communist leader of Romania. He was also the country's head of state from 1967, serving as President of the State Council, from 1974 concurrently as President of the Republic, until his overthrow in the Romanian Revolution in 1989. On December 25, 1989, in a show trial that lasted less than an hour, he and his wife Elena were charged with genocide and other crimes. Shortly after their conviction, the Ceausescus were led outside and executed by a firing squad. The two were buried at the Ghencea Cemetery in Bucharest.

On the other hand, real democratic societies, like America and Europe, offer a lot of opportunities for the citizen: voting, working in and contributing to electoral campaigns and organizations, contacting government officials, attending protests, marches, or demonstrations, working informally with the others to solve some community problem, serving without pay on local elected and appointed boards, being active politically through the intermediation of voluntary associations, contributing money to political causes in response to mail solicitations, etc.

Although in different forms, I have previously mentioned that the active citizen when making his performance creates a new relationship between state and civil society and replaces government by governance⁹. The actions of the active citizen can be made in different democratic politics like consultative activities with other citizens, organizations, representatives of a state or a project or government officials; can be realized via organizing a referendum¹⁰, or deliberative participation¹¹.

French writer Benjamin Constant in an essay in 1820 named: "The Liberty of the Ancients Compared to that of the Moderns" too much ahead of our time has talked about the difference between active and good citizen: according to him the aim of the ancients was the sharing of social power among citizens of the same fatherland; this is what they called liberty, and the aim of the moderns is the employment of liberty in private pleasures while they call liberty the guarantees accorded by institutions to these pleasures¹².

1.3 A proof that the human development in a society has reached a certain level

When a woman is living in a violent marriage, being beaten every day, and still continues to endure it, still does the chores, goes to work, invests in the mutual life-we cannot say that she has developed and matured her human values. On the other hand, when she feels dissatisfaction and

⁹ According to the Center for the Study of Democratic Politics (CSDP), created in 1999 as a research program within the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs. The Center supports empirical research on democratic political processes and institutions. CSDP's research program focuses on the relationship between democratic ideals and democratic practice; its aim is to encourage rigorous social scientific analysis that informs and is informed by normative theories of democracy.

¹⁰ Especially referendums are a form of expressing democracy¹⁰, where the entire electorate votes on a particular proposal. Via this form citizens are in the possibility to even change the constitution or government of a country.

¹¹ Active citizenship, what could it achieve and how?, Edited by Bernard Crick, Andrew Lockyer, Edinburgh University Press, 2010, <https://core.ac.uk/download/pdf/223298.pdf> visited 11.02.2015

¹² From poverty to power. How active Citizens and Effective states can Change the World, Duncan Green, 2008, Oxfam international

acts according to it to try and change something, then the action, firstly of a woman, then of a person within the society is right and strongly developed. This kind of development is even biologically proved since the early days, like when the prehistoric human-made knives of bones, but saw that they were not good enough and that they broke easily, so he tried to make something about it to satisfy his needs and benefit from it¹³. The main point for undertaking an action is “Why don’t I do something to change this way, I don’t like it”. We can very reassuringly accept the fact that.

However, the skills for making a decision, the developmental skills about acting on a certain occurrence are different for the different age groups through their lifespan. Adolescents for example worry about smoking, their position in friendship, studying, etc. On the other hand people older than the general population worry about the economy, politics and similar. Typically, skills and abilities increase early in life before declining again slowly after young adulthood¹⁴.

The nature of problems active citizens deal with is generally a socially negative occurrence-problem that affects groups of people - children, teenage mothers, the mentally ill, the poor, etc. Active citizens begin addressing the problem using the knowledge they already have, but also in communication with others, they get more feedback about it¹⁵.

They must be informed about a problem they wish to address, for example, if you are trying to fight hunger, you must know which children are hungry and gather information about the problem. You might collect any of the several types of information available¹⁶.

However, humans have developed their understanding on a certain level, and have the feasibility developed in their inner selves at a certain level too, by having in mind if the salvation of a problem is feasible and before that how much it is important to have the problem solved. Also, the importance is very relevant because it gives an accent to the problem “is the result that will come with the solving of the problem important for people, or is it more important to have the problem pending”? Similar to when you take medications you decide to put up with the side effects to cure the disease, every time there are positive and negative impacts of the solution.

¹³ Lawson, L., Donant, F., & Lawson, J. (1982). *Lead on! The complete handbook for group leaders*. San Luis Obispo, CA: Impact Publishers.

¹⁴ <https://www.mpib-berlin.mpg.de/en/research/adaptive-rationality/research-areas/the-lifespan-development-of-decision-making> (17.07.2015)

¹⁵ Morrison, E. (1994). *Leadership skills: Developing volunteers for organizational success*. Tucson, AZ: Fisher Books.

¹⁶ Dashiell, K. (1990). *Managing meetings for collaboration and consensus*. Honolulu, HI: Neighborhood Justice Center of Honolulu, Inc.

Human beings are taught to live being active every day and facing problems every day. There are some good things about problems. They produce necessity and necessity is the mother of invention. Every problem is solvable or improvable and asks for an optimistic opinion (to change the world). Also, problems give opportunities to change the world, give the motivation to create change and they are challenges, they call upon our best abilities and go beyond that. They make life interesting, and sometimes fun, and without problems, life would be boring¹⁷.

What is important for considering the problem the right way is critical thinking. Critical thinking brings political and social change and challenges the generally accepted beliefs and values of the power structure.

By doing critical thinking, human beings put themselves into the process of examining, analyzing, questioning, and challenging situations, issues, and information of all kinds. Critical thinking is also used when raising questions about survey results; theories; personal comments; media stories; our personal relationships; history; scientific research; political statements; conventional wisdom, general assumptions, and the pronouncements of authority. Critical thinking is an important tool in solving community problems and in developing interventions or initiatives in health, human services, and community development.

When an individual perceives the problem and tries to solve it, he has to pass several stages and has to have grown some human levels of development, like needs to know to separate the truth from what is false, partially true or incomplete, or assumed to be true because everyone says so; needs to know a little bit of history of the issues or situations; to be possible to understand what are the purposes or assumptions behind information or situations; to have ways, different ways to approach one problem and solve it, not just one alternative.

When critical thinking is applied to an issue, you have to take action to change the situation and see what has the desired impact on that issue. The main goal of critical thinking is to undertake an action that will have the desired effect.

A developed human being does not look at the issue as an object at its surface but as a whole. A developed person knows that the problem has a history, a source, and a context that needs to be

¹⁷ Meacham, W. (1980). Human development training manual. Austin, TX: Human Development Training

solved. Also, when trying to solve the problem, active citizens need to expand their knowledge, because different sources become related to the problem, and thus different histories.

Of course, to use this form of thinking, the active citizens, seniors, adults, and children, need to be able to use abstract thought, a condition only possible for developed human beings to use. They, the active citizens, need to think about the problem, about what is not there, to foresee future consequences and possibilities, and imagine possible scenarios. Almost everyone can do that; they just need encouragement and an opportunity to express him/her-self.

1.4 . A proof that the social aspects are important and crucial for a member or a group

Functionalists.¹⁸ have always compared society with a living organism, where both a society and an organism are made up of interdependent working parts (organs) and systems that must function together in order for the greater body to function. Functionalist sociologists say that the different parts of society e.g. the family, education, religion, law and order, media, etc. have to be seen in terms of the contribution that they make to the functioning of the whole of society. This 'organic analogy' sees the different parts of society working together to form a social system in the same way that the different parts of an organism form a cohesive functioning entity.¹⁹

This theory has some concepts as the most important. Society is viewed as a system and thus is a collection of interdependent parts, and as each system, it tends to achieve equilibrium. Also, except for the elements, the society needs to fulfill the functional requirements (reproduction of the population) to survive.

The relationships people develop and their interactions with others in society are social aspects, like the roles people have in families (parent-child, sibling-sibling, etc.), clubs or individual joins, how students interact with peers and teachers in school, women "fighting for" equal rights, people practicing their religion, people participating in crime, work relationships, giving money for charitable causes, etc.

The definition of social aspect is the relationship that is developed by individuals through interactions with other people in the society. A good example is the role of a man in a family as a

¹⁸ The functionalist perspective is based largely on the works of Herbert Spencer, Emile Durkheim, Talcott Parsons, and Robert Merton. According to functionalism, society is a system of interconnected parts that work together in harmony to maintain a state of balance and social equilibrium for the whole.

¹⁹ Securipedia.com, 20.07.2015

husband, brother, father, uncle, and so on. Active citizenship makes it possible for the individual to put into function all the organs that constitute the body because some negative effects have influenced negatively on the body (social aspects). For an individual, these aspects must be very important and must have an impact on his conceptualization of life to choose to be active and make the change. The social causes that an individual or a group chooses to change can be of different nature that we can put into sub-groups like²⁰:

1. cultural factors: customs, beliefs and values;
2. economic factors: money, land and resources;
3. political factors: decision-making, power.

The social aspect we choose to face can be dealt with individually and as a group. However, a social problem is something that influences a considerable number of people, not just one or two people. When many problems affect a great number of us, as a group, we should solve the problem together; everyone is a part of the solution. And, as the saying goes, two heads are better than one, and especially a room full of future active citizens. When working with more than just a couple of people, solving a problem with a set process becomes more manageable; It increases the group's efficiency and productivity; It increases the group's participation - more people tend to be involved, and, as a result, It increases the group satisfaction. This means, among other things, that the group is more likely to want to take on other problems. And when they do so, they'll be better placed to solve them²¹.

²⁰ Altman, D., Balcazar, F., Fawcett, S., Seekins, T., & Young, J. (1994). Public health advocacy: Creating community change to improve health. Palo Alto, CA: Stanford Center for Research in Disease Prevention. Sholtes, P.R. (1988). The team handbook. Madison, WI: Joiner Associates Inc.

²¹ <http://www.pedestrians-int.org/main.php-id=36.html> 08.07.2015

| SOCIAL NEGATIVE ISSUES²² | | | |
|--|---|---|---|
| 1 GENDER | 2 HEALTH | 3 SAFETY | 4 ECONOMY |
| Homophobia Women's Rights Human Rights Violations Environmental Pollution Children's Rights Racial profiling Civil Rights Judicial Reform Censorship Academic Freedom Gender issues Gay Marriages Education Health Care | Global warming Birth control Abortion Food, drug, vaccines Animal and environment Organ and body donation Environmental pollution Euthanasia Eating disorder HIV/AIDS Genetic engineering Obesity Nuclear Stress Cancer | Alcoholism Guns Suicide Misuse of social networking Capital punishment Religion-based Discrimination Terrorism Violence Proliferation prostitution | Tax reform Poverty World population Unemployment Homelessness Recycling Consumer debt and bankruptcy Immigration Tobacco Child labor |

²²The division of the social issues into groups was made by the author, and the list is available at <http://www.buzzle.com/articles/social-issues-in-todays-society.html>

A social issue (also called a social problem or a social illness or even a social conflict) refers to an issue that influences and is opposed by a considerable number of individuals within a society. Different societies have different perceptions of a problem. In most cases the social issues are divided from the economic issues, however, I think as I have mentioned the division in the above table, that some issues are both economic and social.

In “Rights of Man and Common Sense”, author Thomas Paine addresses man's duty to "allow the same rights to others as we allow ourselves". The failure to do so causes the birth of a social issue.

1.5 . Active citizenship is not necessarily good citizenship

In my numerous readings about active citizenship, I came to understand that several words imply and define that notion. “An active citizen is someone who understands the connections between him/herself and the wider world, understands that the world is connected socially, culturally, politically, economically, and physically, is aware of global issues such as human rights, peace, development, and democracy, respects and values diversity, cares about injustices in the world and desires to take action in the interests of others, understands her/his rights and responsibilities as a global citizen, takes responsibility for global issues and acts to make the world a better place”²³.

The modern era is signed by the great lap of education which has had the key role in providing individuals with the knowledge, skills, and attitudes to enable them to exercise their citizenship responsibly. The significance and importance to know what good active citizenship is, is very important for society. As an example, citizenship education is an important element of social studies curricula across Canada. However, “citizenship education” is a term that is used in a variety of different ways, and therefore it can refer to “curricula that encourage passive obedience or political action (Westheimer & Kahne, 2004)”.

However, with positive education, i.e. the citizenship education, the active model of citizenship is promoted providing the students with the knowledge, skills, and attitude that will help him/her become politically aware of the political issues, and enact social change. Local citizenship and global citizenship are interconnected and the local issues can be understood within the global ones. Active citizens to make a global impact, need to make the local impact first. The active citizens that understand their positive roles in society need to be prepared to live as part of a global world, as cosmopolitans. Active citizenship awareness provides the citizens with the

²³ Wikipedia.com 01.06.2015

knowledge, skills, and opportunities to exercise their democratic rights and responsibilities to act to make their global world a better place. In short, citizens should be aware of their role in humanity, to promote peaceful conflict resolution, have respect for human rights, and responsible for the stewardship of the environment.

Active citizens should be aware of the negative occurrences and problems within the society, they should learn about injustice and inequality among people in all the world and their community. Active citizens and future active citizens understand how their actions affect the lives of people around the world and how they can change people's lives, for better or worse.

Also what is important for the active citizen to act positively and right his belief, is the development of a global perspective. Having the global perspective developed, the active citizen can enrich his knowledge about the different human cultures, and therefore people with different beliefs and experiences can be valued and respected in the activity. Global education is a means of building sensitivity and combating stereotyping and ethnocentrism. As Pike and Selby (2000) explain in their book "Worldmindedness" is no longer a luxury but a necessity for survival in the new millennium". "Encountering diverse viewpoints and perspectives engenders, too, a richer understanding of the self." (Global Teacher, Global Learner - p. 12).

Since at home, children should be taught about the injustices and inequalities that are an ongoing source of conflict in the world, and that trend should continue in adulthood as well, for the person to understand that an active role should be undertaken to confront the injustice and inequality, locally and globally, for the benefit of the whole worldly society.

The good citizen has some values that are inside of his personality, which nobody can take away, like taking on personal responsibility, is truthful and trust worthy, respects the law, is focused on the needs of the community he lives in, fights for the under-privileged, is sympathetic for the needy, is a supporter of positive change, contributes for the society, defends the rights of others, compassionate for the neglected, displays tolerance towards others, self-controlled and disciplined, takes on personal accountability, extends common courtesies, respects authority, has depth in moral courage, is anchored spiritually. These are some of the positive virtues of an active citizen, however, we can divide those virtues into three groups:

1.) *Personally Responsible Citizen*- acts responsibly in the community, works and pays taxes, obeys laws, recycles, gives blood, volunteers in times of need;

2.) *Participatory Citizen*- actively involved in community organizations and/or improving the community.

Ex: Active member of community organizations and/or improvement efforts, Organizes community efforts to care for those in need, promote economic development or clean up environment, knows how government agencies work, knows strategies for accomplishing collective tasks.

3.) *Justice- oriented Citizen*- Tries to find the causes of social, political and economic injustices within the community along with their solutions. Ex: Knows about social movements and how to effect systemic change, Explores why people are hungry and acts to solve root causes.

The bad citizenship, cannot come to focus when the traits of the good active citizenship are performed, the negative characters of looking out only for yourself, littering and wasting resources, leaving all political matters to the so-called "experts", never can predominate, even though they can exist.

Except for the traits that normally define bad citizenship, we can characterize as a bad citizen a person that does not join with other citizens when the time comes to appropriately deal with a countries' leadership, which has become corrupt, homicidal, and unconstitutional/illegal in its activities. Citizens can use the "Being active" to promote and fight for all the wrong ideas, encouraged by the government or a certain financial oligarch, and give the wrong picture to the real right active citizens and the world also. This wrong-doing can exist for a certain time in a not completely democratic society, for a short period, however, active citizens will enact the positive and right decisions eventually.

2. CHAPTER II

TYPES OF ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP

Traditional active participation of citizens can be defined as a system of different rights and responsibilities that govern the process of a relationship between the citizens and the state they belong to. The use of the right to vote is the highest form of articulation of active citizenship²⁴.

In the previous chapter, I have mentioned some of the types of active citizenship. When talking about the sorts of active citizenship, I can point out the importance and diversity of the action itself, whether it is reading a column in a newspaper and questioning its validity, voting in elections, participating in debates, signing petitions, writing letters to presidents, political candidates or similar, contributing money to poor people, taking part in marches, boycotts putting tents, holding classes as a professional to help others voluntarily, or becoming a citizens teacher²⁵. In my further writing, I will try to incorporate the abovementioned actions, in their relevant contexts.

Not a problem that is having an impact on one's life, liberty, and society, cannot be addressed just by an individual, thus making a group of citizens, with similar thoughts and needs is crucial. They mostly gather in a group that is named 'charitable organization' a non-profit and a non-governmental usually²⁶, to help their community. These non-profit organizations that are considered citizen organizations are formed on the purpose of giving service to the public and achieving mutual benefit, and not only personal profit. The forms in which they can appear are charities, foundations, social welfare, advocacy groups, professional/trade associations, and religious organizations.

Many people feel a sense of commitment to their neighborhood and are actively involved in activities to improve the quality of life in the community they live in, and they do it by participating as citizens, and sometimes, in some countries, they become politically involved.

Interests themselves differ, also what is important to a person and what he/she thinks that needs a change in the society is different, and also the sorts of their activity appear different. Starting from my stand, I think that personal cognition, or the personal stand on a subject, for example, "poverty" is essential for beginning the initiative. Later on goes undertaking action about

²⁴Jovani Moro, Introduction to the active citizenship: Macedonia, OPEN-Development partners, Skopje, 2004, pg11

²⁵ www.civiced.org/resources/curriculum/lesson-plans/456-how-can-citizens-participate/ /22.07.2015/

²⁶ Further in the text I will broadly discuss about non-profit and non-governmental organizations

that notion, by donating money to a poor family. However, this individual action does not have the strong impact on society as it should have. One family is helped, supposedly for a short period, and poverty is still very much existent.

Similar, bigger actions can be undertaken, when family and friends donate money to numerous poor families, (a fact that is being done in the Muslim communities for centuries), and still the problem exists. What I would like to say here is that individual and group activities do help, but do not have an impact on the extinction of the problem in society. Much more enduring and forceful action is when the humane actions of citizens are combined with the help of influential people, and/or government (unfortunately becomes mixed with politics). Of course, while on the one hand the problem of poverty would be fought, on the other individuals “up there” would use the “fighting the problem” for collecting political points. Why choose government and government officials then? “Because they are influential people, and where influence is, there is power”. However, only necessity makes the citizen, organizations of citizens cooperate with the government and mixing their genuine actions with politics. The simplest division that can be made with the sorts of active citizenship is with the involvement of the government²⁷, or in other words:

- a. Active citizenship that is supported by the government;
- b. Active citizenship that is not supported by the government.

2.1.Active citizenship supported by the government

As the need is great for the active citizen to cooperate with the government, also the government needs to adapt and take into consideration the needs of the citizens and their initiatives in the community, because of their greater involvement in the public and social life. Government participation is crucial for both sides. The government provides facilities, makes the rules much easier, or eliminates certain rules for something to be terminated or continued to happen. The government can support citizen participation in various ways, for instance by abolishing

²⁷ What I would like to clear up, before starting to unfold these two different approaches is the possible misconception of the notion assisted/not assisted by the government, i.e. activities that the government approves in both cases, but assists in implementing them or does not assist in implementing them.

unnecessary rules and regulations wherever possible²⁸; or the complex application procedures volunteers sometimes have to cope with to obtain funding for their activities.

Especially in democratic societies, the government is very happy about working together with the citizens. Active citizens themselves do not want the government to make the solutions, they want to make the solution, and they have it in their heads how to do it, they prefer to have their path and authorities that think along with them. However, the trend is relatively new and citizens and government are creating new ways of relating to each other and working together.

Transparency and accountability of the government's actions are what active citizenship provides. The eligibility criteria for an open government states in its rule that: 'Open Government requires openness to citizen participation and engagement in policymaking and governance, including basic protections for civil liberties'²⁹.

Since 2011, 65 influential countries have become members of the International Open Government Partnership, which enables the civil society to become engaged on a national level with their governments, including Macedonia in 2011.

The cooperation of government-citizens can make it easier for the government to track the development of a certain issue, and also push an action plan that fits their priorities. On the other hand, civil society can manage to put their questions as a priority into the national action plan, and thus achieve concrete results³⁰.

Of course, when you do something, you have to know how the customer feels about it, the same goes for the input of citizens about a certain policy by the public. Governments, and those democratic ones, have to understand that in implementing difficult decisions, the consent and support of the citizens are crucial. Unless citizens understand and are engaged in the decision themselves, trust is easily lost³¹ (OECD, 2009).

²⁸ <http://www.government.nl/issues/active-citizens/citizen-participation/12.06.2015>

²⁹ Open Government Partnership-OGP was launched in 2011 to provide an international platform for domestic reformers committed to making their governments more open, accountable, and responsive to citizens. Since then, OGP has grown to 65 participating countries where government and civil society are working together to develop and implement ambitious open government reforms.

³⁰ <http://www.opengovpartnership.org/how-it-works/civil-society-dialogue#sthash.ThjRqowd.dpuf>

³¹ OECD, 2009, Focus on Citizens: Public Engagement for Better Policy and Services

Good citizen engagement can support the effective functioning of democracy, the legitimacy of government, the successful implementation of policies, and the achievement of social outcomes. Bad engagement practice can lead to poor decisions and disengagement by citizens³².

Periodic elections should not be the only time when citizens are involved in business with the government. This helps for overcoming public disagreement, and knowing how to hold the control more loosely and more acceptably. However, the need to hear the voices of the citizens should be institutionalized into the behavior and culture of public institutions.

2.2.Active citizenship and local governance

Participating in dialogues and meetings with the local government is the best way for the people of a community to have their voices heard. The local institutions and local government are the electors of the immediate public and most well-known people from the neighborhood, who already know a certain problem or an issue that the citizens are trying to fight about. Most humanitarian and charitable organizations consider the local government to be the right place for the citizens, groups, and local communities to articulate their interests and needs, mediate differences, and exercise rights and obligations. Effective local governance is a mechanism for inclusive presentation and participation, poverty reduction, and economic development³³.

I can say that one of the causes for poverty, is the excluding of the weak and the powerless from decision-making, and by denying them the rights, you create an unequal power and different levels of relationships.

Civil and political rights, including freedom of expression and access to information, which are at the basis of political participation, are human rights in themselves. Citizen participation requires to trust in their co-participants, belief that participation can make a difference, and feeling socially included. To ensure strong participation of citizens in local governance, citizens need to understand and want to exercise the right to participate in local political issues. They need to feel confident and know where and how to participate, while local institutions should be prepared to facilitate citizen participation³⁴. Engaging citizens in local governance improves

³² Brodie, E; Hughes, T; Jochum, V; Miller, S; Ockenden, N; & Warburton, D, 2011, Pathways through Participation: What creates and sustains active citizenship?

³³ <http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/corporate/fast-facts/english/FF-local-governance.pdf> 2011

³⁴ <https://www.newtactics.org/conversation/strengthening-citizen-participation-local-governance/01.08.2015>

accountability and the ability of local authorities to solve problems, creates more inclusive and cohesive communities, and increases the number and quality of initiatives made by communities. One way to increase awareness and to empower citizens to have a voice is through increased access to technology and in particular to social media.

Around the world, community based organizations do much to bring about real social transformation and empowerment of people - the Civil Rights Movements of USA, the Dalits and Tribal Rights movement in India, the freedom movement in India or South Africa, the Labor Rights Movement in Russia, and the Women's rights movements across the globe serve as examples that people do not need to be socio-economically well off or even highly educated. What is most important is the ownership of people with full commitment to the mission of the movement.

Building bridges between the state and the people is one aim of UNDP (United Nations Development Program) activities in public administration and local governance³⁵.

2.3. Pressure groups and methods used to achieve the goals

The active citizens unite because of a purpose and want to make a change. To do that, they have to put a certain pressure on the local government, on the public opinion, etc. so that they achieve results. In my opinion, the best way to define all other groups that do the pressure is to name them as "Pressure groups".

Pressure groups exist within a society and for the society. To know about the pressure group, it needs to be well advertised in the media, be it television, internet or radio. The media helps for the pressure group to become well known in a positive light. In each business, a guarantee for success is money, power in the media, and good resources³⁶.

The first and most known pressure groups are the Non-governmental organizations (NGO-s).

³⁵ <http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/corporate/fast-facts/english/FF-local-governance.pdf>

³⁶ <http://www.wheel.ie/content/wheels-view-active-citizenship-and-community-voluntary-organisations>
<http://mental-archives.weebly.com/pressure-groups.html>

Non-governmental organizations are considered to be a third sector for the realization of the civil society.³⁷ The NGO-s have different roles: direct influence in conflict resolution, an intermediary between two sides, promotion of human rights and values, etc.

NGOs are an important part of national and international policies, where some of them have found their way in the high political levels. After the Cold War, the NGOs have moved from the open sector, (ECOSOC).³⁸ to the more closed ones like Security Council and the General Assembly of the UN. So NGOs have significantly moved from local to the global level.

The non-governmental organizations can best be described by the word hobby or amateurism in sports, the amateur tennis players do not play tennis for a living, and do not sell the tennis balls or gloves or the nets to have a profit. Non-governmental organizations are organizations or institutions that perform public functions but are not a part of the Government.

Their appearance varies in number and variety. The NGOS have multiplied since World War II, but their historical origins are much older. Like so much of the educational or social services given by the State in modern secular societies, the work of NGOs was in earlier times undertaken by religious orders. As we know it now, the tradition of NGOs dates from the establishment of the ICRC in Switzerland in 1865. To this day, indeed, the ICRC succeeds, by acting with great care, in keeping the confidence of countries with very different cultural and religious traditions: peoples and governments in most parts of the world have learned to accept its impartiality and independence.³⁹

The organizations themselves are different, some farming cooperatives and local organizations are set in poor countries (like Africa) and these NGOs are considered to be local, and operate on a small scale: in a single country, or a single locality. The funding of these small NGOs are from different sources: partly loans from IDA (International Development Association), the low interest branch of the World Bank, more often from charitable organizations like Oxfam, sometimes as grants or loans from the U.S. AID, the British ODA (Official Development Assistance), or similar

³⁷ Donev, Dejan, Nevladiniot sektor kako eticki korektiv na opstestvoto ili za mehanizmite na eticko dejstvuvanje na nevladinite organizacii, Makedonski centar za megjunarodna sorabotka, Skopje 2008, str.22

³⁸ Economic and Social Council of the United Nations

³⁹ <http://www.gdrc.org/ngo/toulmin/st-2.html/29.07.2015>

agencies in other Governments: notably, those of Canada, the Netherlands, and the Scandinavian countries.

Local NGOs have delimited goals, and are usually dependent on one, or a few, funders and activists, they tend to keep their heads down to keep good standing with their donor agencies and are disinclined to develop an independent stance over matters of general policy.

From limited localities, NGO-s develop further and develop international ambitions and world-wide areas of concern. Then they seek "observer status" at the United Nations, which can give them access to UN Headquarters, to papers that the UN Secretariat prepares for circulation to recognized NGOs, and to some direct participation in conferences in their special areas of concern.

The nonprofit sector is often referred to as the third sector, independent sector, voluntary sector, philanthropic sector, social sector, tax-exempt sector, or the charitable sector.

The National Taxonomy of Exempt Entities⁴⁰ classify nonprofit organizations into nine major groups:

1. Arts; culture, humanities;
2. Education;
3. Environment and animals;
4. Health;
5. Human services;
6. International, foreign affairs;
7. Public societal benefit;
8. Religion related;
9. Mutual/membership benefit

Non-profit/nongovernmental organizations have continued to exist after many years, and most of the science says that this third sector represents a sort of a balance and a different choice that people chose to be a part of.

⁴⁰ The original NTEE was developed by NCCS during the 1980's with the collaboration of major nonprofit organizations, and Russy D. Sumariwalla, one of the principal developers of the system

The economic theory says that certain people believe in the non-profit sector more and are happy when certain projects are performed by the NGO and not the government; people are also skeptical through history about the bureaucracy of their government, and want to be closer to the plain person; the NGOs tend to be open for the citizens who can take part in them and promote pluralism and solidarity.

According to Lester Salamon in his book “America's Nonprofit Sector”, four critical reasons are the ones an NGO serves: Giving service, Values the person’s initiative, Identify the problem more easily, Social Capital. The giving of service in the community is one of the most important definitions of NGOs. Most NGOs are created because certain needs are not met by the government, and sometimes give a faster response about an issue. Probably because they focus on one need and do not have to wait for a majority of citizens to agree upon a proposed solution. Nonprofit organizations provide a mechanism for promoting individual initiatives for the public good (16). Nonprofit organizations provide a means by which members of a community can take action in an attempt to change the community they live in. Nonprofit organizations help people understand the societal issue and give it importance provide a means for drawing public attention to societal issues.

And NGOs serving for the social capital is the explanation that those sort of organizations develops a sense of community among the citizens by providing a means to engage in social welfare.

Volunteerism is a key component for nonprofit organizations. Volunteers serve a variety of roles within organizations. Most notably, nonprofit organizations are each governed by a volunteer board of directors. Volunteers are also utilized as fundraisers, service delivery staff, staff management, and in numerous other capacities. Volunteers bring personal experiences and professional expertise to enhance the nonprofit organization⁴¹ and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), charities and pressure groups who work or campaign on issues relating to the developing world⁴².

⁴¹ Gallop Organization-<http://learningtogive.org/papers/paper41.html>

⁴² <https://www.soas.ac.uk/library/archives/collections/ngo-and-charity-collections/12.04.2014>

The third sector functions immediately after the public and private sector.⁴³ The third sector has become very important for the society, but also for the national government, because the national government has too many responsibilities in the decision making and taking responsibility and understands that it is easier to share responsibility and give the possibility for someone else to realize power, to the active citizens, who would like to exercise that power.

The rights and liberties of the citizen should not only be demanded from the government but should also be preserved by the people themselves. And just how much influence and ordinary groups of people can make is shown in the movement against slavery in England at the beginning of 1800 that has influenced the establishment of the World Convention Against Slavery in 1840, and became something of genuine importance for the international organizations until today. The new model of active involvement of the citizens can be defined as performing of the rights and responsibilities of the citizens in everyday life in a democratic society, and are faced by problems of public interest.⁴⁴

2.4. Transnational organizations

We live in a global society, especially since WWII, all the problems that are now influencing the World, somehow and at a certain level influence us individually. Globalization has influenced the economy in every country to a certain level, every country because of globalization has faced environmental crises and problem-solving has become a more unison answer. Transnational non-governmental organizations (TNGOs) and their networks have emerged as key players in giving the form of some of the answers to those global challenges.⁴⁵

The Transnational NGO Initiative focuses on the governance, leadership, and effectiveness of transnational operated NGOs and advances our understanding of TNGOs as significant players in global affairs through research, education, and practitioner engagement.

The main component of a translational organization is to understand its role in global affairs.

⁴³ 23 Mark Gramberger, "Grajanite kako partneri", Priručnik na OECD za informiranje, konsultacii i učestvo na javnosta vo izgotvuvaweto na politikata - rakovodewe, Fondacija "Institut - otvoreno opštество" - Makedonija, 2001, str. 19

⁴⁴ Xhovani Moro. Voved vo aktivnoto gragjansko uchestvo: Makedonija, OPEN - Partneri za razvoj, Skopje, 2004, str. 11.

⁴⁵ http://www.maxwell.syr.edu/Moynihan_TNGO.asp

The scope of the transnational organizations is world-wide and they pursue their topics on a global scale. They operate transnationally: for administrative purposes, their headquarters may be located in one particular country, but their work is carried out by networks of local organizations, which have local autonomy and raise most of their funds. Typically, they take no money from either industry or government but get it through subscriptions from individuals who have their "cause" at heart. Most crucially, they seek to protect their independence of judgment, and their claim to be impartially critical, by keeping a distance from both Nation State Governments and the United Nations - dining with them (as the English saying is) "using a long spoon."

The purest instances are those transnational single-issue NGOs that concentrate, in some cases, on humanitarian issues, in some on problems of the environment, in some on abuses of human rights.

- The first group includes the ICRC, the Oxford Committee for Famine Relief (Oxfam), "Medicins sans Frontières" and the Save the Children Fund;
- The second includes Worldwatch, the World Wildlife Fund and - most particularly - Greenpeace;
- the third includes Amnesty International (the pioneer post-1945 NGO), the network of regional organizations that makes up Human Rights Watch, and such impromptu organizations as the group of Nobel Peace Laureates who joined to exert pressure on the Military Government of Burma to release the country's elected leader, Aung Sang Suu Kyi (1995).
- Another group of NGOs is grounded in shared commitments of professionals in different disciplines and countries. Physicians together, or lawyers together, find a common cause in the distinctive values of their professions.
- Organizations such as the World Psychiatric Association, World Medical Association, or International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, conduct a transnational defense of medical values - including the values of the public health movement - in a way that transcends the policy of all nation State Governments. (Israeli and Palestinian physicians who meet over the injured body of a shared patient, will approach his treatment in the same frame of mind, and set aside all considerations that rest only on questions of citizenship or nationality.) The same can be said in the legal profession for, e.g., the International Commission of Jurists and other such institutions.

- Finally, a few transnational NGOs engage in charitable work from a commercial, not a professional or academic angle. In modus operandi, a business consultancy like McKinzie resembles Greenpeace or Amnesty: it has branches in two dozen countries, each of which is an independent operation with traditions and experience that allow it to address the special problems of its own country; but which pool technical ideas about working with clients, and handling other issues that go beyond their own boundaries. Meanwhile - though the NSGS of Europe grumbled at "unscrupulous currency dealers" - the Soros Foundation started the Central European University in Budapest and Prague in less time than it took the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, its intergovernmental counterpart, to buy marble for its grandiose entrance hall. In the background, of course, older Foundations of commercial origin (Rockefeller, Ford, Carnegie, etc.) continue to operate multinationally, or sometimes transnationally.

2.5. Examples of existing active citizenship in Macedonia and neighboring countries.

Active citizenship programs exist in each country, be it developed, developing country or under-developed one, just the intensity, people involved and the priorities differ. The Balkans region, as we all know, is very delicate be it for the nature of people that live on this territory, or the diversity of nations and cultures in it.

A known active citizenship-like organization in Macedonia since 2002 is the Centre for Regional Policy Research and Cooperation "Studiorum", a non-governmental think-tank working on economic and social aspects of EU integration and globalization processes that are of essential importance for Macedonia and the countries of Southeast Europe.⁴⁶

It deals with several program areas: the Health policy and Management-mainly concentrating the attention on the health issues, advocacy for the implementation, promoting solutions etc, and since 2005 cooperates with the Ministry of Health of R.N.Macedonia,

What is known in Albania to stand as a representative of active citizenship program is predominantly the realization of the EU project IJoint Citizen Action for a Stronger, Citizen-Friendly Union (JoiEU), member states debate with one potential candidate country on a set of issues focused on increased and better informed citizen participation in the democratic life of the EU and aims at strengthening the citizen base of deeper European integration. The project is funded

⁴⁶ www.studiorum.org.mk (2016)

by the European Union through the Europe for Citizens Programme and is implemented by a group of civic organizations.

Join EU comprises of a series of transnational debates mobilizing citizen participation and the use of innovative communications and advocacy strategies and tools culminating in joint policy initiatives for greater citizen participation in the decision-making process in the EU.

As regards to Kosovo, we can mention the domestic NGO-“Active citizenship Kosova” that focuses on encouraging of civic initiatives through supporting initial ideas of individuals, informal groups, community organizations and other groups of civil society in Kosovo; advocates taking actions of individuals to improve their conditions, particularly groups in rural areas – youth, women and marginalized community.

The assessment made by ALDA⁴⁷(Association of Local Democracy Agencies) for the development of Active Citizenship in South-Eastern Europe says that since 2007, the program (EFC) Europe for Citizens was intended to be opened for non-EU members States –but future members States of the Union. To be accepted, the nonmembers' Countries must sign an agreement with the European Commission and pay an entry ticket. The Association of Local Democracy Agencies is present in the region since 1999. North Macedonia is eligible for EFC since March 2009 and NGOs from North Macedonia are described as very proactive and interested in the program.

⁴⁷ <https://www.epd.eu/wp-content/uploads/ALDA-First-Assessment-on-Active-Citizenship.pdf> (2009)

3. CHAPTER -III

ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP ENTERING THE DIPLOMATIC STAGE

There are rich states that provide help for their citizens and one thinks that there is no need to make anything additional. The USA is the richest and most liberal state in the World and the most giving one. Each year Americans donate above 200 billion dollars in charity causes⁴⁸. However, as Margaret Thatcher has said “The individual freedom and individual responsibility come together⁴⁹. And the basis for making yourself known is to help others, make positive change and gain a positive perception for others.

There are facts that citizens influence foreign affairs and that is based on numerous facts. I would mention the USA as one successful diplomatic nation where in February of 2007, a U.S. Center for Citizen Diplomacy (USCCD) was formally established in Des Moines, Iowa. The same year, in November, in collaboration with the U.S. Department of State, Office of Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs, the USCCD⁵⁰ held a U.S. Summit on Global Citizen Diplomacy attended by leaders of more than 650 U.S. international citizen diplomacy, primarily volunteer organizations involving participants from 39 states and 41 countries⁵¹. They mutually concluded that citizen engagement in international relations is indeed an important element of how our country defines itself to the rest of the world and is critically important to our economic wellbeing as well as national security. The result is that today U.S. leaders in academia, business, and the international non-profit world are more frequently using the term citizen diplomacy and referring to it as an important component of U.S. relations with the world.

The definition of USCCD on citizen diplomacy is as stated “the engagement of individual citizens in programs and activities primarily in the voluntary, private sector that increases cross-cultural

⁴⁸ Giving USA 2001: The Annual report on Philanthropy for the year 2000, American Association of Fundraising Counsel Trust for Philanthropy, Indianapolis

⁴⁹ Thatcher, Margaret. “Statecraft”. HarperCollins, London, 2002, pg.486

⁵⁰ United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

⁵¹ Citizen Diplomacy: Building a Nation of Global Citizen Diplomats by Ann Olsen Schodde, President & CEO, U.S. Center for Citizen Diplomacy

understanding and knowledge between people from different cultures and countries, leading to a greater mutual respect.”

Also, it would be important to say what Ursula Oaks, Senior staff at the Association of International Educators (NAFSA) has to state: “Citizen diplomats listen to others with compassion and an open mind; learn about history, culture and ways of life and thinking different from their own; respect peoples’ rights to views and approaches other than their own; explore other cultures and places with curiosity and openness; act to understand, engage, and work with people from around the world; and embrace a role as someone who can connect and make a positive difference in the global community.” Being a citizen diplomat is important because it is in our self-interest.

As a notion and as an occurrence, diplomacy does not take place only between states via their representatives. Nowadays the demand for diplomacy is great on every level, the theory in which it can and does occur is very important for everyone to know. Today in international relations it is very important to know what you are saying and to say it right. Paul Sharp⁵² identifies a diplomatic tradition depending on the way people live in groups. Depending on the way how people are related in the groups and how they communicate in the group and outside and also how they handle those differences, has an impact on the development of the sorts of international disputes which occur.⁵³

Here is best description of the need for citizen engagement stated by American president Dwight D.Eisenhower on September 11, 1956, said as a military leader of WWII at the Red Cross building in Washington, D.C.: “If we want peace,” he said, “then the problem is for people to get together and to leap governments, if necessary to evade governments to work out not one method but thousands of methods by which people can gradually learn a little bit more of each other.” He then knew of the importance of citizen engagement in foreign affairs. From that day important non-profit international groups were formed in the US, Sister Cities International, Project Hope, People to People, and the Business Council for International Understanding. They still exist today. After the speech and expressing the importance of citizen diplomacy, later on numerous presidents

⁵² Professor and Head of Political Science at University of Minnesota, USA

⁵³ *Diplomatic Theory of International Relations*, Cambridge Studies in International Relations Series, Cambridge University Press, 2009 (available September), information at//*The Diplomatic Corps as an Institution of International Society*, Palgrave’s Diplomacy and International Relations Series, Palgrave, 2008, information available at//Paul Sharp

continue with that message: President Kennedy founded the Peace Corps. President Carter, the Friendship Force, and Habitat for Humanity. President Reagan founded the Points of Light Foundation and President Clinton, in his post presidential years, established the Clinton Global Initiative. President Obama and Secretary Hillary Clinton have stated their commitment to citizen diplomacy in numerous speeches including the President's speech in Cairo.

Where active citizenship can be used as a tool for the diplomacy arena are international programs in amateur sports, university study abroad and exchange programs, volunteer youth organizations or, community-based exchanges. The United States is the only country in the world that offers the biggest number of options for the citizens to be internationally engaged.

Many times we have heard a statement from important people saying, "I do not like your government, but I love your people" for example, Bosnia. People to people engagement addresses the root causes of unrest that breed war and terrorism long before guns and bombs or formal diplomatic negotiations are necessary.

Citizen diplomacy, implemented in cooperation and partnership with people of other nations, builds wells for villages in Africa, helps young entrepreneurs start businesses in South America, assists young women in Pakistan to attend school, shares homes and hospitality with foreign visitors, exchanges artists, musicians, entertainers, and sports teams with other countries and welcomes international students to study at our schools and universities. This kind of activity is well documented, with stories that save lives and build long lasting personal relationships and international good will all over the world.

The U.S Center for Citizen Diplomacy has joined with the British Council and other leaders of non-profit international organizations, business and government from throughout the world to explore the potential of forming an International Alliance for Global Citizenship. While the concept is in its formative stage, the goal is to begin a truly worldwide international movement for global citizenship, dedicated to addressing the critical issues facing the planet in the next 20 years and beyond. Although primarily led by civil society organizations such an alliance would recognize, as Carne Ross states in his book, *The Independent Diplomat*, that "the private corporate sector, civil society, and governments must all act in concert together in order to be effective in bringing about change that is good for all of the earth."

Parag Khanna, in his book, *How to Run the World*, states, “We must load new software into our global networks called mega diplomacy which requires a jazzy dance among coalitions of ministries, companies, churches, foundations, universities, activists and other willful enterprising individuals who cooperate to achieve specific goals. Mega diplomacy is about creating unity across communities to manage our collective space.”⁵⁴

For the development of democracy in a state, there must exist some elements:

- 1) Active citizenship;
- 2) Protection of the environment and climate change;
- 3) Children and youth;
- 4) Welfare and basic social services, with the implementation of these we will have active citizenship fostered.

When an NGO is interested and wants to achieve certain program it focuses on assuring support of the role of non-governmental organizations (NGOs), activating citizens in promoting democratic principles, participation in developing public policies, monitoring their implementation, advocacy and anti-corruption activities, activities targeting social inequalities, poverty and exclusion, including in rural areas. Its most functional roles are:

- Development of umbrella organizations and/or new networks on biodiversity/climate change; NGO involvement in national action plans related to biodiversity and/or climate change, environmental educational activities and training for teachers.
- Support to local initiatives and creation of networks focused on early child intervention programmes; integration of disabled citizens; developing ambulant and community based social programmes; promoting dialogue between local stakeholders; supporting social cohesion at local level.

⁵⁴ Ann Olsen Schodde is the President and CEO of the U.S. Center for Citizen Diplomacy, based in Des Moines, Iowa. Throughout her career, Schodde has held various leadership and consulting positions with higher education and international non-profit organizations, as well as more than 21 private foundations, professional associations and government agencies. She has worked with embassy staff from over 60 countries. She holds a double major degree in Political Science and Speech from the University of Wisconsin and a M.Ed. from Cornell University.

The National Development Plan views active citizenship as one of three cogs that need to work effectively to keep the wheels of development going. The other cogs are strong leadership and a capable state.

“When people are given a chance to talk, they have the confidence and freedom to express themselves. Listening to what people have to say opens the door to harness the energies and capacities of communities,” he said. Naidu told delegates that one of the most valuable contributions to dialogue is the freedom of dissent. “To build trust we need to have a different methodology of engagement, one that is built on respect and trust and listening.

Ownership of space and place is a vital component of active citizenship, according to Island Institute’s Tristan Görgens.

3.1.Active citizenship and civil diplomacy-diplomacy, active citizenship and globalization

In the XXI century, a new force of a new actor was perceived in the creation of the World History, that is the “Active citizenship” or the “Civil society”. One more definition is the one of a civil society that becomes aware of themselves and becomes an active object in its development for its capabilities.

The phrase “active citizenship” as phenomena, could also in certain circumstances and certain states with dictatorship policies, equal the phrase “showing bravery”. With active citizenship, an initiative is undertaken to lead the people on a way full of potentials. People, and especially youngsters know what is right, but they need someone to push them, I think that active citizenship is the path they need to undertake.⁵⁵

Since WWII, diplomacy is not centralized and limited to the government and its representatives, but diplomatic representatives have become other non-state actors. From the numerous divisions of these non-state actors I would mention the factor of territory; those actors with a territory (in states and their system, regions and cities.⁵⁶) and those with no concrete territory. These last decades’ acts of the non-territorial factors come to focus, especially with the globalization, that

⁵⁵ Jonathan M.Tisch College of Citizenship and Public Service/activecitizen.tufts.edu

⁵⁶ City diplomacy, the xpanding role of cities in international politics Rogier van der Pluijm with Jan Melissen, April 2007, Netherlands, Institute of international relations Clingendael

has influenced for the state to lose their monopoly over the political, social and economic activities in their territory. Example, international problems like global warming become a national problem because nuclear weapons pose a risk for the country.

Diplomacy has to do with the art of making negotiations among representatives of states, regarding issues important for our state, as is making peace, doing trade, war, economy, culture, ecology, human rights. By doing diplomacy, in all sorts of relations, even in marriage, it is understanding that a person gains a sort of benefit by the undertaken strategy and also resolutions that are mutually resolvable and acceptable, in a cultural way. Diplomat, according to the English diplomat and politician from the 17th century ser Henry Wotton, is a good man sent in foreign countries to lie for his state.

There are some sorts of diplomacy undertaken by state and non-state (civil) actors in gaining results:

- Preventive diplomacy- undertaking actions between two parties for disputes not to escalate in a conflict. After the end of Cold War, International institutions have focused on developing the international institutions and use the preventive diplomacy;
- Public diplomacy-communicating directly with the general public of the other state, this is a more preferred method, than to influence directly over the government of the other state. This method is highly used by the citizens who cooperate and come from two or more states;
- Digital diplomacy-effective and instant communication with the public, leaders use Twitter and Facebook to communicate with the mass.
- Diplomacy in the form of soft power: Joseph Nye has defined it as a diplomacy with heart and mind-that means cultivating connections, respect and admiration towards others for gaining influence. Often this kind of diplomacy is misunderstood with official diplomacy, but the difference is that this soft diplomacy is used by the citizens, non-governmental actors, towards culturally attractive factors that can influence people, who on the other hand would feel sympathy towards foreign culture based on their products ex. Music industry of America;
- Monetary diplomacy-use of foreign aid and other types of monetary politics like a tool to achieve diplomatic agenda.

- Counterebellion diplomacy-diplomats are in the operational aspect involved in the rebellious surroundings for spreading the word of peace, like working of the diplomats with the civilians in Iraq and Afganistan on the field. This type of diplomacy is communicating with the local leaders of the insurgents.

3.2.Citizen diplomacy and real examples

Citizen diplomacy is a political concept that has to do with the role of the plain citizen as if he/she were representatives of the state or of a cause, be it with someone's guidelines, or not. This type of diplomacy is suitable to be used, when there are no other possibilities for use of the official way, or it is inappropriate to use that way. Ex. When two governments do not accept one another civil diplomacy is the best alternative to be used. Also, the form, way it is performed, civil diplomacy does not have to be done directly, like negotiating between two parties, but it could be done in the form of exchange; cultural exchange, scientific exchange, international sports events (considered to be neutral), etc.

But, sometimes civil diplomacy might not correspond to the official diplomacy of a state, and because of that civil diplomacy could be forbidden in some states, because it goes the opposite way from that of the state. With the civil diplomacy it is understood that each citizen has to help in creating the foreign relations. They can be students, professors, athletes, artists, businessman, humanists, tourists etc. Let us say that they are motivated by the notion of participating in the broad dialogue from which their state would benefit.

The first person that has worked on the notion of civil diplomacy is Robert W.Fuller⁵⁷, who during the 79's and 80's has traveled very often in Russia in order to ease the Cold War. Then, after the collapse of Russia, W.Fuller has travelled in the politicaly fragile places in order to promote peace. The phrase "Civil diplomacy" was firstly created by David Hoffman in 1981 in an article related to the work of W.Fuller.

Examples of an effective impact of civil diplomacy, The influence over USA-Russia relations- Center for Citizen Initiatives

⁵⁷ President of the Oberlin University, citizen-diplomat

In 1980 Sharon Tennyson, formed Center for Citizen Initiatives (CCI), that was formed in order to decrease the tensions between the two super powers-America-Russia. Tennyson together with a group of citizens undertook the sport of doing diplomacy and started making plans how to travel to the land of their enemy-the Soviet Union.

During that time the Cold War was in its peak, USA and Soviet Union had their nuclear weapon directed towards one another, a fact that could influence the whole planet.

During those years, hardly any American has ever seen a citizen from the Soviet Union, and vice-versa, and also there was no guarantee that such thing might happen. Twenty members of the CCI, have made plans on the 16th September, 1983, from USA to travel to Moscow for the first time. They did so together with a filming team of four people. Their first time travel was in the cities of Moscow, Sankt Petersburg (then Lenjingrad) and Tbilisi, with the invitation of Soviet citizens, that have risked being followed by the Soviet KGB (Committee for State Security). That travel has changed the lives of the 24 members of CCI, and every one of them has come back to America in order to perform public education to American citizens. After the first travel, CCI has started with the program for travel where 1000 Americans would go to Soviet Union as civil diplomats, and after returning to America in the period of 6 months they would perform the duty of public educators in their city.

This initiative of the CCI was firstly done by civilians from Washington, New York, Tucson, Arizona, Chicago, Florida and some other places in America. Their meeting places were in their homes at first, Universities and Churches, and the reason for gathering was the possible way of preventing a possible nuclear war.

Alcoholism and Diplomacy

Since 1983 citizens of the Soviet Union had problems with alcohol and saw an opportunity to ask citizens from CCI that traveled from America for a possible solution. Then, civil diplomats started illegally to bring books to the Soviet Union, books that discussed the matter of preventing alcoholism. Tennyson asked the Soviet Ministry for Health to give him approval and bring into the Soviet Union the AA (Alcoholics Anonymous) philosophy. Mihail Gorbachev, as a part of the Secretariat of the ruling party, has accepted the offer saying: "The Soviet Union has a big problem

and every possibility should be used in order to prevent it". On 10th April 1986, the first AA meeting was held in Kyiv, Ukraine, where 20 alcoholics from California took place; after three days another meeting was held in Moscow. The beginning of AA was not constant and not credible at the beginning, but in 2006 it was achieved to celebrate its 20th anniversary in Russia.

Non-governmental exchange

In 1988, CCI started with its program of non-governmental exchange. At the beginning they needed to cooperate with the Soviet Peace Committee, that did not enable the CCI to choose on her own who would travel to America. But, after Gorbachev has chosen a new person on the head of the Committee, he was issuing a visa for every person that had an invitation to travel abroad. Very soon, people from CCI were sending invitations for the people they have met during their stays in Moscow, and they would travel to America in four cities. In the period of four years 400 Soviet citizens have traveled in small groups in 265 American cities and have stayed in 800 American houses and have given interviews for American televisions. They have returned to the Soviet Union and have shown themselves to be good ambassadors, saying that America is full of good and polite people.

Environmental initiative

In 1987 CCI started its partnership regarding the environment with the Soviet environmentalists in order to win over the Communist party regarding putting of a dam on the River Neva. Filters were put in order to clean the river, and also a program for the Lake Baikal, the biggest one in the world., It lasted for 10 years.

Agricultural initiative

In 1990 CCI undertook action regarding the complete collapse of the food industry in the Soviet Union. Their initiative was to bring them elementary food to the Soviets not to die of famine. CCI brought help for the farmers, they brought seeds, urban gardens on the tops of their houses, a great number of trucks with food. Cornell University mainly, and other Universities as well have brought

the materials for studying basic agriculture, and Martin Price, world specialist for Roof Gardens has given his idea in Sts Peterburg and other places, changing the role of the state.⁵⁸.

Engaging People in Active Citizenship

Especially in Europe it is understood that governments, companies and other organizations cannot come near the real person-citizen and are remote to plain people. And as globalization is a real fact, social structure developed by individual citizens would be a good playground.

People need to be rightly informed, take decisions about their lives, their communities and their workplaces. But. Many people do not know what to do because they are not educated enough mainly, are afraid or scared from social exclusion. Some governments to address this issue have tried to maintain citizenship education programmes within formal schooling, but this might have impact in the long term and benefits have yet to be demonstrated.

Governments have sought to address the issue through citizenship education programs within formal schooling, but this can only have an impact in the long term and the benefits have yet to be demonstrated. The project considered “active citizenship” as the active engagement in collective activity in one of four areas or “domains” - the state/formal politics, the workplace, civil society and the private domain.

A major campaign is needed to create a national movement that raises the consciousness and changes the mind-set of our society so that the responsibility of being a global citizen diplomat, actively engaged in citizen diplomacy work, is part of our national culture. One interesting example is that the Coca-Cola Foundation understands the importance of this issue and granted \$100,000 to the USCCD to launch a national campaign to double the number of citizen diplomats in the US by 2020.

Second, the United States can take pride in having the largest number of international NGOs that provide services and programs in a wide array of sectors of any country in the world. But the work these organizations are doing cannot make the total impact needed to share our culture in the arts, education and sports, aggressively diminish the spread world-wide of disease, work against the denial of human rights, help develop civil societies, assist less developed nations in providing greater access to education for women or fight contamination of the environment when less than one percent of the U.S. federal budget and only five per cent of private sector giving supports

⁵⁸Marcos Aruda, Globalization and Civil Society, rethinking cooperativism in the context of active citizenship, Rio de Janeiro, 1996

citizen driven international activity. This must change through advocacy efforts from the organizations themselves and through grass roots advocacy both at the state and federal level in spite of a troubled economy. Our country is losing out on the most inexpensive opportunity to guarantee our standing as a world leader and make significant contributions to the saving of the planet.

Track II diplomacy refers to "non-governmental, informal and unofficial contacts and activities between private citizens or groups of individuals, sometimes called 'non-state actors'".^[1] It contrasts with track I diplomacy, which can be defined as official, governmental diplomacy that occur inside official government channels.^[2] However, track two diplomacy is not a substitute for track one diplomacy. Rather, it is there to assist official actors to manage and resolve conflicts by exploring possible solutions derived from the public view and without the requirements of formal negotiation or bargaining for advantage.^[3] In addition, the term *track 1.5* diplomacy is used by some analysts to define a situation where official and non-official actors cooperate in conflict resolution.^[4]

3.3. Informal Diplomacy

The informal diplomacy often is known as Track II diplomacy that are used as means for two powers to communicate. Many times diplomats try to recruit persons from other places in order to ensure them informal access to the leadership of the interest state.

Among US and China this informal part has been played by academics and philosophers or thinkers. This mostly happens when one government wants to tell what she thinks or suggests methods how to overcome a diplomatic situation, but does not want to tell her formal attitude.

In Track II diplomacy unofficial persons from the academic field, soldiers and civilians, public figures or social activists are involved in the dialog to resolve a conflict or to create confidence. Sometimes governments can finance those exchanges of Track II diplomacy but sometimes can be done without the involvement of the government, without her knowing and then it is Track III diplomacy. The same name Track II is given when an official continues to promote his informal activity after retirement.

Sometimes the governments are satisfied with those actions, but sometimes these informal diplomats want to promote a political agenda different from the actual politics of the government.⁵⁹

In 1981, Joseph Montville, then a U.S. State Department employee, coined the phrases Track One and Track Two diplomacy.⁶⁰ Track One diplomacy was what diplomats did—formal negotiations between nations conducted by professional diplomats. Track Two diplomacy referred to conflict resolution efforts by professional non-governmental conflict resolution practitioners and theorists. "Track Two has as its object the reduction or resolution of conflict, within a country or between countries, by lowering the anger or tension or fear that exists, through improved communication and a better understanding of each other's point of view".⁶¹

Non-governmental organizations (NGOs), Universities act as most effective in securing international cooperation for resolving differences.

Track II diplomacy is very open minded, is optimistic based on human capabilities to respond to good will and reasonableness. Both tracks are necessary for psychological reasons and both need each other.^[6]

Montville (Davidson & Montville, 1981) maintains that there are two basic processes in track two diplomacy. In the first one there are facilitated workshops that bring members of conflicting groups together to develop personal relationships, understand the conflict from the perspective of others, and develop joint strategies for solving the conflict. While the second process involves working to shift public opinion: "Here the task is a psychological one which consists of reducing the sense of victimhood of the parties and rehumanizing the image of the adversary.

But these methods according to some writers are impossible to impose on political leaders because of being too tough or cannot accept the human process. Writer John McDonald says that this impossibility lies in the fact that leaders are "stuck in rigid roles" different from the individuals that are not in the top echelon of the government.

In 1986 John McDonald and Diane Bendahmane (1987) produced *Conflict Resolution: Track Two Diplomacy*, a book that compiled the thoughts of several Track One and Track Two professionals.

⁵⁹ <http://www.e-dipcourse.diplomacy.universityofqaran.com/e%29%20Informal%20Diplomacy%20.html>

⁶⁰ in "Foreign Policy According to Freud", which appeared in *Foreign Policy* (Davidson & Montville, 1981).

⁶¹ Track II diplomacy - Wikipedia

The Department of State did not print the book and was pending for eighteen months because the Department defended the sole right to conduct conflict resolution. When the book came out in 1987 it stated that :

... the official government apparatus for analyzing international security issues and designing foreign policy has to equip itself to support and benefit from track two diplomacy. As part of the process, government analysts must improve their capabilities to understand how history, society, culture, and psychology interact.^[9]

"Further Exploration of Track Two Diplomacy" was published in 1991 as an Occasional Paper (McDonald), and as a chapter in *Timing the De-Escalation of International Conflicts* (Kriesberg & Thorson, 1991). The same year, "The Arrow and the Olive Branch," which was written as an article in *The Psychodynamics of International Relations*, Montville adds the third process in track two diplomacy, aside from previous two processes of facilitating small workshops and influencing public opinion, he claims that the third process is cooperative economic development. Although it may not seem essential to conflict resolution, it is meaningful in the sense that it provides incentives, institutional support, and continuity to the political and psychological processes.

In 1996 Dr. Louise Diamond and John McDonald published *Multi-Track Diplomacy: A Systems Approach to Peace*. Since then the model was developed and the original second track has been expanded into nine tracks: peacemaking through diplomacy, conflict resolution, commerce, personal involvement, learning, advocacy, religion, funding, information.

4. CHAPTER IV

ELEMENTS THAT MAKE A BETTER LIFE ASSOCIATE WITH ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP

When people feel good about themselves, live in developed societies, have good health and healthcare, the country where they are living develops politics in their favor, and are employed and satisfied with their job, we can easily say that they are well-off and have a good quality of life.

However, except for the wealth and employment, good quality of life signs are the built environment, physical and mental health, education, recreation and leisure time, and social belonging.

According to the ecological economist Robert Costanza⁶², professor at the Australian National University, there are subjective and objective indicators about the quality of life, something that would be described according to the ordinary person too. However, sometimes we also have a description of the most important stages for the quality of life, that, before 2020, were four⁶³, but I would add the sense of security as the most important one, so we have:

- a. Ecology-that influences the quality of life;
- b. Economics-that influences the quality of life
- c. Politics-that influences quality of life
- d. And human rights and happiness and human security especially in the Covid 19 era.

However, in research techniques, many of the respondents are asked about their different approaches, all regarding the quality of their daily experiences and their emotions that overwhelmed them while being in a certain situation, what gave them joy, stress, sadness, affection, anger, tears, depression etc., There are different measurements regarding the quality of life, however each of them is interconnected with their productivity as people. In this context I can mention the active citizenship where the citizen can feel himself as being productive and involved in something good. Of course there are different types of people, people that do not like being

⁶²https://www.researchgate.net/publication/222122719_Quality_of_life_An_approach_integrating_opportunities_human_needs_and_subjective_well-being

⁶³Journal- Applied research in the quality of life- International society for the quality of life

around other people, people that do not want to engage themselves in social activities or people that might do that but are disrupted to do so because of the surroundings they are in. Maybe I am wrong, but I wholeheartedly believe that every human being loves to be loved, loves to be cared about and everyone needs help in some way. I believe that we the people need to take care of one another and do the best that we can for everyone.

Sometimes when the quality of life is evaluated we need to fill up a form with numbers for the frequency of the concrete emotional experience, what was the intensity when it happened, for example: When attending faculty studies when were you the happiest? What made you feel happy and what was the intensity of that happiness in numbers.(Example: Student might say that when they collected clothes and gave them to the poor), in other words when the student was involved in active citizenship.

In this context, I would mention the World Happiness report a publication of the Sustainable Development Solutions Network⁶⁴, powered by data from global organizations around the world. They give reports and rank the citizens of 156 countries according to the level of happiness of its citizens. In 2020 for the first time were included the social, urban and natural environments that influence the happiness of the person.

The natural disasters that may occur like earthquakes, floods, economic crises storms and so on, influence the people to gather and gather material, give their effort in helping the less fortunate, gather clothes offer to help and thus feel much happier because they feel like they have made something better for the society.

Also, like we have all seen in the period 2020/2021 during this pandemic a lot of people willfully offered their help for the old people that did not have anyone to buy them food and bring them food home or provide the families that were in quarantine with the basics. And, of course, that humanitarian activity made them gain that sense of belonging, of happiness and, satisfaction.

On the other hand, The social Progress index can be mentioned as well, and countries are measured according to the level they provide for the environmental and social needs of their citizens. There are three main categories: Basic human needs, Foundations of Wellbeing and Opportunity⁶⁵.

⁶⁴Worldhappiness.report

⁶⁵ Statista.org

The interational development of a person within a state depends on the quality of life of that same person. And as we mentioned the livability of a state equals the quality of life too.

While I was looking to find documents and writing that dealt with the world happiness and the life quality I came across the World Bank Organization. I really did not know their philatropic approach “ Working for a world free of poverty”. Here is now something different occurs, the word: :”Poverty. In the 2021 regarding the Covid 19 I have to mention that when people feel threatened for their life, their personal life, the life of their families or the life of their loved ones they do not have the time nor interest to think about active citizenship. The same goes for poverty too, the extreme poverty Organisations such as the World Bank, for example, declare a goal of "working for a world free of poverty" with poverty defined as a lack of basic human needs, such as food, water, shelter, freedom, access to education, healthcare, or employment.^[29] In other words, poverty is defined as a low quality of life. Using this definition, the World Bank works towards improving quality of life through neoliberal means, with the stated goal of lowering poverty and helping people afford a better quality of life.

But influencing on a global level is very hard and even impossible, poverty has never been extinguished and even though many efforts were made, the road is tough. There are different other methods of approach that can be done. Non-governmental organizations do not focus on reducing poverty on a national or international scale, but they try to influence the local communities and individuals in them. But the power lies in the government and the political presence, and when the government incorporates aspects of human security into their political policy, then the fight against poverty might be stronger and more sponsorship programs and material for individuals can be provided. These approaches by the government may be included in the foreign policy, and in some cases they are and resemble the roles of defense and diplomacy.

The need for spreading humanism is substantial in the quality of life. The first ‘Humanist Manifesto’⁶⁶ was issued in the University of Chicago in 1933 putting together reason, ethics and social and economic justice. And when trying to find a definition of humanism everywhere I could find that humanism is philosophical and ethical attitude that values human beings and is in their service and what is most important prefers critical thinking and the importance of undertaking action. Ideal society conceived by Renaissance humanist Saint Thomas More in “Utopia”.

⁶⁶ Americanhumanist.org

4.1.Humanism

In Europe after the French Revolution during the second half of the 18th century, there is a living of Theophilanthropy, a sect created as the love of man and of god as the definition of humanism. This was a religious sect, that was discussed] and in this century especially many atheists want to do humanitarian activities believing only in the love towards a human being. But, in many religions, Islam, Catholicism, Buddhism etc. the helping in different approaches is highly valued and mentioned in the Holy Scripts: “The Quran”, and “The Bible”. Humanists reacted against this utilitarian approach and the narrow pedantry associated with it. They sought to create a citizenry (frequently including women) able to speak and write with eloquence and clarity and thus capable of engaging the civic life of their communities and persuading others to virtuous and prudent actions. This was to be accomplished through the study of the today known as the humanities: grammar, rhetoric, history, poetry and moral philosophy.^{59]} Humanism is a democratic and ethical life stance, which affirms that human beings have the right and responsibility to give meaning and shape to their own lives. It stands for the building of a more humane society through an ethic based on human and other natural values in the spirit of reason and free inquiry through human capabilities. It is not theistic, and it does not accept supernatural views of reality.

- a. **Religious humanism** is an integration of humanist ethical philosophy with religious rituals and beliefs that centre on human needs, interests, and abilities.. In the 1850s, Auguste Comte, the Father of Sociology, founded Positivism⁶⁷, a "religion of humanity".^[66] One of the earliest forerunners of contemporary chartered humanist organizations was the Humanistic Religious Association formed in 1853 in London.^[66] This early group was democratically organized, with male and female members participating in the election of the leadership and promoted knowledge of the sciences, philosophy, and the arts.
- b. **Contemporary humanism** has a positive optimistic approach to the capacity of people, but does not believe that human nature is purely good, or that some people might want to do humanist activities and want to reach humanist ideals. The ultimate goal is flourishing

⁶⁷ a philosophical system recognizing only that which can be scientifically verified or which is capable of logical or mathematical proof, and therefore rejecting metaphysics and theism

with the help of other people, making life better for everyone, and promoting concern and care for the other species on the Planet.

Concerning active citizenship Humanistic psychology is a perspective that gives life to it. It was developed in the middle of the 20th century focusing on the inherent drive of the individual towards self-actualization and creativity. In the 1960s humanistic psychology in response to what they viewed as the overly pessimistic view of psychoanalysis in the early 1960.⁶⁸s

4.2.Philanthropy

But what is the most important is the word Philanthropy, the word that has the meaning of love for humanity, in the sense of caring, nourishing, developing, and enhancing "what it is to be human" in exercising their values in giving and volunteering.

Nowadays the modern definitions are that philanthropy is an encompassment of private initiatives for the public good with a certain focus on the quality of life”

Instances of *philanthropy* commonly overlap with instances of *charity*, though not all charity is philanthropy or vice versa. The difference commonly cited is that charity relieves the pains of social problems, whereas philanthropy attempts to solve those problems at their root causes (the difference between giving a hungry man a fish, and teaching him how to fish for himself). A person who practices philanthropy is called a philanthropist. The word was first coined as an adjective by the playwright Aeschylus in *Prometheus Bound* (5th century BC), to describe Prometheus' character as "humanity loving" (*philanthropos tropos*), for having given to the earliest proto-humans who had no culture, fire (symbolizing technological civilization) and "blind hope" (optimism). There are some working definitions to which the community associated with the field of “philanthropic studies” most commonly subscribes. One of the more widely accepted of these is the one employed by Lester Salamon⁶⁹, who defines philanthropy as, “the private giving of time

⁶⁸ A Humanist Perspective on Moral Development and Citizenship Education Wiel Veugelers, 2011 Sense Publishers, Amsterdam

⁶⁹Lester M. Salamon (born 1943) is a professor at The Johns Hopkins University. He is also the Director of the Center for Civil Society Studies at The Johns Hopkins Institute for Health and Social Policy Studies. Salamon has written or edited over 20 books in addition to hundreds of articles, monographs and chapters that have appeared in *Foreign Affairs*, the *New York Times*, *Voluntas*, and numerous other publications. He was a pioneer in the empirical study of the nonprofit sector in the United States, and is considered by many experts in his field to be a leading specialist on alternative tools of government action and on the nonprofit sector in the U.S. and around the world.

or valuables (money, security, property) for public purposes; and/or one form of income of private non-profit organizations.”^[5]

Influenced by these ideas, and as a facet of the expansion of civil society, charitable and philanthropic activity among voluntary associations and rich benefactors became a widespread cultural practice. Societies, gentleman's clubs and mutual associations began to flourish in England and the upper-classes increasingly adopted a philanthropic attitude toward the disadvantaged. This new social activism was channeled into the establishment of charitable organizations; these proliferated from the middle of the century.⁷

This emerging upper-class fashion for benevolence resulted in the incorporation of the first charitable organizations. Captain Thomas Coram, appalled by the number of abandoned children living on the streets of London, set up the Foundling Hospital in 1741 to look after these unwanted orphans in Lamb's Conduit Fields, Bloomsbury. This was the first such charity in the world⁸ and served as the precedent for incorporated associational charities everywhere.

Jonas Hanway, another notable philanthropist of the era established in 1772. Hanway was also instrumental in establishing the ‘Magdalen Hospital’ to rehabilitate prostitutes. These organizations were funded by subscription and run as voluntary associations. They raised public awareness of their activities through the emerging popular press and were generally held in high social regard - some charities received state recognition in the form of the Royal Charter.

Philanthropists, such as anti-slavery campaigner William Wilberforce, began to adopt active campaigning roles, where they would champion a cause and lobby the government for legislative change. This included organized campaigns against the ill treatment of animals and children and the campaign that eventually succeeded in ending the slave trade throughout the British Empire at the turn of the 19th century.

In 1863, the Swiss businessman Henry Dunant used his personal fortune to found the Geneva Society for Public Welfare, which became the International Committee of the Red Cross. During the Franco-Prussian War of 1870, Dunant personally led Red Cross delegations that treated soldiers. He shared the first Nobel Peace Prize for this work in 1901.

a. Modern philanthropy-Organizations that help different societies with modern technology are known to be doing Modern philanthropy. Some of them can be mentioned: microlending- (Opportunity International and Kiva), microvolunteering- (Raise5), microdonating- (Charitykick), (Global Giving)-allows individuals to crowd-fund community development projects in low-income countries, (GiveDirectly) -facilitates direct cash transfers to individual low-income households in East Africa, (Zidisha) is a nonprofit person-to-person microlending website which uses an eBay-style marketplace to allow individuals in developing countries to crowd-fund loans from individual web users worldwide, (Vittana)-is an online platform that allows low-income youth in developing countries to crowd-fund tuition for higher education.

In North Macedonia “Konekt” is a Macedonian civic association established in June 2008 with the intention to stimulate and promote the private donation and social responsibility aimed at effective and long-term development of Macedonia. Center for Institutional Development-CIRa in North Macedonia each year hands different prizes for citizen activity of certain institutions like to the University for Management and Tourism in 2016 for social responsibility and philanthropy, for responsible approach towards employees to Company “Ading” A.D. Skopje, for the responsible approach to environment to “Sparkasse bank”, for corporative philanthropy to “Rade Konchar”, “Duna Computers D.O.O. Skopje” and “Tineks MT Skopje and integrated approach and social recognition.

How can philanthropy be defined? As the desire to promote the welfare of others, expressed especially by the generous donation of money to good causes, synonyms that accompany it benevolence, generosity, humanitarianism, altruism, charity, openhandedness.

Slactivism phenomena -The ease of social tools creates another phenomena: The rise of slactivism, that helps to be active using social media. People with a small action can think they are a philanthropist simply by sounding off with a tweet or texting ten dollars for Croatia Earthquake relief. While the simplicity of such actions increases the likelihood of charity, an individual's long-term impact can be considered negligible.

"I can see why people are concerned that if a person makes a quick online donation, and does nothing else, it is slacktivism," said Britt Bravo, author of the Have Fun, Do Good blog. "On the other hand, why is it that just because something is easy, we define it as not 'good?' The larger question for nonprofits, and for all of us who use social media is: Are we using these quick and

powerful tools not just to meet people, and ask them to listen to us and to do something for us, but also to build relationships.

What can be an end, can also be a beginning. Many organizations see slactivists as potential long-term activists. The challenge lies in cultivating the casual social activist into a true philanthropist. "Fire starts with a spark," said Sydney Hargro, executive director of the Community Foundation of South Jersey. "My hunch is that slacker activists were not involved at all before it became quick, easy, and convenient to give. I also believe that slactivism on an individual level will either diminish or give birth to more conscious and active participation in the work of making a difference."

"The real power comes when you can offer more meaningful ways for these new donors and supporters to get involved right away," said Saratovsky. "Rather than dismissing this new era of 'slacktivism' we have to figure out how to educate these new donors and help them move to deeper engagement."

This outcome includes:

- Engage in further education, employment or training on leaving school
- Ready for employment
- Live in decent homes and sustainable communities
- Access to transport and material goods
- Live in households free from low income

Museums have collections and displays that can stimulate discussion about economic wellbeing⁷⁰

- for example:

- the world of work and how it has changed
- labour saving devices
- housing over time
- daily life and work
- developments in technology
- availability of and access to information

⁷⁰ http://www.every-child-matters.org.uk/5_achieve_economic_wellbeing

The key to economic well being is a positive attitude to and success in learning and emotional intelligence. As well as making good progress, learners need to develop qualities to help them in a world of work that is likely to look very different from today.⁷¹:

- self confidence
- independence
- flexibility
- creative thinking
- risk-taking

Community involvement

Being involved in your community makes you a more responsible citizen. You are taking an active role in helping to shape your community. Being more involved can also give you a voice in your community. Communities are always looking for people who want to improve the lives and well-being of others. There are many ways to get involved in your community. Making new connections to your community benefits everyone. If you want to help out in your community, all you need is free time and the desire to make your neighborhood a better place. You can inspire others as well as yourself!

4.3.Ways to contribute te community⁷²:

- **Volunteer** - Give your time to a cause that needs your help. Getting involved in your community as a volunteer gives you the chance to make social connections, focus on solving problems, and see your community as a living whole in which you are a vital participant. Opportunities to volunteer exist in every community. One way to find local opportunities is to search Volunteer Match for information on more than 76,000 nonprofit organizations. You may already know an organization near you that could benefit from a few hours a week of your help. Examples of volunteering can include helping at: beach clean-ups, retirement homes,

⁷¹ <http://heinonline.org/HOL/LandingPage?handle=hein.journals/catoj18&div=21&id=&page=>

⁷² <http://www.wellnesseveryday.org/relationships/community/getting-involved>

hospitals, and religious centers. Look for volunteer opportunities in your local newspaper, at your school, and at bulletin boards around town.

Volunteering helps you build fulfilling relationships that have proven health benefits. Creating new social connections can prevent depression and reduce feelings of isolation and loneliness. Seeing that your contribution is making your community a better place to live will also give you a sense of pride and fulfillment.

If you are currently out of work, volunteering could also help you acquire new skills to add to your resume and expand your life experience in ways that may surprise you. You may discover new abilities you have or find new interests by simply offering some of your time and energy. You may also meet new people who can help you network and find new job opportunities.

- Join or create a group with shared interests- There are many different types of groups in the community: joining a sports team, a book club, or a hobby group. You might join or form a single parents' support group or become involved with local politics. Sometimes we can even organize our own group and tailor it to our beliefs and values or something you feel strongly about.-

-Help clean up- One easy way to make your neighborhood better is to organize a small group who picks up garbage. In addition, when you organize a cleanup group you may also make some new friends and feel happier living in your neighborhood.

- Disaster relief - In times of emergency, you can give time and energy to organizations such as the Red Cross. Serving as a disaster relief volunteer gives you the chance to give relief to people in need and see how valuable your contribution is. Your help in a disaster may even save a life.

- Give clothing- Another way to help your community is to give clothing and shoes you are not using to organizations that help low-income or homeless people in need.

- Give food- Food banks need donations all year round. You may think of donating during the

holidays, but giving on a regular basis will encourage you to keep thinking of the needs of others and helping your community grow and improve.

- **Give blood** Visit Red Cross to see where you can give blood. If you are able, donating blood can help change a life.

- **Fundraising** - There may be a group in our area that needs our help. Different activities and interesting ones can be made, like organizing a fundraiser such as a bake sale, community garage sale or car wash to raise money to donate to your chosen group. New people can be met, create a sense of unity by sharing in a common cause and help improve community as well as your own sense of well-being.

As Dr. Anica Mikus Kos, a philanthropist from Slovenia says in her book “Voluntary work”, youth represents the greater number of volunteers, and they profit most of it; they have a sense of belonging, acquire knowledge from experience, their personality develops further because they can understand more easily the happenings inside of them, they enter a challenge and that requires their use of knowledge and experience, their social awareness is developed because they are touched by the state of others, they are informed about the different social and cultural states and can easily decide about their future profession.⁷³

Youth is the ultimate source for changing of the quality of life, changing the possibilities of the handicapped groups and individuals, young people are the source of ideas, motivation, social energy, for social action of great numbers. Voluntary work makes it possible for the young person to further engage in important roles in the society, it gives social learning, widening of the horizons and decisions for their family life.

The young person is making self-examination and looks for their identity, it is very important that by engaging they have the possibility for experimenting, they can involve into an activity, and then leave it, without actual consequences. They understand giving and sharing things with people they don't know. And the real education is having two or three young people with different cultural backgrounds, come close together, and that dream can be fulfilled here in North Macedonia.

⁷³ Dr. Anica Mikus Kos s okupino soavtorjev, Združenje slovenska Filantropija, Ljubljana 1999,

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, I would like to mention the importance of becoming an active citizen. As we know everything starts from home. I think that we as parents should promote the idea of becoming active in society to our children, that they should be useful in their community and that they should always try to work their way in becoming better in the eyes of God and of other people. I think that active citizenship is very important and must become an object of study because it is a subject that is in constant change and while it is always present in human life encompassing economy, education, health, and science.

Every aspect of human life has active citizenship as a mark that might perform as measuring equipment for the quality of life and influence in the improvement of it.

Hopefully, this academic writing does not stay only in this form but becomes a source for the students that will be interested in treating the problem. Every day globalization is becoming much clearer, especially with this situation of the Covid 19 virus we understand that we the humans are all the same, we all get sick, we all die, we all want to live and experience happy moments in life. Every changing situation brings forward a different approach that we can use and enable for our ideas to become reality. Nowadays the internet is an inevitable tool and a very important one to keep us informed and connected in these difficult times.

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