

Review of the application of the **European Citizens' Initiative Regulation**

Key facts & figures **2020-2023**



6 December 2023

On 1 January 2020, the revised ECI Regulation (Regulation (EU) 2019/788 on the European citizens' initiative) started to apply.


Since then, various positive developments indicate that the revised rules provide a more accessible, less burdensome and more user-friendly framework for ECI organisers and supporters.



37
initiatives registered
also thanks to the new rule allowing organisers to amend their initial request. Only one request for registration had to be refused. In total, **107** registrations since 2012.



6
Commission replies to valid initiatives,
10 in total since 2012.



9
million statements of support collected
bringing the total number of signatures collected since 2012 to **18 million**.

Minority SafePack –
One million signatures for diversity in Europe

Stop finning - Stop the trade

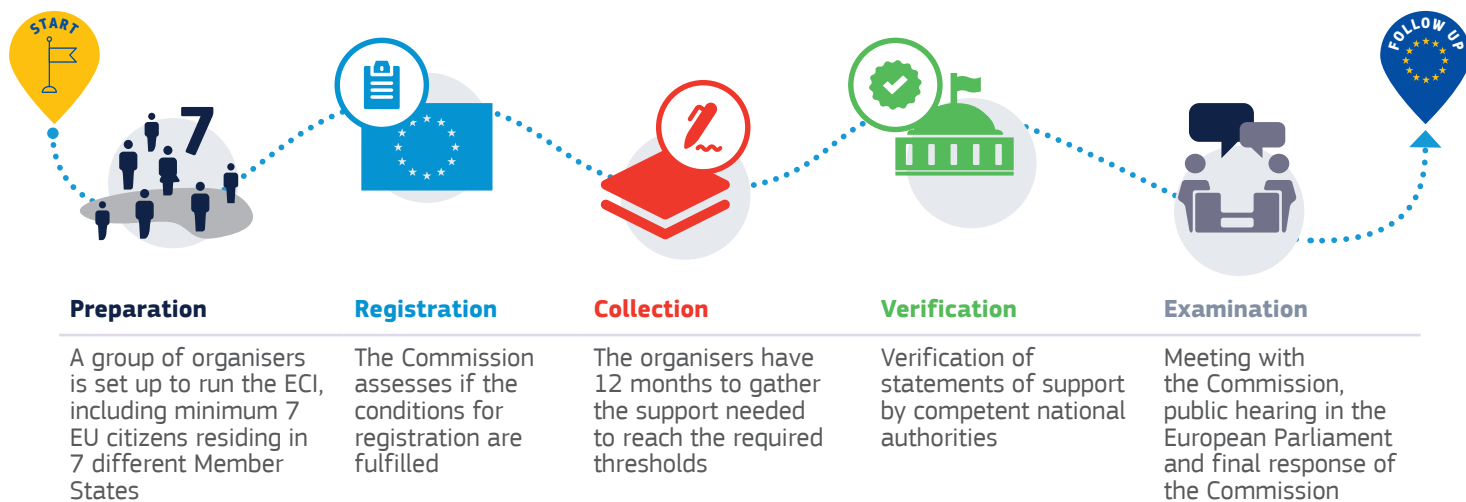
End the Cage Age

Save cruelty free cosmetics –
Commit to a Europe without animal testing

Save bees and farmers! Towards a bee-friendly agriculture for a healthy environment

Fur Free Europe
The reply will be adopted by 14 December 2023.

HOW TO START A EUROPEAN CITIZENS INITIATIVE?



Preparation

A group of organisers is set up to run the ECI, including minimum 7 EU citizens residing in 7 different Member States

Registration

The Commission assesses if the conditions for registration are fulfilled

Collection

The organisers have 12 months to gather the support needed to reach the required thresholds

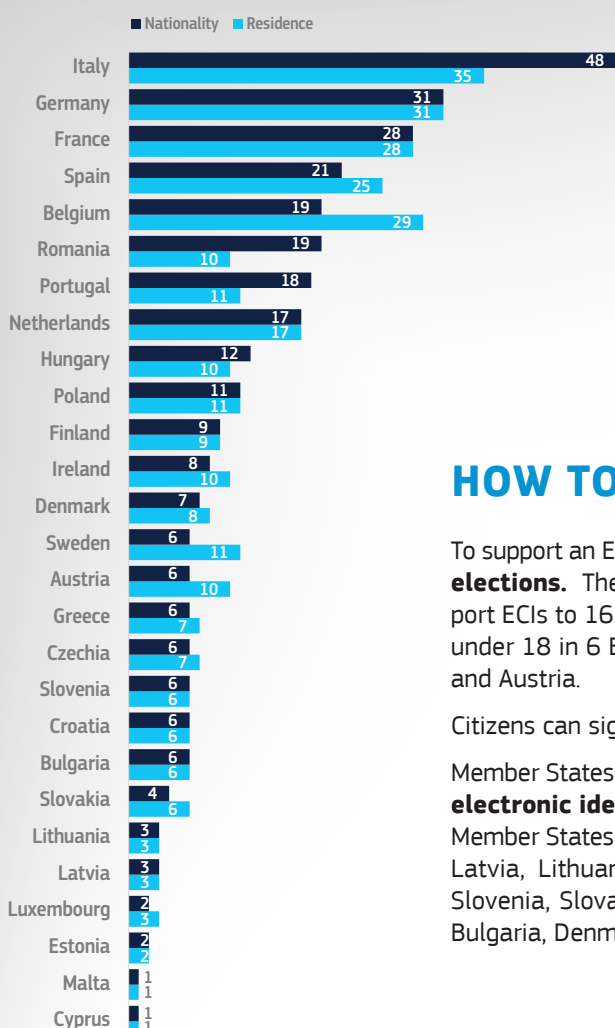
Verification

Verification of statements of support by competent national authorities

Examination

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

Number of organisers



How does the EU support organisers?



A **Central Online Collection System** is available in all EU languages free of charge. The high level of security of the collection system ensures that personal data are encrypted and safely handled throughout the process.



The **ECI Forum** is a support service which offers free legal advice and practical guidance to organisers during all the steps of the ECI process.



The Commission is organising a wide range of multilingual **communication activities** to inform and engage citizens with the ECI. **64% of EU citizens are aware of the ECI** according to the latest Eurobarometer results.

HOW TO SUPPORT AN INITIATIVE?

To support an ECI, **EU citizens must be old enough to vote in European Parliament elections**. The revised ECI Regulation allows Member States to lower the age to support ECIs to 16. As such, in most EU countries the support age for ECIs is 18, while it is under 18 in 6 EU countries: 17 in Greece and 16 in Belgium, Germany, Estonia, Malta and Austria.

Citizens can sign initiatives on **paper or online**.

Member States have to ensure that their citizens can **support initiatives online using electronic identification means or an electronic signature**. This is ensured in 16 Member States (Bulgaria, Czechia, Denmark, Ireland, Spain, France, Croatia, Italy, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Hungary, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia, Finland, Sweden) and is in the process of being implemented in Bulgaria, Denmark, France, Poland and Slovenia.