



WELCOME!

European Citizens' Initiative Forum Webinar:

Understanding the legal requirements for launching an ECI

Host:

Vasiliki Mustakis

Participatory Democracy Manager, European Citizen Action Service (ECAS)

10 March 2026



Interaction and Q&A

- Interface: Please turn off **your video** and **mute yourself** during the presentations.
- Language: English.
- How to interact and ask questions: You can use the chat to ask questions. They will be noted and picked up by the moderator.
- The Webinar will be recorded and uploaded on the European Citizens' Initiative Forum
- All participants will be asked to fill out a short survey at the end of the webinar.



Speakers

Ionut Grigoras

European Commission Policy Officer

Claire Damilano

ECI Forum Legal Advice Manager

Ioana-Virginia Motoc

Legal expert part of the “Ask an expert” service



Today's Agenda

1. Introduction (5 mins)
2. The ECI registration process – Vasiliki Mustakis, ECI Forum Team (5 mins)
3. Legal requirements of an ECI – Ionut Grigoras, European Commission Policy Officer (15 mins)
4. Registration process and conditions
5. ECI Forum support and quality control – Claire Damilano, ECI Forum Legal Advice Manager (10 mins)
6. ECI Forum Ask an expert service – Ioana-Virginia Motoc, Legal expert part of the Ask an expert service (Freshfields) (15 mins)
7. Q&A (5 mins)
8. Closing and key takeaways (5 mins)



The European Citizens' Initiative: an overview

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.



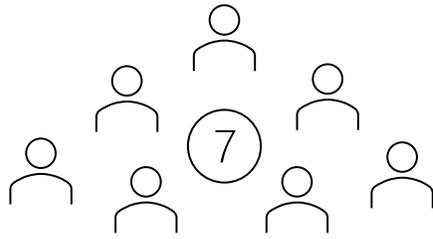
The first supranational instrument of participatory democracy



It is your way as a citizen to have a say in policymaking at the EU!



The European Citizens' Initiative: the first steps



Step 1: Form an Organiser Group composed of at least 7 EU citizens living in 7 different EU countries



Step 2: Develop your initiative and ensure it is under the competences of the European Union

(Visit the ECI Forum for guidance)



Step 3: Register your initiative through the [organiser account](#) and state its objective(s), title and other administrative information



Step 4: Develop your campaign for signature collection



Register your initiative through the Organiser Account

European Citizens' Initiative Organiser Account | ECIforum@ecas.org | My initiatives | Log out | EN

Welcome ECIforum@ecas.org,
select below which of your initiatives you want to manage.

! You don't have any initiative, please create one

Launch a new initiative

European Citizens' Initiative Organiser Account | ECIforum@ecas.org | My initiatives | Log out | EN

Home

Registration form

Status: [Draft registration request](#)

Please fill in the information required in each step to request the registration of your initiative. Required fields are marked with an asterisk (*)

- Group of organisers
- Initiative
- Support and funding
- Procedures and conditions
- Review and submit



What is the European Citizens' Initiative Forum?



- The Forum supports organisers in the preparatory phase and during the collection of signatures of their initiative!
- An online collaborative platform (available in all 24 EU languages) that provides advice and information to initiative organisers *before, during and after* the process of launching and implementing an initiative





Explore the Learning Resources on the Forum



In the [Practical Guidance](#) section of the ECI Forum, you can find all the resources you need to manage your ECI, such as guidance notes, success stories, webinar recordings, testimonials from ECI organisers and other learning materials.

- [Webinars](#)
- **Guidance Notes**
- [Success Stories](#)
- [Testimonials](#)

The learning resources are divided by subsection and the steps of launching an ECI :

The European Citizens' Initiative – The Basics

How to prepare an initiative for registration

How to look for partners

How to collect signatures

How to organise a campaign

How to raise and report funds



Timeline





Collecting signatures



The goal is to reach at least 1 million signatures, including a minimum number in at least seven Member States, in 12 months





Thank you very much for joining us today!