



# Discover the European Citizens' Initiative

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## “*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\*

# Competences of the EU



NON-DISCRIMINATION  
& CITIZENSHIP



EMPLOYMENT &  
SOCIAL AFFAIRS



EDUCATION, TRAINING,  
YOUTH & SPORT



JUSTICE, FREEDOM &  
SECURITY



HUMANITARIAN AID,  
DEVELOPMENT &  
COOPERATION



And many others...

**WHERE CAN CITIZENS  
MAKE A DIFFERENCE  
WITH THE EUROPEAN  
CITIZENS' INITIATIVE?**



CONSUMER  
PROTECTION



PUBLIC  
HEALTH



ARGICULTURE &  
FISHERIES



ENERGY



ENVIRONMENT &  
CLIMATE ACTION

# 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

# Ongoing Initiatives




COLLECTION ONGOING

Article 4: Stop torture and inhuman treatment at Europe's borders

5,825 supporters

[Support this initiative](#)



COLLECTION ONGOING

Connecting all European capitals and people through a high-speed train network

35,904 supporters

[Support this initiative](#)



COLLECTION ONGOING

European Day of "Whatever it Takes"

134 supporters

[Support this initiative](#)




COLLECTION ONGOING

Taxing great wealth to finance the ecological and social transition.

47,491 supporters

[Support this initiative](#)



COLLECTION ONGOING

End The Horse Slaughter Age

4,670 supporters

[Support this initiative](#)



COLLECTION ONGOING

Ensuring a dignified reception of migrants in Europe

7,571 supporters

[Support this initiative](#)




COLLECTION ONGOING

European Citizens' Initiative for VEGAN MEAL

3,044 supporters

[Support this initiative](#)



COLLECTION ONGOING

CALL TO ACHIEVE A TOBACCO-FREE ENVIRONMENT AND THE FIRST EUROPEAN TOBACCO-FREE GENERATION BY 2030

19,356 supporters

[Support this initiative](#)



COLLECTION ONGOING

Effective implementation of the concept of judicial precedent in EU countries

18 supporters

[Support this initiative](#)



# Registered Initiatives - starting soon

## Creation of a European Environment Authority

- 👤 Current status: Registered
- ✍️ Registration number: ECI(2023)000011
- 📅 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



## EU Live Bus Stop Info

- 👤 Current status: Registered
- ✍️ Registration number: ECI(2023)000008
- 📅 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



## Trust and Freedom

- 👤 Current status: Registered
- ✍️ Registration number: ECI(2023)000009
- 📅 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



Commission response to European Citizens' Initiative "Save bees and farmers!"

9 April 2020  
EU/14400/20  
EU/14400/20

It calls on the Commission to:

**"Save bees and farmers: towards a bee-friendly agriculture for a healthy environment"**  
European citizens' initiative  
supported by over 1 million citizens across the EU

Commission's response to STOP FINNING – STOP THE TRADE  
European citizens' initiative

The number of European citizens' initiatives that have successfully reached the required number of support statements for the European Commission to provide a reply continues to grow. This is the 31<sup>st</sup> successful citizens' initiative. Save Bees and Farmers is the first initiative which will have legislative results. All of them have led to better products, services and research programs among both citizens and policymakers.

**DREAMERS' GOAL**

EU's strategy of support for the EU, including Regulation (EU) No 2015/2582 concerning trade in shark fins, is also the target.

Commission's response to the European citizens' initiative  
**SAVE CRUELTY-FREE COSMETICS - COMMIT TO A EUROPE WITHOUT ANIMAL TESTING**

July 2020  
EU/14400/20

The number of European citizens' initiatives that have successfully reached the required number of support statements for the Commission to provide a reply continues to grow. This is the 31<sup>st</sup> successful citizens' initiative. Some have resulted in new legislation, while others have led to better products, services and research programs among both citizens and policymakers.

# ECI multilingual website

## See also

### 9 Answered Initiatives

View the initiatives that have received an answer of the European Commission.

### 107 Registered Initiatives

View all the initiatives that have already been registered by the European Commission.

Find information about the registration process in our ["How it works"](#) page.

### More interesting facts & figures about initiatives

View statistics and information about the lifecycle of the initiatives

Or Search in the 107 registered initiatives

## Latest news

08/11/2023

Commission registers four new European citizens' initiatives

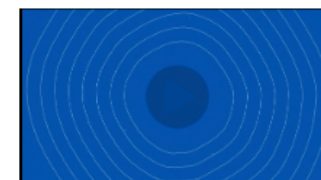


## European Citizens' Initiative

[Home](#) [Find initiative](#) [How it works](#) [News](#) [Spread the word](#) [For schools](#) [ECI Forum](#) [Organiser account](#)

## Home

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](#)



The European Citizens' Initiative: Your right as an EU citizen

If you consider starting an initiative, consult the [ECI Forum](#) for legal and practical advice.

### ImagineEU Video competition

[Check the rules and apply!](#)

## All the initiatives you can support



# Find out more & stay in touch



## **ECI WEBSITE**

[HTTPS://EUROPA.EU/CITIZENS-INITIATIVE/](https://europa.eu/citizens-initiative/)



## **ECI FORUM WEBSITE**

[HTTPS://EUROPA.EU/CITIZENS-INITIATIVE-FORUM/](https://europa.eu/citizens-initiative-forum/)



## **MONTHLY NEWSLETTER**

(EN+ 23 EU LANGUAGES)  
[HTTPS://EUROPA.EU/CITIZENS-INITIATIVE/NEWSLETTER/](https://europa.eu/citizens-initiative/newsletter/)



## **ECI EDUCATIONAL TOOLKIT**

[HTTPS://CITIZENS-INITIATIVE.EUROPA.EU/SCHOOLS/ECI-EDUCATIONAL-TOOLKIT](https://citizens-initiative.europa.eu/schools/eci-educational-toolkit)



## **CITIZENCENTRAL PODCAST**

[HTTPS://EUROPA.EU/CITIZENS-INITIATIVE/CITIZENCENTRAL-PODCAST\\_EN](https://europa.eu/citizens-initiative/citizencentral-podcast_en)



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## **LOCAL CONTACTS**

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