

EUROPEAN CITIZENS' INITIATIVE FORUM





ECI Forum Webinar

How to Look for Partners

Host: Elisa Lironi, Digital Democracy Manager, ECAS
Guest Speaker: Maarten de Groot, The ECI Campaign

September 2018



What is the European Citizens' Initiative?

- Article 11(4) of the Treaty on the European Union:

Not less than one million citizens who are nationals of a significant number of Member States may take the initiative of inviting the European Commission, within the framework of its powers, to submit any appropriate proposal on matters where citizens consider that a legal act of the Union is required for the purpose of implementing the Treaties.

**THE FIRST SUPRANATIONAL INSTRUMENT
OF PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRACY**



Forming the Citizens' Committee

- A citizens' committee must be established to launch the initiative as its official organiser;
- The committee must comprise at least seven EU citizens old enough to vote in the European Parliament elections and living in at least seven different [EU Member States](#);
- Contact persons – one representative and one substitute – must be designated from among them.

Tips

→ Choose reliable and experienced people as members of the citizens' committee



Contacting Potential Partners

1. Look for organisations in other Member States that share your interests;
2. Arrange a meeting/call as early as possible;
3. Explain your initiative and how the potential partner can contribute;
4. If they are not willing to help, ask for recommendations of others who might be interested.



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We maintain a database of this website's registered users. If you are registered and logged in, you can use this page to search the database by country and area of interest, and to send messages to users with whom you wish to make contact as potential co-organisers for your initiative or for advice.

Please note that you can only search in English, French or German.

Users you contact via this page will receive your message at the email address they used when they registered. The email address you used when registering will appear as the sender of the message.

Search by interest:

Or

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Organize your favorite contacts by clustering them in customized groups and assign them with short notes. Contacts can be favored by clicking the star icon in the profile or in the vCard.

Send message

Who?: *

 

Message: *



Potential Supporters at Local, Regional, National and EU level

- **Intermediaries** e.g. organisations sympathetic to the subject of the initiative;
- **Sponsors** e.g. individuals or organisations willing to support the campaign (through funds or through 'in kind' support);
- **Influencers** e.g. politicians, journalists and celebrities willing to support your initiative can raise people's awareness and boost the collections of signatures;
- **Volunteers** e.g. individuals or offline/online communities willing to carry the campaign messages and gather signatures.

Find partners before launching your initiative!

Partners should be:

- ✓ Numerous
- ✓ Diverse
- ✓ Proactive
- ✓ Spread across Europe!



Other Sources for Searching Partners



- EU Transparency Register
 - Ngonorway.org
 - NGOpartnership.org
 - Ideal-ist Partner Search
- and many more!



Tips...

Use the ECI Forum

Ask for formal letters
of support

Use the communication
channels of your network

Contact your MEPs

Inform your
personal contacts

Focus on countries where the topic
is widely supported/debated

Make active use of
social media

Motivate partners



For more information...

Guidance notes

- [Procedural steps](#) the successive phases of an initiative
- [How to look for partners](#) practical tips and hints
- [How to draft an initiative](#) legal requirements and practical advice
- [How to campaign](#) common sense advice on promoting your initiative
- [How to collect signatures](#) often the hardest step
- [How to raise funds](#) for your campaign

Success stories

- [One of us](#) pro-life initiative with papal backing
- [Right2Water](#) the impact of prime-time TV coverage
- [Stop Glyphosate](#) building on an existing pan-European campaigning network
- [Stop Vivisection](#) the power of large groups of volunteers

Webinars

1. [Procedural steps and how to draft an initiative](#)
2. How to look for partners
3. How to collect statements of support
4. How to prepare and run campaigns
5. How to raise funds

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The ECI Forum is a pilot project, operated by a consortium of three organisations – ESN, ECAS and CARSA – on behalf of and under contract to the European Commission.



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