



permanent tsb Foróige

Youth Citizenship Programme

Young people making a difference
in their communities



Citizenship is about more than legal rights and duties. It is people working together for the good of all.

It is creating a better society with greater caring, community spirit and social justice. Young people have a vital role to play in this process.

Why do the Citizenship Programme?

You, as citizens, can help to shape the future. You can make the world a better place. You can have a real influence on events. A good place to start is in the local community.

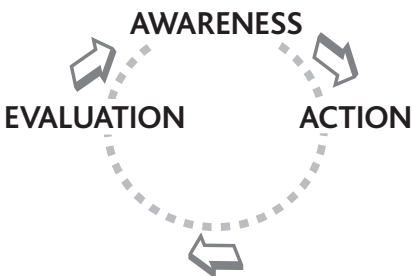
The Citizenship Programme helps you to:

- Understand what is happening in your community and society.
- Take action to bring about improvement.
- Develop good community values.
- Make a real difference to the world and the lives of others.

The programme can focus on Citizenship at local, national, European and international levels.

How the Citizenship Programme works

There are three main sections in the Citizenship Programme: Awareness – Action – Evaluation. The diagram below illustrates these sections.



Steps in undertaking a citizenship project

When undertaking a Citizenship project it is important to organise it properly. The following method may be used.

AWARENESS

- 1. Explore your community and identify possible improvements needed**
For example: discuss strengths and weaknesses of your community, walk around your area, interview people to get their views, investigate a particular social issue/problem.
- 2. Select one or two improvements for action**
Select what is most important and achievable from the issues identified.
- 3. Find out more about this improvement**
Develop a good understanding of the improvement you selected and of what is required. Decide what you need to know and find this out, e.g. interview people involved, talk to experts.

ACTION

- 4. Decide what action you will take**
Your decision should be based on what you have found out about the improvement needed and what can be achieved. Discuss this and set specific goals accordingly.
- 5. Plan and organise this action**
Decide: what specific jobs need to be done? who will do what? where? when? who will help us? Involve everyone in this process.
- 6. Go into action**
Follow up on the plan. Review action regularly. Work on problems that arise.

EVALUATION

- 7. Evaluate the project**
Discuss what went well, what could be done better, what was learned and what the community gained. Interview community members to get their response. Decide what further awareness/action is needed.

NOTE: Evaluation should be done throughout the whole project and not just at the end. Necessary changes and adjustments should be made as the project progresses.



Possible Topics

1. Needs of Special Groups

- Find out the needs/ interests/ talents of groups such as people with disabilities, senior citizens, children and minority groups.
- Take action to respond to these.

2. Services to the Community

- Find out what services are provided in your community and what new services are needed.
- Take action to provide a new service, e.g. newsletter, radio programme, sports day, swimming lesson, community alert scheme.

3. Social Issues

- Investigate issues such as underage drinking, racism, crime, and pollution.
- Organise action to address one issue, e.g. seminars, discussions, campaigns.

4. Local Environment

- Survey your local environment and identify improvements needed.
- Take action to bring about these improvements, e.g. landscaping, developing a local car park, cleaning up an area, organising a bottle bank.

5. The New Irish

- Build links with immigrant groups in your area. Find out their interests, needs and wishes.
- Organise activities to promote intercultural understanding and co-operation such as language guides, social evenings, concerts, sports involving different nationalities, etc.

6. The Developing World

- Build links with groups in the developing world to compare cultures and give practical help (see "Our World Our Challenge" booklet).
- Develop awareness and action on a particular human rights and social justice issue.

7. Economic and Social Development

- Find out more about the economic and social life of your community, e.g. industry, voluntary organisations, local radio, tourism.
- Carry out projects to bring about improvements, e.g. social event, trade fair, directory of organisations, tourism booklet.
- Put together a development plan for your area and present it to your community and relevant authorities.

8. Local, National and European Policy

- Meet with local politicians to discuss how to influence policy and local politics.
- Study the impact of a particular aspect of local/national/EU policy on life in your community, e.g. environment, senior citizens, agriculture, employment.
- Present your views to the community, politicians, institutions and the media.



Programme Resources

Foróige Services

Staff, Voluntary Leaders, Literature – Programme Leaflet and Booklet, Training Courses for members/leaders, Citizenship Awards Scheme.

permanent tsb

e.g. Branch staff, trained volunteers, opportunities to profile projects in local branches.

Community Members, Development Agencies

e.g. GOAL, Concern, Trócaire, Gorta, Traveller's Groups, Focus Ireland, Amnesty International, Co-operation Ireland.

Environmental Groups

e.g. Greenpeace, ECO-UNESCO, Dept of the Environment, ENFO (The Environmental Information Service).

Community Organisations

e.g. Parish Councils, Community Councils, Residents' Associations, ICA, Civil Defence, Macra na Feirme, Trade Unions.

National and Local Bodies

e.g. Leargas, Local Health Service Executive, County Councils, I.D.A. Ireland, Universities and Institutes of Technology.

Inter-Cultural/ Immigrant Support

e.g. Irish Refugee Council, The Equality Authority, Youth Action Against Racism (NYCI), Asylum Reception Centres, African Culture Project, Irish Islamic Association, Irish Council of International Students, Embassies of different countries.

Media

e.g. Local radio stations, local newspapers, radio and television programmes, films, plays.

Your Local Foróige Contact is:



Foróige
Block 12 D
Joyce Way, Park West
Dublin 12
Tel: (01) 630 1560
Fax: (01) 630 1568
E-mail: info@foroige.ie
Website: www.foroige.ie

NOTE ON INSURANCE: Make sure that any activity you undertake is covered by Foróige's Public/Products Liability Insurance Policy and that you comply with all the requirements and regulations of Foróige's insurance scheme. Don't take chances. If you are in any doubt check with Foróige staff or with Foróige Headquarters. A comprehensive booklet dealing with all aspects of Foróige's insurance is available from headquarters.