EUROPEAN UNION

European Citizens' Initiative

The citizens' initiative lifecycle … now and as of 2020

#EUTakeTheInitiative
ec.europa.eu/citizens-initiative

The European Citizens' Initiative | Step by step

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Step 1: Preparation

- **Now:**

  7 EU citizens old enough to vote in EP elections living in at least **7 different EU Member States**

- **As of 2020:**

  - ✓ Possibility for organisers to set up **a legal entity**
  - ✓ Intensified assistance and information: **online collaborative platform**; **national contact points**…

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Step 2: Registration

- **Now:**

  The Commission checks **the legal basis of the request** and decides if to register or not (takes 2 months)

- **As of 2020:**
  - ✓ **Two-stage procedure** allowing organisers to revise their proposal (**+ 2 months**)
  - ✓ **Partial registration**
  - ✓ **Free translation** in all EU languages

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Step 3: Collection

- **Now:**

  The organisers have **12 months** to collect **1 million** statements of support (on paper or online)

- **As of 2020:**

  - ✓ **2 options/sets of data** (instead of 13 now)
  - ✓ **All EU citizens** can take part regardless of their place of residence
  - ✓ **Lowering of the age of support to 16** (if Member States so decide)
  - ✓ Flexible **start date within 6 months** of registration
  - ✓ **Central online collection system** provided by the EC for free
  - ✓ **Individual online collection systems** possible for initiatives registered **until end 2022 only**

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Step 4: Verification

- **Now:**

  National authorities check the **validity of statements of support** before organisers can submit the initiative to the EC (3 months)

- **As of 2020:**

  - ✓ Deadline of **3 months** for organisers to submit statements of support for verification
  - ✓ Verification facilitated by **IT tools** (**file exchange service**)

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Step 5: Examination

- **Now:**

  The organisers get **a meeting at the EC** and **hearing in the EP** and the EC comes out with an **official response on actions to take**, if any (3 months)

- **As of 2020:**

  - ✓ Deadline of **3 months** after the end of verification stage **to submit a successful initiative**
  - ✓ **Extension** of the examination phase **(6 months)**
  - ✓ **More inclusive consultation**

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Current Regulation	2 months	12 months	3 months	3 months	
Future Regulation	2+2 months	12 months max. 6 months	3 months max. 3 months	6 months max. 3 months	

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

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