

# The characterization of Active Citizenship in Europe

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## *Abstract*

*This article defines Active Citizenship within a European context as a broad range of value based participation. It develops a framework for measuring this phenomenon which combines the four dimensions of Protest and Social Change, Community Life, Representative Democracy and Democratic values. A composite indicator (CI), The Active Citizenship Composite Indicator (ACCI), is built using the framework provided and using experts' weights. The results showed that the Nordic countries, and in particular Sweden, have the highest rate of Active Citizenship, followed by Central Europe and Anglo-Saxon countries. Mediterranean countries are next followed by Eastern European countries that close the ranking. Finally, in order better to understand the phenomenon of active citizenship the relationship between the Active Citizenship Composite Indicator and other social cultural and economic indicators were explored. High levels of Active citizenship are found to correlate with the rule of law and human and economic development.*

## *Introduction*

Active Citizenship is a term used within European policy making to denote particular forms of participation which should be promoted within Europe in order to ensure the continuation of participatory and representative democracy, to reduce the gap between citizens and governing institutions and to enhance social cohesion. In a European context, Active Citizenship, in terms of education and training can be traced back to the European Commissioner on Education, Research and Sciences in 1998, Edith Cresson. She explained that Active Citizenship was when the citizens of Europe could be both 'the architects and actors of their own lives' (European Commission 1998). Her remarks laid the foundations for the basis for the development of Active Citizenship within the European education and training 2010 work programme as part of the wider Lisbon Strategy (European Council 2001). In the process of monitoring the development of Active Citizenship in Europe the Council (Education 2005) requested that indicators should be developed. In September 2005 the European Commission Centre for Research on Lifelong Learning (CRELL) began an exploratory research project in order to support

the development of indicators in this field in cooperation with the Council of Europe. This research project has focused on the measuring Active Citizenship in a learning context. The research was supported by a European wide network, 'Active Citizenship for Democracy' comprised of researchers from the fields of education, political science and sociology. This article presents some of the findings from this research project

The purpose of this article is two fold: first, to measure and compare active citizenship across Europe through the development of a composite indicator and second, to explore the factors which influence the development of active citizenship. The first section of this article, on the measurement of active citizenship, defines and makes operational this concept including taking into account the broader aspects of participation and the values involved in engagement. It goes on further to describe the data selected and the process of building the composite index. The results are given in the form of a ranking for the different countries for the overall composite and the four dimensions. Section two of the paper explores how active citizenship relates to social, cultural and economic outcomes of a country including exploring correlations of the active citizenship composite indicators with other indices such as GDP, Human Development Index and the Social Cohesion Index.

### ***Measuring Active citizenship***

In order to build a measure of active citizenship the first step was to define active citizenship. Building on the foundations of Marshall (1950) in terms of rights and obligations of citizenship and Verba and Nie (1972) in terms of participatory and influential action, in this research paper we used the definition of active citizenship as;

*Participation in civil society, community and/or political life, characterised by mutual respect and non-violence and in accordance with human rights and democracy. (Hoskins, 2006<sup>1</sup>)*

As can be seen within this definition, Active citizenship incorporates a wide spread of participatory activities containing political action, participatory democracy and civil society and community support. However, and in our view correctly, action alone is not considered active citizenship, the examples of Nazi Germany or Communist Europe can show mass participation without necessarily democratic or beneficial consequences. Instead participation is incorporated with democratic values, mutual respect and human rights. Thus what we are attempting to measure is value based participation. The difference between this concept and social capital is that the emphasis is placed on the societal outcomes of democracy and social cohesion and not on the benefits to the individual from participation. For further details on the conceptual development of active citizenship we address the reader to Hoskins and Mascherini, 2008.

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<sup>1</sup> Developed by the CRELL research network "Active Citizenship for Democracy" as part of this project

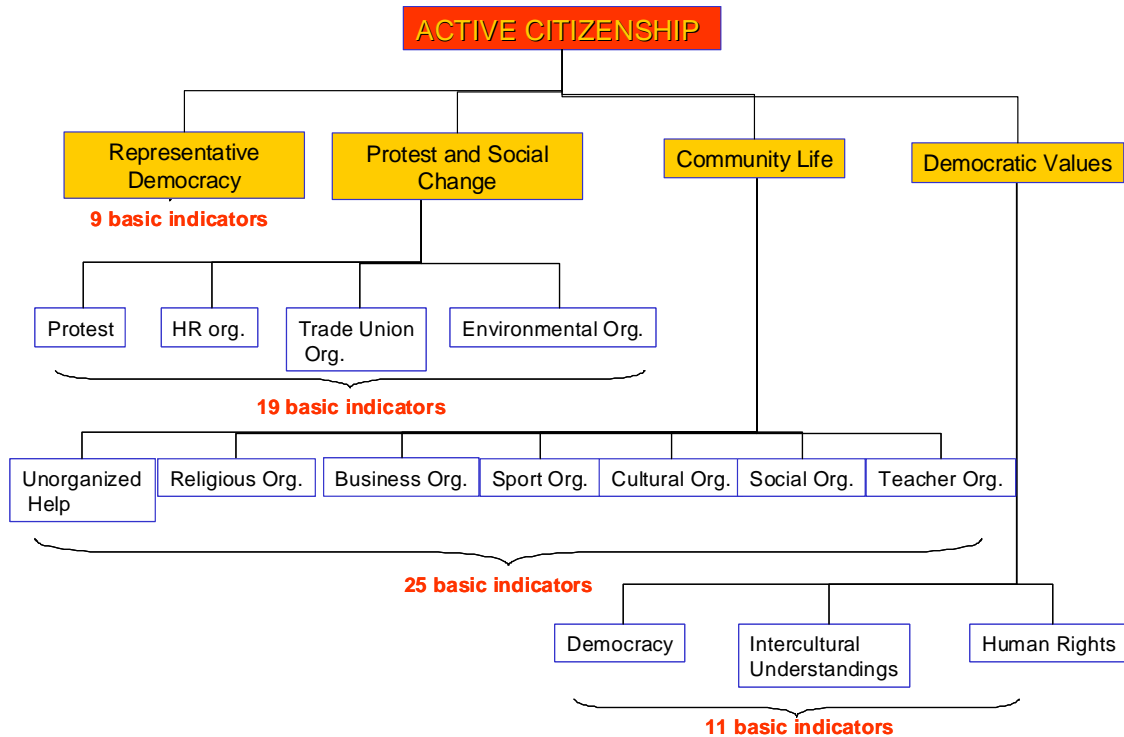
After defining the concept, the second step is to make operational the model of active citizenship. The operational model of active citizenship is based on four measurable and distinct dimensions of *Protest and social change*, *Community life*, *Representative democracy* and *Democratic values*. The dimension on *Protest and Social change* organisations is comprised of four components. The first component is protest activities which is a combination of 5 indicators: signing a petition, taking part in a lawful demonstration, boycotting products and contacting a politician. The next 3 components are three types of organizations; human rights organisations, trade unions and environmental organisations. Each of these components is comprised of four indicators on membership, participation activities, donating money and voluntary work. The *Community life* dimension is comprised of seven components. Six of these are community organisations: religious, business, cultural, social, sport and parent-teacher organisations. These 6 components contain 4 indicators each on membership, participation activities, donating money and voluntary work. The 7<sup>th</sup> component is a single indicator on unorganized help. The dimension *Representative democracy* is built from 3 sub-dimensions; engagement in political parties, voter turnout and participation of women in political life. The sub-dimension on engagement in political parties contains 4 indicators on membership, participation, donating money or voluntary work for political parties. The sub-dimension on voter turn out contains two indicators on voting, one on the national elections and one on European elections. The third sub-dimension is comprised of one indicator on the percentage of women in national parliaments. The fourth dimension is called *Democratic values* and consists of 3 sub-domains: democracy, intercultural understanding and human rights. The democracy sub-domain is comprised of 5 indicators on Democratic Values asked in relationship to citizenship activities. The intercultural sub-dimension contains 3 indicators on immigration. The human rights sub-dimension is comprised of 3 indicators on human rights in relationship to law and rights of migrants.

The operational model adopted to measure Active Citizenship is described in figure 1. For the complete list of indicators we address the reader to Hoskins and Mascherini 2008.

### ***Data and methods.***

In the field of active citizenship availability of data is a serious problem. Not all dimensions are sufficiently covered and multi-annual data are generally not available. For example, there are limited data available on more informal and less conventional methods of participation, which have been seen to rise in recent years and which are often more culturally specific. Where possible non-conventional participation such as ethical consumption and unorganized participation have been included in the model, but the data for traditional forms of participation are more plentiful and easier to access from survey data.

**Figure1 – The structure of Active Citizenship**



With this in mind, the selection of indicators for the composite measure of active citizenship has been based mostly upon one source of data, which helps to maximize the comparability of the indicators. The source of data chosen was the European Social Survey (<http://www.europeansocialsurvey.org/>) which ran a specific module on citizenship in 2002. The European Social Survey (ESS) aimed to be representative of all residents among the population aged 15 years and above in each participating country. The size and the quality of the sample make the country coverage of Europe in the ESS data reasonably good, with 19 European countries, including 18 EU member states, providing sufficient quality of data.

Overall, the Active Citizenship Composite Indicator presented in this paper is based on a list of 63 basic indicators. As stated above, most of these indicators use data collected in the European Social Survey of 2002. In addition, voter turnout at national and European elections has also been considered, as well as the proportion of women in national parliaments. In order to complete the dataset, one missing value has been imputed for Norway. The list of the 19 countries included in the analysis is given in Table 1 below.

**Table 1: List of countries that have been analysed**

<b>List of Countries</b>			
<i>Austria</i>	<i>Netherlands</i>	<i>Finland</i>	<i>Slovenia</i>
<i>Italy</i>	<i>Denmark</i>	<i>Portugal</i>	<i>Greece</i>
<i>Belgium</i>	<i>Norway</i>	<i>France</i>	<i>Ireland</i>
<i>Luxembourg</i>	<i>Spain</i>	<i>Sweden</i>	<i>Hungary</i>
<i>Germany</i>	<i>Poland</i>	<i>United Kingdom</i>	

Nardo et al. (2005) define a composite indicator as “a mathematical combination of individual indicators that represent different dimensions of a concept whose description is the objective of the analysis”. Following this logic, here we summarize the concept of active citizenship into one number, a composite indicator, which encompasses different dimensions.

We built the composite indicators following the methodological guidelines given by Nardo et al. (2005). In this paper the different phases of the construction process of the composite indicators are just sketched and we address the reader to Hoskins and Mascherini, 2008 for details and wider description.

Given the structure of the Active Citizenship Composite Indicator shown in figure 1, the composite indicator is a weighted sum of the indices computed for the four dimensions  $D_i$  (Representative Democracy, Protest and social change, Community, Democratic Values) with weights  $w_i$ . The indices of each dimension  $D_i$  is then a linear weighted sum of of the sub-dimension indices  $SD_{ij}$  with weights  $w_j^*$ . Finally, each sub-dimension index  $SD_{ij}$  is a linear weighted aggregation of the  $s_{ij}$  normalised sub-indicators  $I_{h_i,j,c}$  with weights  $w_{h_i,j}^\#$ . The integration of the different equations into one gives the general formula for the Active Citizenship Composite Indicator:

$$Y_c = \sum_{i=1}^4 w_i \sum_{j=1}^{k_i} w_j^* \sum_{h_{ij}=1}^{s_{ij}} w_{h_{ij}}^\# I_{h_{ij},j,c}$$

Having defined the aggregation rule of the composite indicator, the construction and evaluation of the composite indicator (CI) involve several steps. In the next step the variables must be standardised and the weighting scheme for the indicators specified. Due to the fact that the 63 basic indicators have been constructed using different scales, a standardisation process is needed before the data for the different indicators can be aggregated. Different standardisation techniques are available for this (Nardo et al., 2005). The basic standardisation technique that has been applied is the Min-Max approach. Each indicator, q, was standardised based on the following rule:

$$I_{qc} = \frac{x_{qc} - \min_c(x_{qc})}{\max_c(x_{qc}) - \min_c(x_{qc})} .$$

Using this method, all the indicators have been rescaled and the standardised values lie between 0 (laggard  $x_{qc}=\min_c(x_q)$ ) and 1 (leader,  $x_{qc}=\max_c(x_q)$ ).

After the standardisation process, the data have then been transformed to ensure that for each indicator a higher score would point to a better performance. This step was clearly necessary to make a meaningful aggregation of the different indicators. Based on the Active Citizenship Composite Indicator structure an equal weights scheme was applied within each dimension and within each sub-dimension, Hoskins et al. 2006. The assignment of equal weights to dimensions prevents rewarding dimensions with more indicators (e.g. Community Life) as compared to dimensions with fewer (e.g. Representative Democracy). This means that the four dimensions have the same weights for calculating the Active Citizenship Composite Indicator. In a similar way, all indicators within a sub-dimension were assigned the same weight. For example, the sub-domains of participation in protest activities, human rights, trades union, and environmental organisations would have equal weights when calculating the index for the domain "Protest and social change." Therefore, as a result of the structure in which there are different numbers of indicators for the different sub-dimensions, the basic indicators will not have equal weights in the composite indicator.

In Hoskins and Mascherini, 2008, the weights were assigned after the consultation of experts in the field of active citizenship. This was done in order to assign different weights to the various dimensions on the basis of experts judgment which was elicited with a survey designed following the budget allocation approach. For a complete description of the process of the experts' weighting elicitation we address the reader to Mascherini and Hoskins 2008. Moreover in Hoskins et al. 2006 and Hoskins and Mascherini, 2008 a consistent sensitivity analysis was performed in order to show the robustness of the composite indicator which is not affected by the assumption made in the construction process.

### ***Results.***

In Table 2 the ranking of the ACCI is presented. Overall, it can be seen that the Nordic countries Sweden, Norway and Denmark score the highest. The exception to this trend is Finland, which for the overall composite and the three dimensions of participatory engagement ranks in the middle of the table. In the domain of Values, however, Finland is ranked 3rd. The group of Scandinavian Countries is followed by Central European Countries: Among them, the highest score is recorded by Belgium, followed by Austria and Netherlands, Luxembourg and Germany. The group of Anglo-Saxon countries plus Finland are ranked from the 9th to the 11th position and they perform much better than France, Mediterranean countries and Slovenia. Finally, in general, it is Eastern Europe and Greece that figure in the lower end of the ranking. The results among the different dimensions are shown in Table 3. In general, Nordic Countries (especially Sweden) show top performances in all the different dimensions, presenting a valuable consistency in their performances. In contrast, Central European Countries show performances with different profiles; whereas the Netherlands and Luxembourg have consistent performances in all dimensions considered, Belgium compensates for low scores in the dimension of Values with outstanding performance in Political Life. Moreover, looking at the individual indicator included in the dimension of Protest and Social Change, the Nordic countries, where NGOs thrive, have high scores, and they are followed by

Western European countries. The lower-scoring countries are from Eastern and Southern Europe. The driver of this result is mainly the sub-dimension of protest which is relatively high for all countries considered, whereas the Achilles heel is participation especially in trades union). The low score of Poland and Hungary is especially driven by a low score for in volunteering working in organisations (6.5% for Poland and 3% for Hungary, compared with the 30% of the top performer) and in participation in human rights organisations (1% for both countries, while the top performer reaches 4.3%). Portugal shows better performance in this latter variable (2%) and Greece is particularly strong in the dimension of protest.

The dimension of Community Life shows a slightly different picture. Here high scores are achieved by Belgium and the UK as well as by the Nordic countries. Participation and membership in sports and cultural activities are the driving force of the result. The low position of Italy is mainly the result of low participation and voluntary work and Spain compensates for its low score in participation and membership with high scores for parent– teacher organisations. For Southern Europe, the variable non-organised help is probably not sufficient to represent the informal networks and family support that characterise this region. In countries like Italy, for example, activities like preserving the food heritage (e.g. the Slowfood movement), or keeping cities lively with evening street activities could be considered relevant. Community participation scores low in Eastern Europe, especially in Poland. Furthermore, in Poland religious activities are more frequent than elsewhere in Europe.

The dimension of Democratic Values shows a significantly different pattern from the previous dimensions, with some countries demonstrating quite different behaviour and overall fewer regional distinctions. Poland scores quite well in this index and enters the top five. In contrast to the other dimensions, Portugal also scores well in eighth place. In addition, Finland and Luxembourg join Sweden on the top three. The position of Belgium results from its relatively lower scores in the indicators on values on human rights as only about 2/3 of Belgian respondents said that they would give the same rights to immigrants and about the same number considered important the approval of laws against discrimination in the workplace or against racial hatred. In Sweden the proportions were closer to 90% and 80%, respectively.

Finally, in the dimension of Representative Democracy, Austria and Belgium achieve high scores along with the Nordic countries. Austria is ahead of the Nordic countries (in spite of a relatively lower value for women's participation in national parliament), the only occasion in all four dimensions of Active Citizenship that this region does not score the highest. Austria's high score is partly due to the very high number of persons who are involved in political parties. Belgium ranks high in this dimension as a result of its policy of compulsory voting. France and UK perform less well in this dimension than in the previous two indices. Eastern European and some Southern European countries have lower scores. Poland has low voting scores but performs relatively well in donating money to political organisations, whereas Hungary performs well in democratic values and voting (75% in national elections and 38% in European parliament elections) but not in participation in politics. Overall the countries that perform better are not those with the highest voting rates for national or European parliaments but those where participation in politics is higher.

**Table 2: The ranking of the Active Citizenship Composite Indicator**

<b>Rank</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Score</b>	<b>5%-95% percentiles</b>
1	Sweden	1.017	(0.967; 1.074)
2	Norway	0.731	(0.6 ; 0.894)
3	Denmark	0.6	(0.537; 0.673)
4	Belgium	0.565	(0.393; 0.81)
5	Austria	0.436	(0.353; 0.527)
6	Luxembourg	0.324	(0.209; 0.476)
7	Netherlands	0.312	(0.214; 0.415)
8	Germany	0.295	(0.23 ; 0.363)
9	Ireland	0.121	(-0.016; 0.206)
10	Finland	0.056	(-0.045; 0.131)
11	United Kingdom	-0.018	(-0.182; 0.156)
12	France	-0.286	(-0.388; -0.165)
13	Spain	-0.352	(-0.427; -0.287)
14	Italy	-0.47	(-0.623; -0.361)
15	Slovenia	-0.474	(-0.567; -0.376)
16	Portugal	-0.565	(-0.689; -0.495)
17	Greece	-0.789	(-0.921; -0.668)
18	Poland	-0.806	(-0.997; -0.658)
19	Hungary	-0.833	(-0.911; -0.787)

**Table 3: Comparison of the Active Citizenship Composite Indicator with ranking dimensions**

<b>Rank</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Protest and Social Change</b>	<b>Community Life</b>	<b>Democratic Values</b>	<b>Representative Democracy</b>
1	Sweden	2	2	1	2
2	Norway	1	1	4	7
3	Denmark	3	6	7	3
4	Belgium	4	3	18	1
5	Austria	5	9	9	4
6	Luxembourg	11	10	2	5
7	Netherlands	6	5	11	8
8	Germany	7	7	10	6
9	Ireland	10	8	6	13
10	Finland	12	13	3	9
11	United Kingdom	8	4	13	15
12	France	9	11	16	16
13	Spain	14	14	12	10
14	Italy	15	17	15	11
15	Slovenia	13	12	14	17
16	Portugal	16	15	8	14
17	Greece	18	18	19	12
18	Poland	19	19	5	19
19	Hungary	17	16	17	18

### ***Correlation with other social and economic indicators***

In order better to understand the phenomenon of active citizenship the relationship between the Active Citizenship Composite Indicator (ACCI) and other country level economic, political, social and cultural indexes have been explored. A comparison was made with the Corruption Perceptions index (CPI), GDP per capita, the Human Development Index (HDI), the Social Cohesion Index (SCI) and the Global Gender Gap Index. The results are presented in Table 4. Overall, the ACCI shows a high correlation with the Corruption Perceptions Index, the Human Development Index and GDP per capita. The correlation is slightly lower for the Social Cohesion Index and the Global Gender Gap Index. It is necessary, however, to establish at the start of this section that with the absence of time series data that the results given only indicate correlations and do not suggest causality. Moreover, there is a fundamental difficulty in establishing causal links for inherently complex phenomena like active citizenship, as the variables provide feedback and reinforcements between each other. Thus these correlations provide a starting point for understanding the interrelationships between active citizenship and other social and economic levels in a country.

	<i>Protest and social change</i>	<i>Community Life</i>	<i>Democratic Values</i>	<i>Representative Democracy</i>	<i>Overall Active Citizenship</i>
<i>Corruption Perceptions Index</i>	0.862	0.763	0.432	0.604	0.84
<i>Global Gender Gap Index</i>	0.629	0.581	0.589	0.459	0.695
<i>Human development index 2002</i>	0.84	0.71	0.3	0.68	0.79
<i>Social cohesion index</i>	0.63	0.44	0.23	0.44	0.59
<i>Social cohesion index (-Poland and Sweden)</i>	0.77	0.48	0.35	0.49	0.77
<i>GDP per capita (PPP US\$ 2002)</i>	0.83	0.75	0.3	0.65	0.79

**Table4: Correlation between the Active Citizenship Composite Indicator (and its four dimensions) and some indicators in the social and economic domain**

#### *Transparency International Corruption Perceptions Index<sup>2</sup>*

The Transparency International Corruption Perceptions Index assesses 163 countries in terms of the degree to which corruption is perceived to exist among public officials and politicians. It is a composite index, a poll of polls, drawing on corruption-related data from expert and business surveys carried out by a variety of independent and reputable institutions. The CPI reflects views from around the world, including those of experts who are living in the countries evaluated. The Corruption Perceptions Index scores have a theoretical range between 0.0 (perceived as highly corrupt) and 10.0 (perceived as very clean). The nineteen countries we study have Corruption Perceptions Index scores

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.transparency.org/policy\\_research/surveys\\_indices/cpi](http://www.transparency.org/policy_research/surveys_indices/cpi)

ranking between 3.7 (Poland) and 9.6 (Finland), close to or better than the world's average performance (4.1) which corresponds also to the 66.6 percentile, as 1/3 of the countries score higher. Finland, Iceland and New Zealand are the world's top performing countries.

The correlation between the Corruption Perceptions Index scores and the ACCI scores is high (- 0.840), particularly in the relationship with the dimension of Protest and social change (*political non-governmental action*) and then with the dimension of Community Life.

#### *Per capita GDP<sup>3</sup>*

The correlation with GDP per capita (measured in PPP US Dollars) is also high (0.79) and even higher when considering the connection to the dimension of Protest and social change (0.83); it is still high for Community Life participation (0.75). However, the correlation is quite low when compared to the dimension of Democratic Values (0.30). It should be noted that it is the level of per capita GDP that matters rather than its distribution, given that the correlation between the ACCI and the Gini index is below 0.4 for all the dimensions considered. This raises a number of challenging issues for future research.

There might well be some kind of Kuznets' curve for citizenship, also linked to Maslow's hierarchy of needs, implying a lower level of citizenship at early stages of development, a positive relationship between active citizenship and GDP per capita up to a certain point at which, due to the improved economic situation, citizenship stabilizes. Citizenship might decline at a later stage of development due to other factors like economic anxiety about loss of jobs or fear of globalisation.

#### *Human Development Index<sup>4</sup>*

The Human Development Index (HDI) can be thought of as a measure of well-being as well as a measure of the impact of economic policies on quality of life. It includes comparative measures of life expectancy, literacy, education, and standards of living for countries worldwide, ranking them on a scale ranging between 1 and 0. GDP per capita is one component of the HDI. The index was developed in 1990 by the economist Mahbub ul Haq and has been used since 1993 by the United Nations Development Programme in its annual Human Development Report (<http://hdr.undp.org/reports/>). The link with active citizenship can be found in the Human Development Report itself (UNDP, 2004, p. 6):

Human development requires more than health, education, a decent standard of living and political freedom. People's cultural identities must be recognized and accommodated by the state, and people must be free to express these identities without being discriminated against in other aspects of their lives. In short: cultural

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<sup>3</sup> Source World Bank <http://www.worldbank.org/>

<sup>4</sup> <http://hdr.undp.org/>

liberty is a human right and an important aspect of human development—and thus worthy of state action and attention.

Table 4 shows a high and significant correlation between the HDI and the ACCI (0.79) and with two of its dimensions: Protest and social change (0.84) and Community Life (0.71). Not surprisingly this resembles the relationship between the ACCI and GDP per capita. Thus, both results provide evidence to support the argument that there is a relationship between human and economic development and Protest and Community Life participation. The direction of this causal link is, however, difficult to determine.

### *Social cohesion*

To the best of our knowledge the only index of social cohesion is the Social Cohesion Index (Green et al., 2003). This index combines measures for general trust and trust in institutions, civic cooperation (attitudes to cheating on taxes and public transport), and violent crime (inversely). It was created with the purpose to understand better the relationship between education and social cohesion. The index combines data from the World Values Survey, Interpol statistics and the International Crime Victim Survey. However, it does not explain the methodology used to assemble data coming from different sources. This index scores 15 countries (11 of which are also in the ACCI).

There is a positive correlation with ACCI (0.59) and a slightly higher correlation (0.63) with the dimension of protest. Again the lowest correlation is with the dimension of values, this is actually the lowest of all the correlations performed (0.23). Note that the correlation with ACCI and protest rise significantly to (0.77) if two countries (Sweden and Poland) are eliminated from the dataset due to the rise in correlation between the ACCI and civic cooperation and (inversely) violent crime. One of the differences from the ACCI is the year of the dataset used (1995), which could partially explain the modest correlation found with the ACCI. The lack of disaggregated data prevents further analysis.

### *Gender Gap Index<sup>5</sup>*

The Gender Gap Index was first launched in May 2005 by the World Economic Forum in an attempt to assess the size of the gender gap in 58 countries using economic, education, health and politically-based criteria (Hausmann *et al.*, 2006). The Global Gender Gap Index 2006, the second in the series, covers over 115 economies, which comprehends over 90% of the world's population and was compiled by researchers from Harvard University, the London Business School and the World Economic Forum. The index measures gaps between men and women in four areas: economic participation and opportunity, educational attainment, health and survival and political empowerment. By quantifying differences between the sexes in access to resources or opportunities, rather than measuring absolute levels, the researchers sought to remove the impact of economic development. The Gender Gap Index scores have a theoretical range between 0.00 (perfect inequality) and 1.00 (perfect equality). The nineteen countries we study have

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<sup>5</sup> <http://www.weforum.org/en/initiatives/gcp/Gender%20Gap/index.htm>

Gender Gap Index scores ranging between 0.64 (Italy) and 0.81 (Sweden), close to or better than the world's average performance of 0.66. It is worth mentioning that only 1/3 of the 115 countries have scores greater than 0.68. Sweden is the top performing country in the entire set of 115 countries included in the Gender Gap Index.

The scores in Table 4 show that there is a statistically significant correlation between the Gender Gap Index scores and the ACCI scores (0.695). Nevertheless, at similar levels of Gender Gap there is high variation in the ACCI scores, whilst at similar levels of ACCI scores the variation in the Gender Gap scores is much lower. The spread in scores is greatest at lower levels of Gender Gap. For example, Luxembourg does far better than Hungary in active citizenship at a similar level of Gender Gap. Germany achieves much higher levels of Gender Gap than Luxembourg at a similar level of active citizenship. Four of the five Nordic countries in this study (Norway, Sweden, Denmark and Sweden) have top scores in both the ACCI and the Gender Gap, but Finland's performance in active citizenship is much lower than in the Gender Gap Index.

### ***Conclusion***

This article has defined the phenomena of Active Citizenship as a broad range of value based participation. A framework model to measure active citizenship was developed that combines the four dimensions of Protest and social change, Community life, Representative democracy and Democratic values. The European Social Survey 2002 provided the best data coverage available for participation activities and values and covered 19 European Countries. There were some high-quality measurements for Protest and social change with indicators on participation in demonstrations, petitions, boycotts and ethical consumption. It did, however, lack measurements on new forms of participation that include more informal forms of participation that occur particularly in southern Europe. The domain of Representative democracy also contains some good measures with indicators on voter turn out, women in parliament and participation in political parties. Community life, had some useful measures on community organisation, however, the informal helping practices were limited due to the restrictions of the data, again affecting the southern European results. The democratic values domain had good measurements for democracy and how much people valued citizenship practices, however, the indicators on human rights and intercultural understanding were again limited by the data availability. The limitations in terms of the data availability and subsequent cultural bias of the results should be taken into account when considering the results. Bearing this in mind, the results of ACCI gave overall high performances in Northern and West Europe and lower results for South and East Europe.

This paper is the first step towards understanding how active citizenship relates to societies other social and economic outcomes and at this stage we can see a relationship between development and active citizenship. However, more and better data and more in-depth and qualitative research are needed to understand better active citizenship and how it relates to a countries development. The further direction of the research will be to analyze the active citizenship score at the individual level with several socio-economic variable (gender, education, income etc. etc) and contextual variables (GDP pro capita, Gini index) by using a random effect multilevel model. First results of this analysis show

the main role and the importance of education which is the main pillar that foster active citizenship in all the different Member States of the European Union.

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