



Empower citizens in your region to be active (across borders) with the **European Citizens' Initiative** and other citizens' engagement possibilities

Webinar for local and regional authorities
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Welcome

- Ice breaker
- **Citizen engagement in EU lawmaking**
 - **European Citizens' Panels**
 - Discover the **European Citizens' Initiative**
 - Resources
 - Ready to get involved?
- Q&A
- **Close @ 11:30**



How to take part today

- **Interpretation** – select your language and mute microphone
- **Vote** in the **poll**
- **Q&A time – raise your hand digitally**
 - + wait to be called on
 - Moderator will state your name
 - + tech host gives ability to enable video and microphone



Yes, we will share slides!



Citizen Engagement

"If it matters to Europeans, it matters to Europe"

A new era for citizen engagement

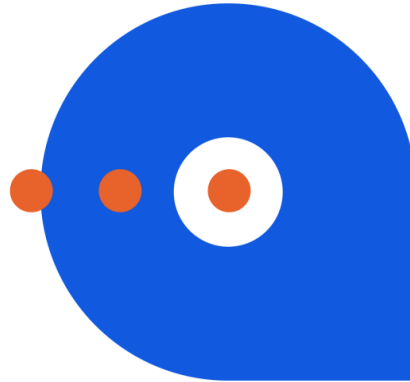
- A **vibrant democracy fit for the future** and today's society: follow-up to the Conference on the Future of Europe
- **Political Guidelines:** *putting citizens at the heart of our democracy*
- **Mission Letters to Commissioners-designate:** *instilling a true culture of participatory democracy- Youth dialogues and European Citizens' Panels*
- Transparency on **follow-up and feedback** is essential



A new ecosystem for citizen engagement

Embedding citizens' participation

Permanent Project Team



European Citizens' Panels

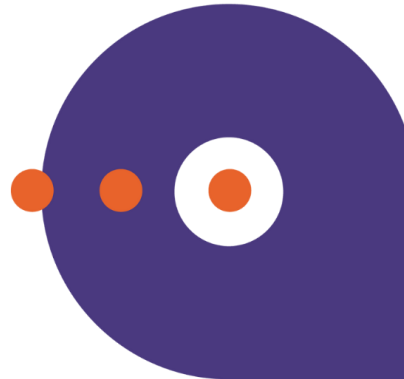
And **other participatory formats**

Citizen-centred Local as the new centre



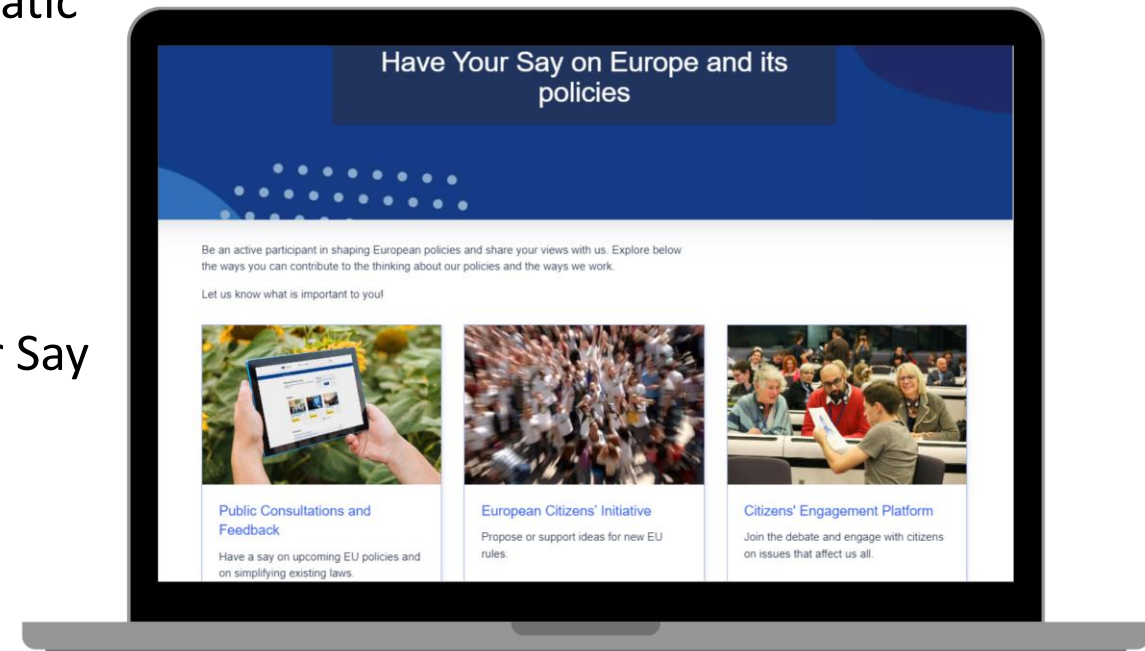
Have Your Say Portal

Citizens' Engagement Platform to connect with the wider public



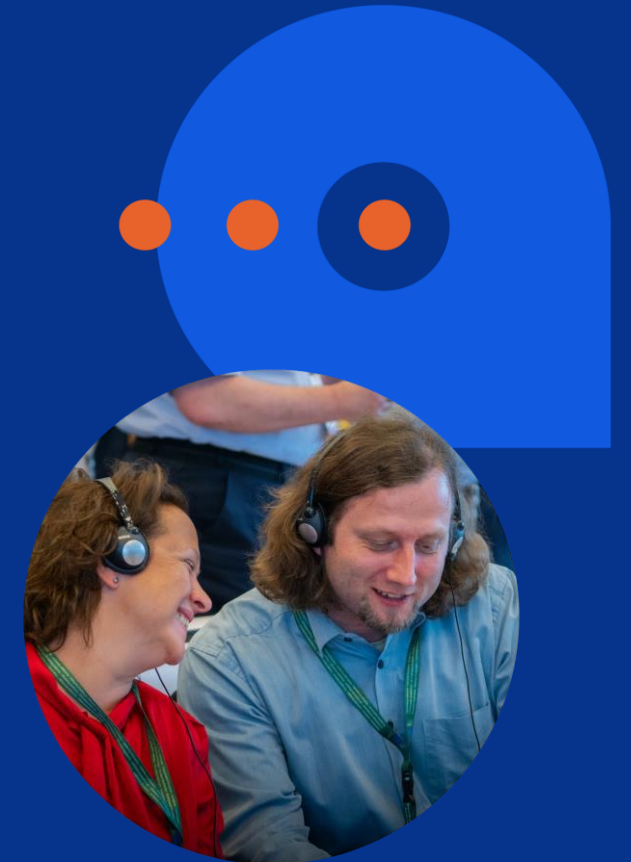
Have Your Say Portal

- The Portal is part of the **new ecosystem** of democratic citizen engagement.
- Its launch follows citizens' proposals in the Communication released after COFE.
- **One of three gateways** of the revamped Have Your Say portal:
 - Public Consultations and Feedback
 - European Citizens' Initiative (ECI)
 - **Citizens' Engagement Platform (CEP)**



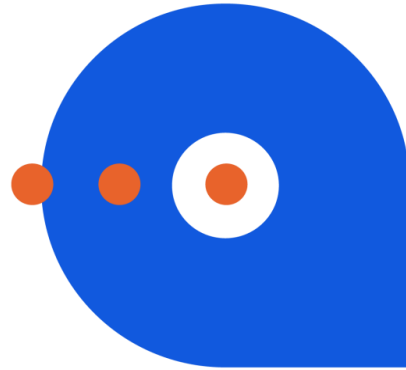
The European Citizens' Panels

- **Democratic innovation:** reinforce representative democracy
- **Deliberative format:** citizens work on **common solutions**.
 - 150 **randomly selected** citizens representative of EU diversity for 3 weekends on topics of EU importance.
 - Topics of **Food Waste, Learning Mobility, Virtual Worlds, Energy Efficiency and Tackling Hatred in Society.**
- Panels contribute to the first stages of **EU policy-making:** policy initiative adopted with a **Citizens' Report.**
- **Connecting with the local level**



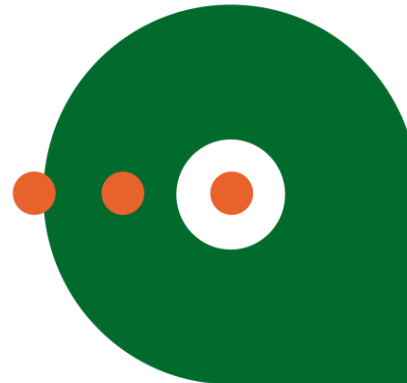
The Citizens' Engagement Platform

A digital platform **for citizens** and hub for **connecting different levels of participation**



Allow all citizens to **share their ideas and exchange** on them
Reporting from **events**

Online tool to **support** participatory and deliberative processes.



Shows **multilingual** content and enables interaction in the **24 official EU** languages.

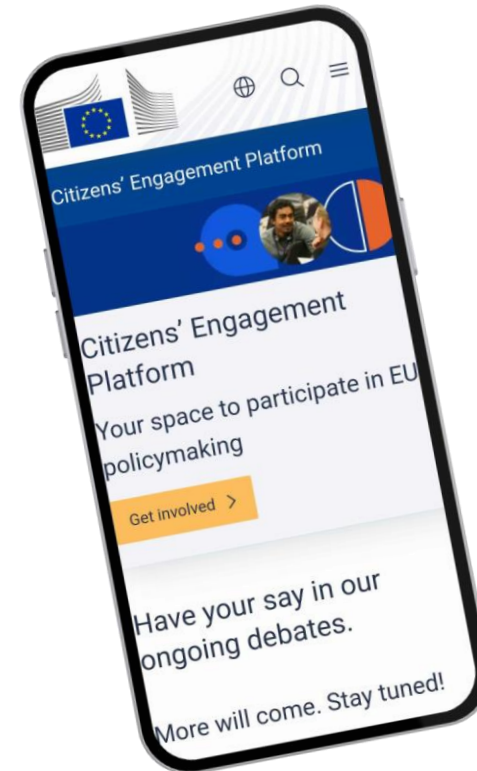
Check it out yourself and see how it works!

 **Contribute**

 **Follow**

 **Comment**

 **Endorse**



citizens.ec.europa.eu

More information

- DG COMM Unit C3: COMM-C3@EC.EUROPA.EU
- DG JRC Competence Centre on Participatory and Deliberative Democracy: EU-CITIZEN-ENGAGEMENT@EC.EUROPA.EU
- Citizens' Engagement Platform: <https://citizens.ec.europa.eu/>
- Have Your Say Portal: <https://have-your-say.ec.europa.eu>



Discover the European Citizens' Initiative (ECI)

What is it and why does it matter?



ECI team in Brussels, 2024.



ECI Ambassador from Slovakia with team, 2024.



European Citizens' Initiative

Propose or support ideas for new EU rules.

When they ask: “How can I get involved with the ECI?”

You can say: As an EU citizen, you can:



Sign



Support



Start

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



ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE ACTION



PUBLIC HEALTH



AGRICULTURE & FISHERIES



ENERGY

Initiatives collecting support



COLLECTION ONGOING

Stop Cruelty Stop Slaughter

2,775 supporters

Support this initiative

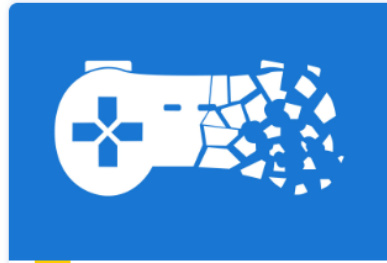


COLLECTION ONGOING

STOP FAKE FOOD:
ORIGIN ON LABEL

984 supporters

Support this initiative



COLLECTION ONGOING

Stop Destroying
Videogames

366,447 supporters

Support this initiative



COLLECTION ONGOING

My Voice, My Choice: For
Safe And Accessible
Abortion

651,727 supporters

Support this initiative



COLLECTION ONGOING

Preservation and
development of Ukrainian
culture, education,
language, and traditions in
EU states

865 supporters

Support this initiative



COLLECTION ONGOING

Creation of a European
Environment Authority

14,178 supporters

Support this initiative



NO FARMERS
NO FOOD

COLLECTION ONGOING

European Citizens' Initiative
in Defence of Agriculture
and Rural Economy in
Europe

1,718 supporters



COLLECTION ONGOING

Ban on conversion
practices in the European
Union

115,242 supporters

Support this initiative



COLLECTION ONGOING

EU Live Bus Stop Info

3,033 supporters

Support this initiative



COLLECTION ONGOING

Trust and Freedom

22,137 supporters

Support this initiative

[Find initiative |
European Citizens'
Initiative \(europa.eu\)](#)

Facts & Figures – overview since 2012

10 initiatives
replied to by
the EC



+/- 20 million
signatures
collected



ECIs – Impact

- Access to clean drinking water is protected in the EU
- More transparent authorisations for food-related products such as pesticides, additives or packaging materials
- Protect and strengthen the cosmetics animal testing ban and support of the development of alternative scientific approaches
- Impact assessment on the environmental, social and economic consequences of applying the “fins naturally attached” policy (for sharks)
- Sparking policy debate
- Organisers expand their network and build communication, negotiation, advocacy skills



Save
Cruelty Free
Cosmetics



STOP
GLYPHOSATE



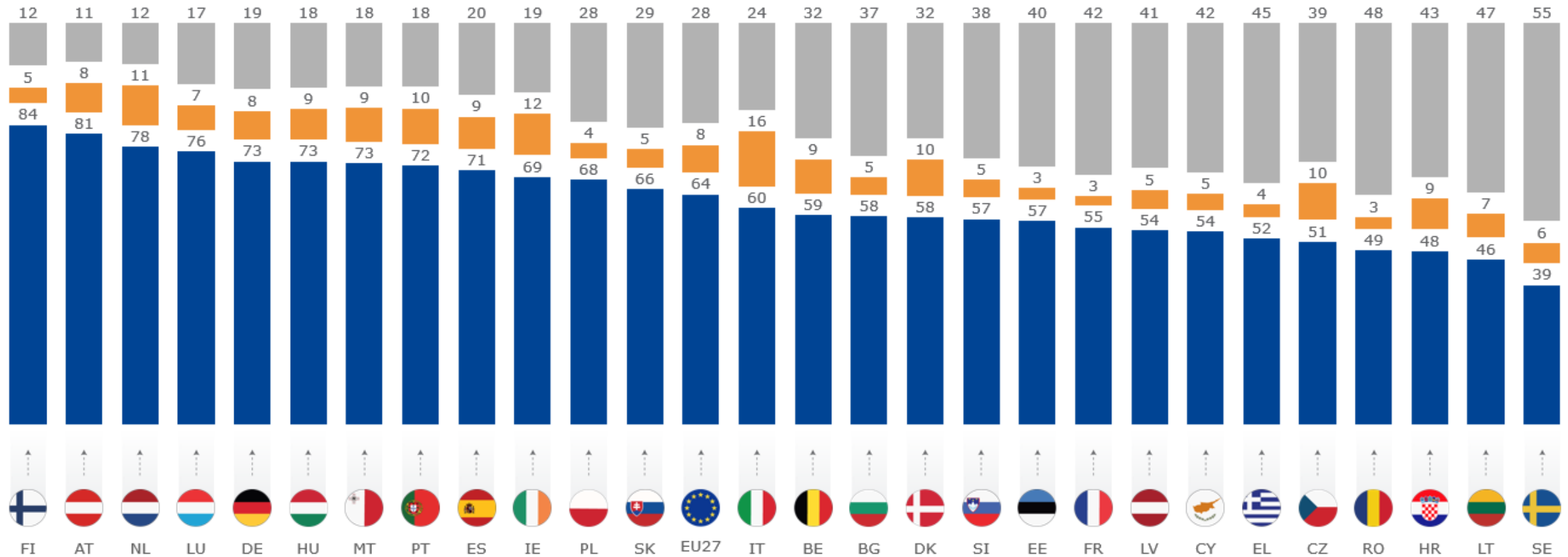
In fact, all citizens of the EU Member States are “citizens of the European Union” since 1993. Do you know if, as an EU citizen, you have the following rights?

The right to participate in a Citizen’s Initiative, a request signed by at least one million EU citizens inviting the European Commission to propose a new policy measure

Q4_4



— Yes, you have this right — No, you do not have this right — Don't know



Note: Comparisons with 2020 data (Flash Eurobarometer 485) need to be made with caution. In 2020, no explicit 'don't know' option was offered to respondents.

Flash Eurobarometer 528 - Citizenship and democracy / Fieldwork: 24/4-9/5/2023 / (%) Base: n=25 722 - All respondents

▼▲ Evolution 2023-2020 (comparison with Flash Eurobarometer 485, February-March 2020)

ECI project in Rennes, France

- Presentation on the ECI as a tool for policy making
- City organised participatory workshops on 6 themes
- Call to citizens to propose own ideas
- Voting to select initiative to develop further



How we promote the ECI (in brief)

Publications (print and digital)



Events in Member States



The educational toolkit

Teachers can use the [**Educational toolkit**](#) “**EU Democracy in Action**”- **Have your say with the European Citizens’ Initiative**” to introduce students to the topic of democratic participation in the EU.

The toolkit includes:

- Manuals for teachers and students, including videos and interactive exercises
- 4 units in all languages



ECI Communicators Network



- ECI Ambassadors
- National Contact Points
- Europe Direct Centres



**Do you know
that the
European
Citizens'
Initiative**



Presenting:

ECI Advocacy Handbook

ECI Advocacy Handbook

Created for local and regional actors

The handbook includes:

- Updated facts, figures and key messages
- List of (digital) resources and where to access / request different language versions
- Images and videos for social media





European Citizens' Initiative: Advocacy Handbook

Empower citizens to be active in the EU

At a glance: Welcome to the European Citizens' Initiative (ECI) handbook

The European Citizens' Initiative (ECI) is a unique participatory democracy tool that allows EU citizens from different Member States to call on the European Commission (EC) to propose legislative changes on issues that matter to them.

Taking part in European democracy is every EU citizen's right. EU citizens can sign European citizens' initiatives or start one of their own.

To launch a citizens' initiative takes at least 7 EU citizens, living in 7 different Member States, who are old enough to vote in the European elections. They choose a topic that they care about, from any field where the European Commission has power to propose legislation and submit a proposal. The Commission checks the legal admissibility of the idea and decides whether to register the initiative.

If registered, the initiative is posted on the EC website, translated into all EU languages, and the organisers can start collecting signatures. They have one year to gather 1 million verified signatures – demonstrate that other Europeans also care about the idea. If enough signatures are collected, the

Tools and materials to promote the ECI

In the section below, you will find different tools and materials available to explain/illustrate the ECI. Materials can be viewed online, and some are also available as physical handouts.

The EC team is ready to ship printed materials to you, per your request. Please indicate: the name of the material(s) you want to distribute, the language needed, quantity, the shipping details and phone number of the contact person, and the ideal deadline to receive the shipment.

Send your request to: EC-ECI.COMMUNICATION@ec.europa.eu

Logo

If you want to post about the ECI, contact the ECI team to request the official ECI logo (in your language) by email: EC-ECI.COMMUNICATION@ec.europa.eu



GIFs

GIFs (a format for image files that supports both animated and static images) are available in all EU languages and can be used for ECI promotion. They are fun, informative, and easy to use. You can download different GIFs in your language under the [social media page](#).



ePoster

This poster is made for digital screens (such as on a TV screen, in community buildings or at a bus stop). It can also be printed.



ECI Advocacy Handbook

Videos

There are several videos available for download to raise awareness about the ECI. Download them [here](#).

<p>ECI Ambassador video (2024) – available from November 2024</p> 	<p>The ECI: Your right as an EU citizen (2022)</p>  <p>European citizens have the right to take part in European democracy with the citizens' initiative. This video explains how citizens can help shape the future of the EU by launching or signing an initiative (long and short versions).</p>
<p>What is the ECI? Take the initiative (2018)</p>  <p>Do you have an idea about how to tackle a challenge facing Europe? Do you feel that your voice alone is not loud enough to be heard? With the ECI, you can join other Europeans, to make and support concrete proposals in areas of the European Commission's powers.</p>	<p>What can you achieve with the ECI? (2021)</p>  <p>4 initiative organisers define their European citizens' initiative with one word.</p> <p>1:49 long version 0:15 short version</p>
<p>How much power do you have? (2018)</p>  <p>Engaging animation raising awareness of the European Citizens' Initiative.</p>	<p>How many Europeans does it take...? (2018)</p>  <p>A short (23sec) video, with a humorous reference, to promote the ECI. Tip: tag a friend with a cause you care about.</p>

ECI Advocacy Handbook

How you can get involved!

- **Use the ECI Advocacy Handbook** – spread the word!
 - Share information on the ECI with your citizens
- **Share the Educational toolkit** with secondary schools
- **Recommend** an ECI Ambassador organisation
 - Contact: SG-ECI-COMMUNICATION@ec.europa.eu

Share your
experience
with others



Spread the word → **Let us know!** → **Invitation to a gathering in Brussels**
(by 13/01/25)

Stay in touch

Join and follow updates on:

- European Citizens' Initiative Official [Facebook group](#)
- **#EUTakeTheInitiative**
- ECI Newsletter – [Subscribe to the newsletter \(europa.eu\)](https://europa.eu)



Q&A

**Please fill in
our post-
event survey**

https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/satisfaction_LRA

Thank you!