



Citizenry & Community Research





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1.) Introduction

This research is a part of CITCOM project which is supported from the European Commission. The aim of this project is to facilitate more creative and active communities through sharing ideas, lessons learnt or best practice. This research will investigate community and citizen involvement and give a brief analysis on what facilitates good practice and identify potential issues in countries and regions which are participating in this project. Community and citizen involvement will be investigated in issues such as:

- Compare citizen engagement and community involvement (how many people are voting, general population stats, how many people are active there, picture of formal citizenship or how are they financed, picture of formal citizenship, what is necessary to fit their needs).
- List networks and activities (how many associations, NGO's in the area, how activities are defined).

Except for a brief conclusion about these issues from each country you will find also good practices from these countries. Also in this research there will be compared commonalities and differences from all countries in these issues. At the end of this research you can find a final conclusion based on all data from all countries. This data provides a background to an analysis of the implications and effects of deeper community participation in empowering and transformative initiatives.

Countries and Regions that are represented in this research:

- 1.) *Czech Republic - Moravian-Silesian Region*
- 2.) *France - Languedoc-Roussillon region*
- 3.) *Italy – Marche region*
- 4.) *Lithuania - country and Ukmerge region*
- 5.) *Romania - Nord-Est region*
- 6.) *Wales – north and west regions*

** all resources of data and information you can find in national reports in annex of this report*



2.) Conclusions from national reports

2.1) Czech Republic - Moravian-Silesian Region

In Moravian-Silesian Region (MS region) was the voting turnout in 2012 only 33% (335.622 people) in legislative election. Men participated in elections more than women (68% of man and 62% of woman). As for age, the largest group active in voting is 30 – 44. It is group of people living in families with children. They have strong sense of responsibility for the future of region or society. But also group of very young people – voters is large. This group consists of students and graduates who are full of enthusiasm and they want to use possibility to show their attitudes and beliefs. People with higher education vote more.

In MS region is 1.226.602 inhabitants. In MS region, the largest group is at the age 15 – 64 (846.615 inhabitants) in which representation of men and women is almost equal. Group of people over 65 is large too (20.142 inhabitants) and representation of women is significantly higher in this group.

Non-profit sector is important part of Czech society life. In the Czech Republic there are about 80.000 registered non-profit organisations. In MS regions is totally 3.397 organisations. Every second adult Czech is member of some NGO. Organizations supporting sport activities and special interest organizations (gardeners, firefighters, fishermen) are the most popular. There is also many various organisations (organisations working for disabled people, organisations working for children and young people or organisations working for women and many other).

Organizations are financed from public resources (grants from state, regional and local governmental), individual or corporate donations or organisation income (public events or membership fees).

There are few opportunities that can help to NGOs to improve their activity and needs which are: challenges: projects and grants, cooperation and networking or activities from Ministry of Local Development



2.2) France - Languedoc-Roussillon region

In Languedoc-Roussillon region (which has 5 departments) was the voting turnout in 2012 78.4% in presidential election and 52.7% in legislative election. The total number of voters in France was 43.2 million. Generally in France people with higher education vote more.

Gender balance in all region is almost same between man and women. Except groups in 0-14 age there are more women than man. Biggest gap is in group +75 age where the difference is over 37%. Main active group of people in organizations is 40-54 age (462.309 people). With comparing pensioners and people without prof. activity, absolutely most people is in category pensioners in 65+ age group. This number is two times higher than the biggest sum in another age groups except 65+. Young people attract more sports associations.

Less civic engagement is in large cities unlike in rural communities where community life is stronger. Civic engagement in France is strongly connected to activities in associations. In France exists 1.7 million associations which are divided into many categories (for example: cultural and socio-educational organisations, religion/philosophy, sport and many others). The commitment to associations increases with age. In Languedoc-Roussillon region plays associations an important role too. There is 89.500 associations.

Organizations are financed by receive donations, and central, regional and local governmental subventions or by collecting financial contributions from their members. research in 2013 (for Languedoc-Roussillon region), showed that the majority of the associations are quite satisfied with their financial and general conditions but regret a lack of volunteers willing to work. This is often result in a vicious circle: few overcharged people on one side and passivity on the other side.

Associations are in France important in social economy and the labour market. Total numbers of employees is 1.809.340. Most people work in "Social actions without accommodation" – 537.100 people. End of 2004, 10% of companies in Languedoc-Roussillon were companies of the social-enterprise sector (SEA), which are in total 8.200 establishments and which employ 94.200 people.



2.3) Italy – Marche region

Research in Marche region was focused especially on 3 municipalities: Frontone, Sant'Angelo in Vado and Mondavio. During the last elections held in Italy (national political elections of 2013) the voters were 50.449.979 (26.088.170 females 24.361.809 males). In Frontone were 1.215 voters, Sant'Angelo in Vado 3.599 voters (year 2014) and Mondavio 3.378 voters (year 2013.)

Italy has about 60 million residents. Frontone has 1.342 residents, Sant'Angelo has 4.214 residents and Mondavio 3.867 residents. In Italy, most people are in age group 15-65. In age group 65+ there is about 3.000.000 peoples more than in age group 15-65. There is equally distribution between man and women. From 70+ age ration between man and women increases in favour of women. Regional population distribution (in all 3 regions) is similar to the national structure. In 2012 43.1 % of the population between 25 and 64 years old have conceived a lower secondary school. 17.6% of younger people between 18-24 years old are drop-outs from higher secondary school. 21.7% of 30-34 year olds have conceived a university degree (or equivalent). 12.8% of the volunteers has a university degree, 44.4% a higher secondary school diploma, while 42.8% have lower diplomas. 61% of the population between 20-64 years old was employed, with a great unbalance of gender (less women in the labour market) and a difference within the territory between Central-North and Southern area (20.5%). The employment rate of the population from 55-64 years old is of 40.4%, growing of 2.5 % in compared to 2011. Within the volunteers the number of employed men is higher (59.4%) while the highest rate for women is in the other conditions group (26.1%).

To understand active citizenship dynamics in Italy we have to highlight what the communities are. The term "community" refers to a group of people, organizations, public bodies and companies present in a specific geographic area. The size of these groups can vary greatly, but usually the term refers to small groups, easily recognizable and characterized by common factors. In Italy, civic engagement and active citizenship is strongly connected to activities in associations because the associations are officially recognized by the public authorities and can take the legal, economic and social responsibility. In 2003 the volunteer associations subscribed in Regional registers were 21.021. In 2003 more than half of the organisations (53.3%) operate with less than 21 volunteers. More than half (52.2%) of the volunteers is employed, 29.5 % is retired and 18.3% other conditions (student, housewife, unemployed). Sectors of activities is very various. Most is health (28%), than social assistance (27.8%) and culture and entertainment (14.6%). In Frontone there are 6 sports associations, 1 cultural and 1 social. Different services and social activities are offered on the territory: Youth centre up to 14 years of age, playground, music school, volleyball, football and futsal. In Mondavio there are 18 cultural and sports associations. The territory offers: a youth club managed by youth, in a room given by the Municipality, a Music school managed by a group of young musicians; a tourism office managed by a private company which offers services in museums and organisation of events and many others.



2.4) Lithuania - country and Ukmerge region

In Lithuania was the voting turnout in parliamentary election in year 2012 35.91%. In presidential in the same year 51.76%. In Lithuania young people are the most passive. That is related with youth unemployment that leads to passive approach to active citizenship. Older citizens are more active in voting, still the most active voters are retired people, and those ages are over 60. It is important to indicate that 54 % of voters consist of women in Lithuania.

Sector of organisations fails to ensure the necessary human and material resources in order to perform properly the function of a watchdog of democracy and deliver services in those public life areas whereof state enterprise or individuals are unable or unwilling to affect. In year 2012 was in Lithuania 22.246 organisations. Women are more active in community related activities. While analysing age of active community members, 27-40 age and 41-60 age groups are excluded. People with higher incomes are more active in community activities as well. Active members of communities usually have higher than secondary school education (40.7 % of all members in rural communities and 62.4 % in urban communities).

There are 33 communities in Ukmerge area (32 in rural areas and 1 – Community of Ukmerge city). Taujenai community belong to Ukmerge area. Taujenai community has around 600 members. The activities they are involved into: in the church chorus (14-60 age), amateur theatre (25-55 age), mixed quartet (40-55), folklore band (40-60), girls duo (14-19), women duo (45-55), men chorus (45-55), women chorus (45-60), youth club (12-18). The majority of community members are of age 40-55, however there is a tendency of younger members of age 14-20 actively participating in the community life. The board of the community consists of 14 members.

Community based activities are funded from members' fees, Municipal budgets of the programs funding community, national programs or from international donor project funding and the EU Budget for Lithuania.



2.5) Romania - Nord-Est region

Voting turnout in Romania has continued to decline from one election cycle to the next. For all types of elections, it is parliamentary elections that have suffered the most visible decline in turnout rates. From year 1990 was the turnout 86.2%. In year 2012 was the turnout two times less – 41.7%. After a very long period of communism, when elections were organized just to show how much citizens are dedicated to the Communist Party goals, the beginning of 90's came with a strong appetite for democracy and individual rights. This is why a very high percentage of participation in voting was showed. Years after years, the interest for voting decreased dramatically, especially because of the lack of trust in political parties. But voting is significantly higher in local elections compared with national ones. Compared to the year 2012 national participation was 41.7% and local was 56%. Also voters in the rural area seem to be more interested in national elections compared with those living in urban areas.

On 1st of January 2014 Romania had a population of 19,942,642 inhabitants. Gender statistics show a higher percentage of women (52% of women and 48% of man). Considering the age of the population statistics show less and less new inhabitants were born in the last years (15.5% in age group 0-14 with compare 16.5%% in age group 65+). Analysing the population's level of education statistics show a low percentage of inhabitants holding a university degree and a large segment of population with high school degree (14.4% university degree and 68.40 high school degree).

In Romania was in year 2010 total 62680 NGOs (associations, foundations and federations but not on political parties, religious organizations or unions). Considering the NGOs which registered their annual financial documents at the Finance Agency Romania has close to 40% of the NGOs that could be considered really active. Comparing rural and urban areas considering the number of NGOs one could conclude that associativity is more frequent in the cities. Even the population living in rural areas it is about 45% of the entire population only 13% of the NGOs are set up in these areas.

In Romania NGOs could be financially supported by citizens through the "2%" mechanism. This allows citizens to redirect 2% of their income tax to a NGO. Beside this 2% mechanism, NGOs have as sources of funding – EU funds, foreign foundations funds, membership fees, sponsorships or economical activities.

Even many of the citizens offer a financial support to NGOs 94% are not members of any NGO. This shows a very low level of civic engagement. About 60,000 people are employed by NGOs, representing about 1.5 % of the total number of employees.



2.6) Wales – north and west regions

In 2011 41.8% of the population voted in the Assembly elections, 44% for local authority elections, 65% for UK election and 31% for European election. There was a distinct decline in 2012 where the 44% for local elections declined to 39%. 66.6% of voters in local elections did so out of a sense of civic duty, with 45% doing so in order to “express a view”. These statistics offer an indication of the strength of perceptions of formal citizenship in Wales. Looking at the whole of the UK, in 2009-2010 37% of people felt they could influence decisions in their local area. The same survey holds that 18% of the population are actively engaged in consultation on local services, while 76% and 85% respectively felt they belonged to their community and that their community was cohesive.

The third sector is indicative of the breadth of the population’s engagement with varying levels of active citizenry in Wales. It is estimated that there are over 33,000 third sector organisations in Wales. These range from local fundraising groups of national charities to large national and UK charities with substantial incomes of a £100million. An estimated 931,000 people, nearly a third of the population, volunteer in organisations across the country. The sector is very broad but elements common to all are the facts that they are all NGOs, they are all voluntarily established, they are value driven and committed to reinvesting their surpluses to further their own objectives. The sector is becoming increasingly important as the State rolls back services and the austerity cuts bite deeply at the public purse. With regards to income in 2010, the Third Sector has an estimated total income of £1.6 billion and includes the incomes and expenditures of large housing associations and the like. Organisations are financed funding from giving by the public and housing rents increased but that funding from all other public bodies was reducing.



3.) Good practices

3.1) Czech Republic - Moravian-Silesian Region

Viva Ostrava

Viva is co-working centre where can community meet, share their ideas or cooperate. This centre provides unique chance in Ostrava for all community and their members meet them on official and non-formal place. Also is this place open to individuals who wants to share their ideas, help with their needs (project etc.). These individuals can find here their future colleagues and can create new community in Ostrava. For example Viva created community of people who have business oriented mind, want to change their region and also who will prepare whole conference TEDx (more on www.tedx.com). Also this community prepare incubator for communities ideas and this incubator try to help them and create their ideas through learning canvas model, marketing, financial problems and etc. Now is in this incubator about 10 community ideas.

<http://www.vivaostrava.cz>

Flowerpots in Ostrava

With this idea came art community Cooltour (which is the biggest art community in Ostrava). After start of this idea municipality of Ostrava started to support this idea too. Now you can rent flowerpot in the middle of centre of Ostrava take care of it, grow your own fruit or vegetables or promote it in various ways. Also there is a competition on the website who flowerpot is nicer and better. This ideas is helpful for many communities because they rent flowerpot and they take care of it and promote their own community as one group.

<http://www.cooltourova.cz/probihajici/truhlici>



3.2) France - Languedoc-Roussillon region

Association Energie Citoyenne

The association, established in 2006 in Perpignan and acting in the agglomeration Perpignan, is an ideal setting for those who want to act locally to defend global ideas. Supply of good food quality, healthy and fair, sustainable transport, environmental awareness, solidarity, DIY, energy management, jardin collective. Under the roof of this association running several independent projects, partly initiated by members of the association, partly coming from outside. Members of the association are acting autonomous and taking the responsibilities for their work. The association partners with the university of Perpignan and the association for preserving a soldiery agriculture (Association pour le Maintien d'une Agriculture Paysanne - AMAP).

<http://energiecitoyenne.free.fr/>

La Chapelle de Fitou

Founded in 2004 by three artists, aims to bring culture and cultural activities to Fitou. With support of the municipality the association use a former chapel to perform concerts, organize exhibitions and cultural events. The focus is on promoting local/regional artists by keeping a high level of quality. It's a non-profit association with non formal membership. The board consists of three people (director, finance and secretary). The yearly program is proposed by members of the association discussed and decided by simple majority during the annual meeting. Members taking care of "their artists" and organize accommodation and guidance for them. Preparations for the events are done more or less by a core group. Even though the outreach of La Chapelles' activities has been spread regionally, some members still feel the need to organize a better external communication but the majority of the members see do more appreciate the social components then recognizing the limits of financial capacities which are still not tight enough to honestly re-think the external communication.



3.3) Italy – Marche region

Volleyball association - Frontone

The volleyball association can be considered a positive service offered on the territory as it has increased the number of members including smaller children. This is positive because it teaches to work in a team and it enhances the feeling of being part of a group.

Public decorum – Social participation

Since 2013 the Municipality has released an ordinance on the decorum of the places in order to protect the environment and try to transfer the importance of a cured environment to the citizens, particularly in the area of Frontone where tourism is one of the first incomes.

Some ideas from Mondavio

In the Municipality of Mondavio there are numerous associations managed by young people who cooperate with the local municipality in the organization of events such as Carnival, film festival and sports events between neighbouring municipalities.

A Caritas centre is present on the territory and is managed by volunteers which distribute food to families of the territory. The Municipality organizes public meetings with the citizens to discuss yearly budgets, to illustrate new services offered, etc.



3.4) Lithuania - country and Ukmerge region

The community of Taujenai was the first established community in Ukmerge area in Lithuania. Generally it started in December 2001, and on the 31st of January 2002 it was officially presented. Due to this good practice the other communities were established.

The most active communities in Ukmerge area that have a good practice in participatory processes:

- The community of Deltuva,
- The community of Valai,
- The community of Tulpiakiemis.

All these communities are very active. They write various projects and get funding for sports, cultural, leisure, social activities. All of them have renovated the community houses, bought computers, Multimedia devices, speakers, music equipment. Besides, the communities are constantly participating in various competitions, events, representing their self in governmental institutions. However, these communities do not have their websites at the moment, but it is on their future plans.

Taujenai community has created the club of Young people and they are working very actively in various events organizations: all community members are singing the National anthem on 6 of July, watching films in summer cinema near manor of Taujenai, playing table games during long winter evenings.

In conclusion, it can be stated that Taujenai community still lack most of activities that would join the community, starting from leisure activities to business possibilities facilitation in the area.



3.5) Romania - Nord-Est region

The commune of Sancaiu is located in Cluj county, North-West Region of Romania. The 1800 inhabitants live in the 5 villages of the commune. Hungarians and Romanians live together and try to make a better future for their families and communities. There are 4 NGOs in Sancaiu bringing together local inhabitants who try to create a better life.

Silvanus Association is focused on ecological education and environment. Together with the kids from the local school they organize several events as the Summer Camp and the Environment Day.

Ady Endre Association brings together the local efforts to conserve traditions and promote cultural values of the village through dance festivals.

The Forest Owners Association is more focused on the sustainable use of the forest through appropriate management plans.

The Tourism Association is supported by over 40 people involved in tourism. They try to create special events to attract tourists in the village. Through their efforts more than 10,000 tourists visit Sancaiu every year.



3.6.) Wales – north and west regions

GOLYGFA GWYDR

Golygfa Gwydyr is a social enterprise based in Llanrwst. They are a non-profit, community led organisation.

Vision

Within the context of local community and place, their aim is to enhance social, environmental and economic resilience and to provide opportunities for personal growth and vibrant community relations.

Values

- trusting relationships, equality, social justice, anti-discrimination
- social and economic inclusion
- participatory democracy
- community empowerment
- working and learning together
- collective action, self-determination, peer support and mutual aid

List of current Golygfa Gwydyr projects

- Welcome and Information Centre (incl. public WC / babychange / Wi-Fi / Internet / What's on / transport info, informal chat & support)
- Millennium Volunteers
- Movie Nights
- Camcrwst Productions- film-makers club
- Community Tourism
- Caerdroia Working Parties (environmental maintenance, construction)
- Gardening in the community garden
- Community-food Cooperative
- Cook & Eat Club
- Dan Y Coed – developing new ideas / theatre group / uses at the site, and a rolling programme of events
- Caerdroia Sensory Labyrinth Performances
- Woodland Management
- Community Woodfuel Co-operative
- Job Club
- Active Citizenry group – for discovering, discussing and taking action
- Chat'n'Craft
- Knit'n'Natter
- Drumming
- Mindfulness-based Support
- Rainbow Women/Yoga



These projects and activities reach the wider rural population but especially the disenfranchised groups, the hard-to-reach groups, women, older people, younger persons, the unemployed and poorly employed, people with mental health issues.

STUDENT VOLUNTEERING BANGOR (Bangor University)

Student Volunteering Bangor (SVB) is a department within the University's Students' Union which has over 1,500 members, 600 of whom volunteer on one or more of our community based projects. SVB volunteers currently contribute a total of 600 hours each week which promotes a close and supportive relationship between the university and local communities. The values that inform this effort are ones of equality, social justice, anti-discrimination, inclusion, working and learning together, collective action, self-determination, peer support and mutual aid

VISION: SVB has a vision that it should be commonplace for students to volunteer whilst they are at university and that the Students' Union should do everything it can to support, promote and develop student volunteering. That is why SVB's main aim is to assist students to lead their own, community based volunteering projects and provide student volunteers with the support and training they need to do so.

SVB currently have over 30 community based projects with volunteers undertaking a combined average of 600 hours of voluntary work per week. See following examples:

Projects for Children and Young People

- SbectrwM: Delivers play and activity sessions for children with Autism and Aspergers Syndrome every other Wednesday 5–7pm.
- Red Cross Mobile Youth Project: Volunteers run a mobile youth outreach programme in local rural areas once a week using a purpose made mobile youth bus.
- Dragon Sports: Nurtures the next generation of sporting superheroes through organising after school sports activities at local primary schools once a week.
- Child Contact Centre: Volunteers supervise children whilst they have contact time with a non-resident parent or family member. Every other Saturday morning.
- ELCOS Kids: Volunteers help entertain and supervise children whilst their parents learn English as a second language. Volunteers usually contribute 2 hours per week on either Monday, Wednesday or Friday mornings.

Projects for Vulnerable Adults

- The Hergest Project: Volunteers attend the Hergest Unit, Ysbyty Gwynedd's Mental Health ward to offer befriending sessions and activities for patients once a week.
- Hear to Meet: Run in partnership with Action on Hearing Loss Cymru, volunteers arrange a monthly opportunity to socialise for people over the age of 50 with hearing loss.
- Llinos Club: Volunteers organise fortnightly evening socials for people aged 18-30yrs with Down's Syndrome.



- Ty Llywelyn: Volunteers attend the Ty Llywelyn Medium Secure Unit at Bryn y Neuadd, Llanfarifechan to offer befriending sessions and activities for patients once a week.

Environmental Projects

- The Big Give: Take part in our biggest and most ambitious project of the year where we encourage students to leave behind their unwanted food and household items at the end of term so we can distribute them to local organisations.
- Beach Clean: Join us at one of Anglesey and Gwynedd's many stunning beaches to help improve and protect the environment.
- Greener Gwynedd: Take part in conservation activities in partnership with other local organisations



4.) Conclusion of the research

It is really hard to define one conclusion from this research which will define citizenry and community in all partner countries. Main reasons are especially different perception of associations and non-profit organizations in other states, different research methods in individual countries and especially the characteristics of individual countries itself. We can only compare the individual categories.

In voting turnout there is decreasing trend among all countries. Almost in each country is higher turnout of women than men. However, the composition of voters is different in each country. Structure and the total percentage of voter turnout depends especially on the history of the democratic state and its development. Generally people with higher education vote more.

Decreasing trend is also in population among all states. Especially in the western states rapidly increasing older people. This is reflected particularly in the growth and also by largest representation of these people in civic engagement. Young people are mostly in sports organisations.

Civic sector is rapidly different in each country and regions. The number of organisations, associations and NGOs is various especially due to different meaning of this terms in each country. Also community and citizen involvement can be really different. In some country is every second adult member of some organisations in the other country may be active only a fraction or somewhere are more active in cities and somewhere in rural areas. Again, women are more active in community related activities. Most of members have also higher education. Focus of organisations is very wide and does not specify uniform among countries. On the other hand organizations financing is very similar. Organizations are financed from public resources (grants from state, regional and local governmental), individual or corporate donations or organisation income (public events or membership fees). In most countries associations are important in social economy and the labour market. For example in Italy organization (NGOs) create almost 5% of gross domestic product. Also people with higher incomes are more active in community activities as well.

Activities that would help organizations to support citizenship are very similar in all countries. Most organizations needs are more members, better funding or better marketing (in order to be "famous."). Activities may be for example: projects and grants, cooperation and networking or activities from Ministry of Local Development.

We can see that community and citizenship at a local, national or European level are still very different but in some things also very similar. Main benefit of this research to the partners of the project is the fact that each partner knows what is the situation in citizenry and community in their region and also can slightly compare situation in other European regions. Based on this research we can improve situation citizenry and community based on actual problems and needs through the activities of CITCOM project.