

## THE IMPACT OF CIVIC EDUCATION ON ENHANCING CIVIC PARTICIPATION IN ROMANIA

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### **Abstract**

Our society is undergoing continuous changes and thus requires proactive, informed and responsible young people. Due to the fact that the progress of society depends on the education and training of the young generation, a peculiar attention must be paid to the inoculation of civic and democratic values, in order to foster a participatory civic culture, based on responsibility and engagement. To a certain extent, teenagers can be taught these values within their families, but this is not enough in order to have informed and responsible young people. Hence, we argue that the education system (primarily formal, but also informal) should also focus on it.

In Romania, civic education is an optional subject in high-school, whereas in many European countries it is compulsory, and this situation is reflected in the level of social and political participation of people.

This paper aims at analyzing the relation between the deficit in civic participation in Romania and the (low) interest in civic education within the Romanian education system.

The study initiates with the theoretical framework on civic engagement/participation and the Romanian legislation in this regard. It continues with the mapping of the status quo of the subject civic education in Romanian high schools. The case study focuses on the design of a curricula that could be adopted at national level and introduced in high schools, based on the need to enhance civic participation among young people reaching voting age.

Key-words: civic education, civic participation, curricula, compulsory subject