



ECI Day 2020

28 Jan - 27 Feb 2020

Poll results

Table of contents

- ECI PROCEDURE
- FOLLOW-UP RESPONSE ON SUCCESSFUL ECIs
- ECI AS PART OF A PARTICIPATION TOOLBOX
- NEW FORMS OF PARTICIPATION
- CONFERENCE ON THE FUTURE OF EUROPE

ECI PROCEDURE

0 8 8

All EU Member States should lower to 16 the minimum age for signing an ECI.



Use of the Commission's central online collection system should remain optional, not mandatory, thereby preserving the right of ECI organisers to use certified alternative collection software.



As an innovative transnational feature in the participatory democracy toolbox, the ECI needs to be part of a comprehensive informative and educational support package provided by governments at all political levels.



FOLLOW-UP RESPONSE ON SUCCESSFUL ECIs

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National parliaments should hold a debate and a vote on each successful ECI prior to the Commission decision on follow-up.



The European Commission should be obliged to draft a legislative proposal for each successful ECI.



The ECI must be upgraded to a real popular initiative right and allow successful organisers to start a second round of signature collection. If also successful but no follow up from the EU, a binding EU-wide referendum on the proposal should take place.



ECI AS PART OF A PARTICIPATION TOOLBOX

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The ECI must be more effectively connected with other existing participation instruments – such as the EC online consultations, EP petitions and potential new such instruments that may be developed in connection with the Conference on the Future of Europe



For each successful ECI, a randomly selected representative Citizens' Assembly should be put together to review the ECI's objectives.



Ongoing ECIs should be linked with the Conference on the Future of Europe by showcasing them on the latter's multilingual platform in order to encourage citizens to consider and support them.



NEW FORMS OF PARTICIPATION

(1/2)

0 4 5

Citizens' Assemblies: Deliberative (randomly selected and representative) citizens' assemblies should become a standard part of the process towards major parliamentary or popular decisions in order to inform, contribute and guide.



Meaningful participation: Citizens' participation at the European level must always have a clear link to the formal decision-making process in order to make it meaningful.



Eligibility independent of residence: Voting rights should be extended to all European citizens regardless of whether they live in their country of origin or not.



NEW FORMS OF PARTICIPATION

(2/2)

0 4 5

Democratic infrastructure: Education and awareness-raising about the role of EU policies and decisions in citizens' lives needs to be strengthened and become part of the democratic infrastructure at EU level.



CONFERENCE ON THE FUTURE OF EUROPE

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By the people: We need a Convention on the Future of Europe to explore the future of citizens' participation and democratic reform: it should combine various methods of participatory democracy and be both initiated and concluded by an EU-wide popular vote



Toolbox: The COFE should establish a framework for genuine participatory democracy; assess existing features at all political levels, identify a participatory toolbox for EU level and develop a permanent mechanism for transnational participatory democracy



Review process: Conferences on the Future of Europe and other democracy review efforts are never one-off exercises. They need to be conducted regularly and linked to proper follow-up and implementation procedures.

