

- ➡ **prof. zw. dr hab. Inese Jurgena**, Riga Thatcher and Educational Management Academy, Łotwa/ Latvia

Opportunities of Establishing Students Community within Citizenship Education in a Multicultural Environment

Możliwości kreowania studenckiej wspólnoty przez wychowanie obywatelskie w międzykulturowej rzeczywistości

At the beginning of the 21st century, a new situation has developed in Latvia as a result of social and economic transformations. Along with the formation of civil society, issues concerning the social, legal, and spiritual life of student population have come to the foreground. There can be observed new features of behavioural culture and standards of thinking, readiness to live in a democratic environment. The young generation perceives freedom and equality as necessary preconditions for varied activities, as an opportunity for individual's self-actualization.

The institutions of higher education play an important role in the formation of social consciousness and serve as the environment for the development of citizenship.

One of the most important subjects of educational environment is the aggregate of various student interest groups and clubs, the main purpose of which is to promote students' readiness to live in civil society by developing students' creative potential and public administration skills. The activities of clubs and associations create preconditions for meeting varied communication needs of young people as well as real application of personal initiative and responsibility. As to the development of citizenship, the activities taking place in the clubs can be regarded as a particular social space and an opportunity for acquiring positive social experience. At this level, students' citizenship mainly manifests itself as active participation in public administration, involvement in definite socially important activities, and direct participation in the development of economic, political, and cultural life. It should be noted that these activities can be realized both in the form of individual independence and active group cooperation in various organizations.

The purpose of the article is to study and analyse the experience of various student clubs and associations in the institutions of higher education in Latvia aimed at the development of citizenship.

Materials and methodology: the theoretical method- the analysis of academic literature, documents, and studies; the empirical method – students' survey.

Key words: *youth policy, citizenship education, student clubs*