



## **The European Citizens' Initiative - a tool to carry your ideas across the EU!**

### **Luxembourg in focus**

*Digital event, 18 June 2021 – 12:30-14:00*

Spark a debate, raise awareness, foster a network with the European Citizens' Initiative!

Learn how this unique tool of participatory democracy can help amplify your message and the causes you care about.

During the event, we will hear from organisers who will share their experience and give you the tips you need to get started. Institutional and civil society representatives will discuss the rich participatory democracy landscape in Luxembourg and the EU and highlight how the European Citizens' Initiative can take your idea to the next level.

### **Agenda**

12:30 – **Opening of the event**, moderated by **Magdalena Jakubowska**, Design Thinking facilitator, Learning Experience Designer

12:40 – **Welcome and introduction** – **Heinzius Horst**, Communication Officer in the Representation of the European Commission in Luxembourg

12:45 - Panel 1 **What is the value of the European Citizens' Initiative for participatory democracy at national and EU level?**

*Active citizenship and tools of participatory democracy provide citizens with a platform to spark change. Our panellists will help you better understand what instruments are available and explain how the European Citizens' Initiative (ECI) works.*

- *When is the ECI relevant at EU level? What are the keys to success and the main steps of the process?*
- *How is the ECI different from national/regional options and what is its added value?*
- *Why get involved?*
- *Where can you get help in Luxembourg to get information on the ECI and Luxembourgish tools for participatory democracy?*

*Speakers include:*

- **Barbara Walentynowicz**, Policy Officer, European Citizens' Initiative team, European Commission
- **Christophe Lefèvre**, Member of the European Economic and Social Committee, current member and former chair of the ECI ad hoc group
- **Philippe Ternes**, Expert on participatory democracy and "Citoyens, Égalité, Droits et Valeurs (CERV)" contact point in Luxembourg

13:15 – Panel 2- **Why start an ECI? What can you achieve? Tips and tricks to make the most of it**

ECI organisers together with an ECI Forum expert will share their experience and tips and tricks on how best to undertake an ECI.

- **Rosalie van den Brink**, organiser of ECI – Voters without borders
- **Dino Serafini**, representative of ECI Stop!GlobalWarming.eu - A price on Carbon to Fight Climate Change
- **Assya Kavrakova**, Executive Director, European Citizen Action Service (ECAS)

13:40- Panel 3- **Luxembourgish citizens in action!**

The event closes with a spotlight on a Luxembourgish citizen who has organised a citizens initiative using tools for active citizenship which are foreseen by the Luxembourg legislation.

- **Patrick Vanhoudt**, Principal economic adviser at the European Investment Bank, and spokesperson of the College of Staff Representatives at the European Investment Bank (*Initiative: Petition Nr. 765 introduced before the Luxembourgish Parliament, 2017*)

13:50- **Wrap up - Magdalena Jakubowska**, moderator

13:55 - **Closing remarks - Barbara Walentynowicz**, Policy Officer, European Citizens' Initiative team, European Commission