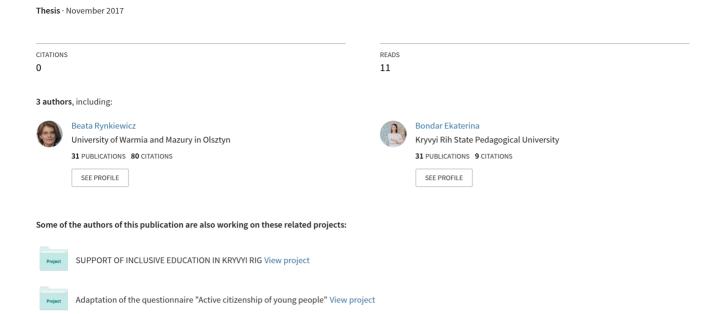
Young people's citizenship activity in times of war threat: case of Ukraine



ABSTRACTS

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Young people's citizenship activity in times of war threat: case of Ukraine

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The study explores passive, semi-active and active citizenship among young Ukrainians empirically revealed by Citizenship Behavior Questionnaire among 371 pupils aged 11, 14, 17 – 18 years old. The empirical study is introduced by socio-political and educational description of current situation in Ukraine as well as some historical background. Citizenship education in Ukraine is taught through all subjects in the form of national-patriotic education what is justified by recent political conditions: annexation of Crimea and war in the East of Ukraine. Peculiarities of Higher Education in Ukraine reformation are reviewed as well as results of studies concerning patriotism, citizenship and political participation among Ukrainian youth. For our empirical study we have chosen passive, semi-active and active citizenship as dimensions and the following sub-dimensions for analysis: national identity, patriotism, loyalty, civic virtues, social activity, political activity, personal activity, action for change. Boys and girls do not differ significantly in citizenship behavior in Ukraine. At the same time there are significant differences on some citizenship dimensions and sub-dimensions regarding place of living and age. In general, high passive and semi-active citizenship were revealed but low active citizenship telling us about presence of potential but unwillingness for active changes. One of the means for achieving citizenship activity can be enhancement of interest in political media, media literacy and prevention of destructive media effects. These means can be implemented through media education with special attention to citizenship.

It is worth mentioning that history of Ukraine has been taught for a long time through the prism of pro-Russian political goals. As a result we see that interest in history is not largely associated with national identity. Citizenship education in Ukraine should focus on historical literacy giving pupils more facts which will help them to resist pro-Russian propaganda.

All in all current difficult situation in Ukraine being in the state of war in the East and having part of the territory annexed justifies that citizenship education has the form of national-patriotic education but for further development of democratic society it is worth drawing more attention to human rights issues regardless ethnic background.