



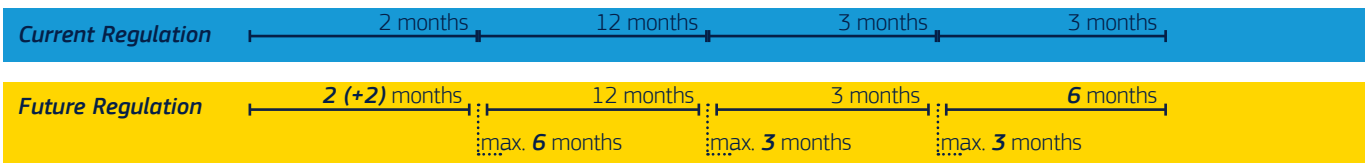
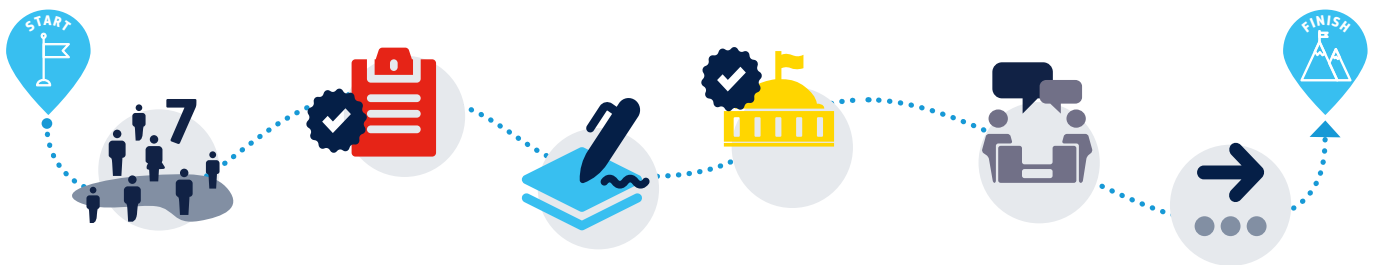
European Citizens' Initiative



"9 million Europeans from all 28 Member States have already spoken up through the European Citizens Initiative. But we can do better if more citizens use this instrument for democratic participation at EU level. [The simplified] rules [...] make it easier for European citizens to make themselves heard. They will now have an easily accessible and user-friendly tool at their disposal to ask the EU institutions directly to act on the issues they really care about.."

European Commission First Vice President Frans Timmermans

MAIN EUROPEAN CITIZENS' INITIATIVE STEPS



Citizens' committee/Group of organisers

Setting up of a group of minimum 7 organisers residing in 7 different Member States

Registration

Registration of the initiative with the Commission which verifies, inter alia, that the proposal does not fall manifestly outside its competences

Collection

Collection of statements of support in paper form and/or online

Verification

Verification of statements of support by competent national authorities

Examination

Meeting with Commission, public hearing in the Parliament and final response of the Commission

Follow-up actions, if any

MAIN INNOVATIONS

STAGE	CURRENT REGULATION	FUTURE REGULATION
Preparation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Point of contact, online information and manual 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intensified assistance and information, e.g. online collaborative platform • Option for organisers to set up a legal entity
Registration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 months for the Commission to register the proposed initiative, if it meets all requirements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two stage procedure allowing organisers to revise their proposal if initially it doesn't meet all requirements (2 months + 2 months) • Partial registration clarified
Collection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Starts as soon as the initiative is registered • One online collection system per initiative to be built by its organisers • 13 possible forms, depending on the Member State • Minimum age for signatories: 18 (except in Austria and Malta where the age to vote is 16, and Greece where it's 17) • Some cases where citizens cannot give their support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flexible start date (within 6 months of registration) • One central online collection system provided by the Commission, including support with eID (with the possibility until end 2022, for organisers to build their own, if they so wish) • Only 2 possible forms available • Minimum age to be lowered to 16 if Member States so decide • Simplified data to be provided by signatories • All EU citizens regardless of their place of residence can give their support
Verification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flexible timeline for organisers to submit statements of support to Member States • 3 months for each Member State to verify and certify 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statements of support to be submitted to Member States within 3 months of the end of the collection • Enhanced IT support
Examination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 months 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 months allowing more inclusive public hearing and more time for the Commission to analyse the initiative and prepare its response

TRACK RECORD OF THE ECI AFTER 7 YEARS (situation as at 17 May 2019)

