



TRANSEUROPA
CARAVANS

THE ROADS TO EUROPEAN DEMOCRACY

MAKING EUROPEAN CITIZENS

Masterclass on EU citizenship in practice



Summer University on European Citizenship
2 September, SECO, Rue d'Arlon 53

ECIT
Foundation

European
Citizens' rights,
Involvement and
Trust



Salon for European
Civic Organisations

INTRODUCTION

Around the 2019 European Parliament elections, 20 young activists travel throughout fifteen European countries on board of five caravans reaching out to places of struggle and resistance, in defense of fundamental rights and democracy beyond borders. Their aim? To engage directly with European citizens, connect their stories, and mobilize together to promote our rights, participation and belonging to Europe.

This experience, along with years of advocacy, has led us towards a innovative and adaptable training designed to unleash this potential for citizens and civil society organisations oriented towards the EU. Too often reduced to just the freedom of movement rights of workers across borders, European citizenship sometimes looks like a passive status rather than an active practice. In an era when most challenges we face are transnational in nature (climate change, migration, organized crime, etc), no one state can seriously provide solutions. That is why a simple, effective and interactive model for knowledge transfer that will extend the awareness of EU citizenship must be an active and, also, a political practice. Therefore, it involves not only **rights**, but also **participation** and a sense of **belonging** to a wider EU community. It is along these three dimensions that the masterclass its developed.

The masterclass will be a joint effort of Petar from the ECIT Foundation, Jesse from the Good Lobby and Gosia from the European Alternatives.



RIGHTS, PARTICIPATION, BELONGING

RIGHTS. At the beginning, we look at what constitutes any citizenship and why EU citizenship differs from that of its member states. Then we zoom into the first dimension of EU citizenship - citizens' rights: to non-discrimination on the basis of nationality, to move and reside freely within the EU, to vote for and stand as a candidate in European Parliament and municipal elections, to launch and support a European Citizens' Initiative (ECI) etc.

PARTICIPATION. We then go into how these rights can be protected, enforced and expanded through citizens' participation across borders. Every citizen can become a good lobbyist for her cause! And the Union offers many opportunities and channels for peoples' power. We only need to know where to start.

BELONGING. Finally, with the awareness of our role as citizens in the economic, legal and political life of the EU comes the sense of attachment to the Union and other citizens in it. Transeuropa Caravans is one of the projects that fosters this holistic approach to becoming Europeans. We will end the masterclass with some of the lessons it brings to grassroots movements and activists.

By the end of the class, we hope to bridge the gap between the fine principles of European law, the actual practice on the ground and barriers to the exercise of European citizenship as they pertain to any of the participants who choose to take part in it.



BROUGHT TO YOU BY:

Petar Markovic, Director of the ECIT Foundation

Having defended his PhD in political theory and political science that took him to Brussels, Rome and Oxford, Petar now strives to put his academic work into practice by advocating for citizen-led politics beyond the confines of nation states. Beyond the EU, he is also devoted to the Western Balkans and its democratization. Half-Slovenian and half-Montenegrin, he prefers to be called simply - European.



Jesse Colzani, Legal Manager at the Good Lobby

After graduating in Law at the University of Milan, Jesse specialized in EU and international law, while developing a passion for technology and geopolitics. He currently is Legal Manager at The Good Lobby and is conducting academic research on the legal implications of blockchain technology. Jesse is Italian, although he was born in London and lived across Europe, South America, and the USA.



Dr. Gosia Wochowska, European Alternatives Coordinator of Transeropa Caravans project

Gosia is strongly dedicated to cooperation projects involving civil society groups and policy makers from all over Europe and EU neighboring countries. She holds PhD in political science, with the focus on the European citizenship. She has been one of the founders of a feminist collective in Poland called Gals4Gals Lodz (PL: Lodzkie Dziewuchy Dziewuchom) which raised in April 2016 as a civic movement that protested against the Polish parliament's plans to ban abortion.

