

THE EUROPEAN CITIZENS' INITIATIVE AS A TOOL TO EMPOWER EUROPEAN CITIZENS?!

You are cordially invited to a special workshop on this theme which will take place in the context of the summer university on European citizenship

When? From 10:00 – 12:00 a.m. 6th September 2018

Where? Committee on the Regions, Rue Belliard 99-101 B-1040.Brussels Room TDE51 (5th floor)

Organised by:



The aim is to create a space for a critical and constructive discussion about ECIs in general and then focus by way of example on one particular ECI.

The ECI is an agenda setting instrument for over 1 million EU citizens from a minimum of 7 Member States to ask the Commission to take legal action in its competence. After pressure from civil society the Commission presented a revision of the regulation to make this instrument easier to use.

Now is the right time to assess whether the reforms go far enough and discuss the next steps. The seminar will look at the “state of the art” for ECIs in general and then at an ECI being prepared to give full political rights to EU citizens on the move.

The target audience is civil society organisations involved with advocating for reform of the ECI and those considering whether this tool could be of interest to them to pursue their European objectives. The seminar should also attract EU decision-makers, academics and a wider community in favour of a European participatory democracy and public sphere.

Agenda

1. ECI's in general- reform of the regulation and next steps -presentation by Maarten de Groot, ECI Campaign and Daniela Vancic, Democracy International, followed by brainstorming with participants. What are the strengths and weaknesses of the ECI as an agenda -setting instrument?

The aim is to take stock and assess next steps after the campaign by 89 civil society organisations to persuade the European Parliament to hold a plenary debate on each successful ECI. How easy will it be to influence the next stage of trilogue discussions among the Institutions behind closed doors? What are the sticking points in the reform process with the governments? How should the work of the coalition continue?

2. One ECI in particular-“my Europe, my vote”- presentation by Petar Markovic ECIT and Maarten de Groot, ECI Campaign, followed by debate.

Is the ECI an instrument to further the cause of European citizenship?

The aim is to assess the feasibility of an ECI demanding that existing rights for EU citizens to vote and stand in European and local elections in their country of residence should be extended to regional, national elections and referenda.

What advice has been received from the ECI forum set up by the Commission? Is there a legal basis for this ECI? What have been the results of a survey carried out by the organisers? Who are potential partners and funders?

A background file of documents for this seminar will be sent to participants by the end of August.

If you wish to attend, please fill in the registration form for the summer university.