TAKE THE INITIATIVE

European Citizens' Initiative

Help shape the European Union

European Citizens' Initiative | Step-by-Step

The European Citizens' Initiative is a tool of participatory democracy giving EU citizens the power to shape European policy.

Step 1: GET STARTED

- Form a group of organisers made up of at least 7 EU citizens old enough to vote in European elections and living in 7 different EU countries.

Step 2: GET YOUR INITIATIVE REGISTERED

- Submit a request to register the initiative to the European Commission.

- The Commission will register your proposal (fully or partially) if it falls within its competences, and translate it into all official EU languages.

Max. 2 months
(Possible revision of proposal: + 2 months)

Start: max. 6 months after registration

Step 3: GET SUPPORT

- Collect at least 1 million statements of support overall with minimum numbers of signatories in at least 7 EU countries. You can collect support on paper and online.

1M

Step 4: GET STATEMENTS OF SUPPORT VERIFIED

- Get the statements of support verified by the relevant national authority in each country in which you have collected support.

Max. 12 months

Max. 6 months:
3 months to submit
+ 3 months for verification

Max. 3 months
from end of verification

Step 5: SUBMIT YOUR INITIATIVE

- Once verified and if you have reached the required number of statements of support, submit your initiative to the Commission.

Step 6: GET AN ANSWER

- You will have a meeting with the Commission and hearing at the Parliament. After consultations, analysis and debates, the Commission will adopt a formal response stating what action it intends to take.

- If the Commission considers proposing legislation, they will make a proposal, which will be submitted to the Parliament and the Council which will need to adopt it for it to become law.

Max. 6 months

For more information on how to organise a European citizens' initiative:

europa.eu/citizens-initiative

#EUTakeTheInitiative

EUROPEAN UNION