

LESSON 9

ACTIVE AND ENGAGED CITIZENSHIP

Active citizenship involves working for the common good in local, national and global communities, including voicing informed opinions on matters relevant to your community, investigating controversial issues, demonstrating collaborative and innovative problem solving, building relationships with diverse individuals and groups, adopting leadership roles and participating in your community. Active citizenship is the ability for citizens and groups to work together and with government to affect change in their communities.

Change is driven by underlying conditions and a clear set of goals. Active citizenship and good governance means tracking and measuring the actual consequences of actions to understand who is being affected, how and why.

Objectives and Results is a political thinking concept that focuses on factors leading to events, policies, decisions, and/or plans of actions and their intended and unintended consequences. It helps us assess underlying issues and conditions, establish concrete objectives and analyze potential civic and political actions. It also requires us to evaluate the effects of actions and to recognize that government policies and decisions as well as responses to civic issues can have a range of effects on various groups of people. A comparison of the initial goals of a policy or decision and its effects enables us to distinguish between intended and unintended results.