



PARTICIPATION ERASMUS ALUMNI  
FOR CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

# Civic and political competences in Erasmus+

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Erasmus+

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## What question are civic/political competences the answer to?

*The Erasmus+ Programme addresses the citizens' limited participation in its democratic processes and their lack of knowledge about the European Union, and tries to help them overcome the difficulties in actively engaging and participating in their communities or in the Union's political and social life. Strengthening citizens' understanding of the European Union from an early age is crucial for the Union's future. In addition to formal education, non-formal learning can enhance the citizens' understanding of the European Union and foster a sense of belonging to it.*

*Erasmus+ Programme Guide 2023*



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What *question* are civic/political competences the *answer* to?

● *External/societal challenges*



● *Internal challenges (to Erasmus+)*



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## What question are civic/political competences the answer to?

### ● *External challenges*

- Increased polarization and forms of closed “group think”, and even radicalization
- Increasing exclusion of groups in society, under-representation
- Resurgence of nationalism and Euro-scepticism
- Broad debate about the Future of Europe





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## What question are civic/political competences the answer to?

- *Internal challenges (to Erasmus+)*
  - Complement the instrumentalist view (employability) with a **citizenship view**
  - Forms of **exclusion** in the Programme (ethnic minorities, gender-bias)
  - Contribution to public debates on **European citizenship**
  - Contribution to public debates on the **Future of Europe**



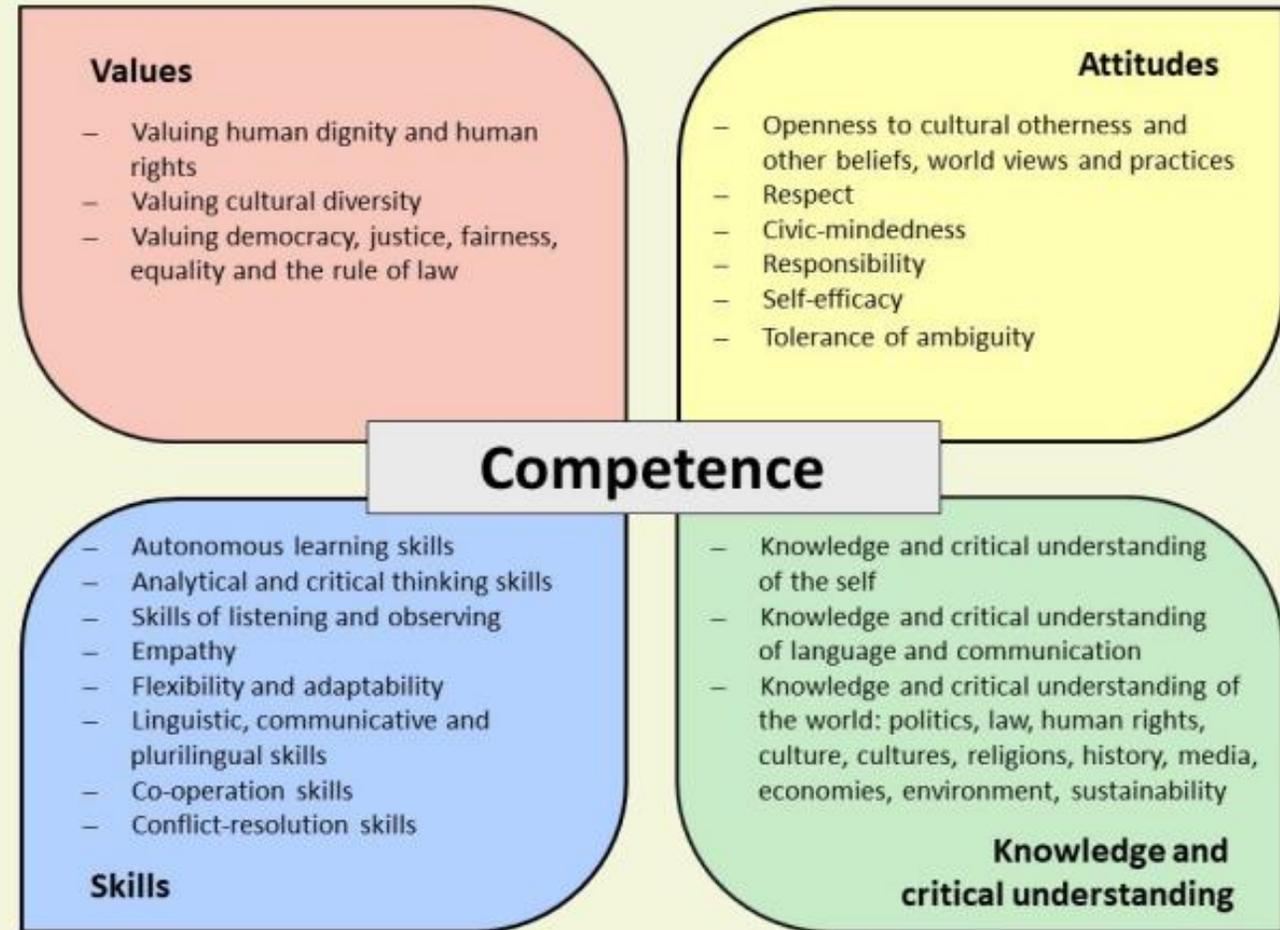
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## What are civic and political competences?

- Cognitive dimension, the “informed citizen”
- Practical/investigative dimension, “experience on the ground”
- Practical/hands-on capacities, “civic initiative”
- Cultural competence, “civic culture”



CoE 2021



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## What are civic and political competences?

- “Responsible citizen”, law-abiding
- “Participating citizen”, cooperation
- “Justice-oriented citizen”, counter injustice





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## How does (or does not) Erasmus+ promote civic competence?

- Broad focus on civic engagement, but less explicit action
- Inclusion is a core component of Erasmus+, but little systematic investigation into complex forms of exclusion within the Programme
- Diversity is a core component of Erasmus+, but little is known about different forms of diversity within the programme

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