Discover the European Citizens’ Initiative

Barbara Walentynowicz, ECI Policy Officer
“What is the ECI?”

“The European Citizens’ Initiative is a participatory democracy tool that gives EU citizens the right to have a say in EU policies that affect them

• EU citizens have the right to sign any open citizens’ initiative or start one
• A group of 7 EU citizens can propose a change they want to see in the EU, then they have 1 year to collect 1 million signatures of support
  • If 1 million valid signatures are reached – you meet with lawmakers and get an official response from the European Commission
• Citizens’ initiatives must meet certain criteria*
WHERE CAN CITIZENS MAKE A DIFFERENCE WITH THE EUROPEAN CITIZENS' INITIATIVE?

- Non-discrimination & Citizenship
- Employment & Social Affairs
- Justice, Freedom & Security
- Education, Training, Youth & Sport
- Humanitarian Aid, Development & Cooperation
- Environment & Climate Action
- Consumer Protection
- Public Health
- Agriculture & Fisheries
- Energy

And many others...
The ECI in action –
6 Steps to turn an idea into a citizens’ initiative
1 million signatures in at least 7 EU countries
“Why should I care about the ECI?”

1. The ECI brings new ideas that haven't been considered yet on the radar of EU and other policymakers.
2. The ECI gives you and other EU citizens the right to take action on issues you care about – and you can help organisers by supporting their ideas.
“How can I get involved with the ECI?”

As an EU citizen, you can:

- Sign an ongoing initiative
- Support an initiative (volunteer time, promotion, etc.)
- Start a new initiative
Registered Initiatives – starting soon

Creation of a European Environment Authority
- Current status: Registered
- Registration number: ECI(2023)000011
- Signature collection starting soon

EU Live Bus Stop Info
- Current status: Registered
- Registration number: ECI(2023)000008
- Signature collection starting soon

Trust and Freedom
- Current status: Registered
- Registration number: ECI(2023)000009
- Signature collection starting soon

'I'm Going European': An ECI to Connect your National and European Citizenship
- Current status: Registered
- Registration number: ECI(2023)000010
- Signature collection starting soon

Preservation and development of Ukrainian culture, education, language, and traditions in EU states
- Current status: Registered
- Registration number: ECI(2023)000007
- Signature collection starting soon
“What can I achieve by starting/supporting an ECI?”

“The European Citizens’ Initiative helps bring causes you care about to the EU level.”

• Spark a debate
• Raise awareness
• Trigger policy change in the EU
Facts & Figures – overview since 2012

- 107 initiatives registered
- 9 initiatives collecting signatures
- 9 initiatives replied to by the EC (+1 reply by 14 Dec 2023)
- 18 million+ signatures collected
Recently replied Initiatives

1. SAVE BEES AND FARMERS
2. STOP FINNING EU
3. Save Cruelty Free Cosmetics
Get a greater say in the policies that affect your life. The European Citizens' Initiative is a unique way for you to help shape the EU by calling on the European Commission to propose new laws. Once an initiative has reached 1 million signatures, the Commission will decide on what action to take. See how it works step by step.

If you consider starting an initiative, consult the ECI Forum for legal and practical advice.

ImagineEU Video competition

All the initiatives you can support

Latest news

Commission registers four new European citizens' Initiatives
Find out more & stay in touch

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ECI FORUM WEBSITE
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(EN+ 23 EU LANGUAGES)
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