



MAKING EUROPEAN CITIZENS

Interactive module on EU citizenship in practice



**Learn how to effectively enforce your EU rights,
enhance your participation and strengthen your
belonging to the EU**

INTRODUCTION

MEC is an innovative and adaptable toolkit designed to unleash this potential for citizens and civil society organisations. It was born out of an unsettling realization that even amongst the most active and Europhile citizens across EU member states, the awareness and ability to use EU rights and channels of participation to their advantage was very low even while an overwhelming majority of youth wants more European citizenship education.

Too often reduced to the right to free movement of the well-off few, the benefits of European citizenship remain untapped for the majority of those who hold this status. 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 from the mobile few to the stationary many is necessary today. European citizenship is more than just a status to be enjoyed by private citizens working in a different member state. It 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 ECIT flagship axes of European citizenship that the MEC module is developed.

MEC is a highly adaptable and interactive module that can be tailor-made to fit the time and substantive needs of diverse groups of beneficiaries. It is being developed as a flexible concentric sphere with EU rights, participation and belonging at its core. In terms of length, it can last anywhere from a 90 minute workshop to a semester-long course; in terms of target-groups, it can be adjusted to cater to the needs of mobile EU citizens or young people, specialized social entrepreneurs or broadly-interested political activists. The aim of the module in any of these cases is 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 their pertain to the particular needs of the beneficiary.



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 correspond with EU institutions and access information, to diplomatic protection etc. The emphasis is put on how to enforce these rights and through what available services (Your Europe Advice & SOLVIT, for example).

PARTICIPATION. European Union offers many opportunities and channels for peoples' power. We only need to know where to start: how to launch or sign a European Citizens' Initiative (ECI), what we need to know about voting in European Elections, when to file a complaint with the EC and when a petition to the EP...

BELONGING. Finally, with the awareness of our role as mobile citizens in the economic, legal and political life of the EU comes the sense of attachment to the Union and other citizens in it. Which funding opportunities for becoming more European via programmes like Erasmus+ are there and how will they change in the future? Contact us and find out!

By the end of the module, be it a one-day or semester course, online or offline, 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 their pertain 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.



ECIT Foundation

ECIT Foundation on European Citizens' Rights, Involvement and Trust fills the gap in the world of European think-tanks by being the only one dedicated exclusively to European citizenship. ECIT is becoming a training, advocacy, networking and research resource centre for civil society and youth organisations, activists and policy makers dealing with this topic. So far, the Foundation has to its credit: a book 'Piecing Together Europe's Citizenship' published in English and French, four annual Summer Universities on European Citizenship in Brussels, many conferences, events and smaller projects as well as the Transeuropa Caravans project co-organized with European Alternatives and Political Critique that brought 5 transnational activists' caravans to the far corners of the EU to mobilize citizen participation through innovative methods of engagement. Our goal is to help EU citizens to fully embrace and protect their rights, participatory mechanisms and the sense of belonging to Europe. Find us at: <https://ecit-foundation.eu/>



SECO

An incubator of EU-oriented civil society organisations in the heart of the European quarter in Brussels, SECO is a thriving co-working space which allows European from all over the Union to bridge the gap between citizens and Brussels almost free of charge. ECIT was the first organisation to move in in July 2019.



info@ecit-foundation.eu