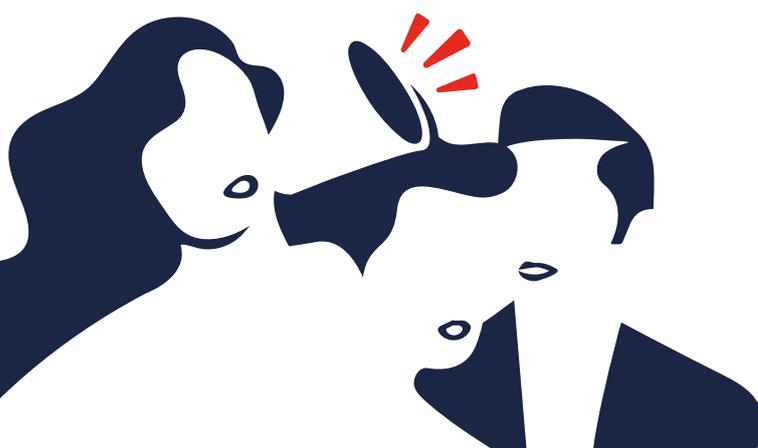




European Citizens' Initiative

A tool to carry your ideas across the EU



Why should you take the initiative?

Act on issues you care about – push the EU agenda's 'start button'



Build a network and get support from the European Citizens' Initiative Forum



Support in a way that works for you – sign or campaign for an initiative

Taking the initiative!

Taking the leap and submitting a European citizens' initiative can be rewarding in so many ways. A European citizens' initiative campaign is marked by many achievements on top of collecting signatures. Take a look at what organisers have to say:



*"By launching a European citizens' initiative, we have been able to hear insights from and have fantastic discussions with people across the EU that we would never have normally gotten to speak to in the course of our work. The most positive thing has been hearing the thanks and the words of encouragement from supporters across Europe. This motivation has reminded us of why - even when it is difficult - it is so important to raise our voices." - **Civil society initiative for a ban on biometric mass surveillance practices/ 'Reclaim Your Face' group of organisers.***

*"Launching an ECI is a door opener! It is a way to place your demands and have a serious chance to make a difference. Our ideas have been taken into the 'housing for all' resolution of the European Parliament recently. It is important to try to collect 1M signatures, but focus mostly on the topic and the content. Place your demands and move on, even if you are not able to collect 1M! The magic happens afterwards, like we are facing with our follow-up project housing4europe.org. We met a lot of people who are joining." - **HOUSINGFORALL initiative organisers.***

Key facts and figures on the European Citizens' Initiative

- Introduced by Lisbon Treaty which entered into force on **1 December 2009**
- Became operational on **1 April 2012** when the first ECI regulation started to apply
- Rules to run an ECI made easier as of **1 January 2020**
- Organisers can use free of charge the Commission-run **Central Online Collection System**, enabling online collection of signatures in full compliance with data protection legislation; over 90% user satisfaction rate with the system in the last 12 months



- **+/-80 initiatives registered and counting**

- 6 initiatives reached the required support of 1 million signatures; 5 received the official reply from the Commission, 1 is under examination; for 2 initiatives, legislative actions were proposed:

- The **Right2Water** initiative led to improved access to safe and clean drinking water in the EU

- The **Ban Glyphosate** initiative contributed to more transparency and sustainability of the EU risk assessment process regarding food

- 7 EU citizens living in 7 Member States must form an **organiser group** to submit an initiative
- **1 million signatures** needed to submit your proposal to the Commission, with the obligation of reaching the minimum threshold numbers in at least 7 EU countries (ranging from 4,230 for Luxembourg, Cyprus and Malta to 67,680 for Germany)
- Under normal circumstances, the **signature collection time is 1 year**
- 2,5 years – approximate time the process takes (from registering an idea to receiving an answer)

Stay in touch!

- **European Citizens' Initiative website** – provides easy access to all European citizens' initiatives, past and present; it is a quick way to sign your favourite initiatives; follow the latest updates and information; meet our **ECI Ambassadors** and help spread the word with prepared **materials**
- **ECI Forum website** – collaborate with peers, get your questions answered and much more
- **ECI newsletter** – sign up to stay up-to-date with newly registered initiatives, major milestones for the ongoing initiatives, changes to the legal framework, upcoming events and more.
- Find your **national contact point**



#EUTakeTheInitiative
europa.eu/citizens-initiative