

Avtor: Mag. Mitja Sardoc

Matična ustanova: Pedagoški inštitut, Ljubljana, [mitja.sardoc@pei.si](mailto:mitja.sardoc@pei.si)

Avtor: Dr. Justina Erčulj

Matična ustanova: Šola za ravnatelje, Ljubljana, [Justina.Erculj@solazaravnatelje.si](mailto:Justina.Erculj@solazaravnatelje.si)

---

## **CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION – A WHOLE-SCHOOL APPROACH**

Over the last two decades, the theory of citizenship and citizenship education evolved from a marginal issue in educational theory to one of among the major topics in contemporary theoretical discussions about the civic purposes of public schooling in a culturally diverse society, both at the level of general educational policy and among educators alike. Social and political changes have considerably influenced the meaning and the role of citizenship education in the curriculum of public education and brought about the revival of the theory of citizenship and citizenship education within contemporary political theory as well as within the broader field of the social sciences and education. The place and contribution of citizenship education in a publicly mandated system of education has become one of the central points of discussion and debate in terms of theory, research, policy and practice. In particular, effective policy-making in the area of citizenship education and its successful implementation depends on the provision of support in the professional development teachers of citizenship education and of civic related subjects receive and in the provision of appropriate organisational development of the school environment.

The presentation consists of three parts. Part I presents an overview of the main arguments defending a program of civic education necessary to sustain our pluralist democratic societies. Part II presents the model of in-service teacher training which was developed within a project on citizenship education and teacher training conducted by the Slovene National School for Leadership in Education in cooperation with the British Council of Slovenia and the Slovene Ministry of Education and Sports. The main aim of the project was to develop a programme of professional development for affected staff (especially the management team of the school and subject leaders at schools) since the introduction of combined units (linking citizenship education with other civic related subjects) at all levels of the school curriculum of the elementary school is of particular importance for the process of strengthening the co-operation between elementary schools headteachers, subject leaders, teachers of citizenship education and other

members of the school staff. In part III, we present the main results of the evaluation which was conducted in all schools which participated in the project.