



Guide on Students' Participation and engagement in the project

European Citizens' Initiative: A Tool for Engagement and Active Citizenship

ECI: From A to Z

Purpose of the project

“ECI: From A to Z” aims to contribute to the development of EU-related hard competences and soft skills in higher education systems. Formal *curricula* provide higher education students with the basic framework and a toolbox to develop their professional activities, but in general the need to promote civic engagement and voluntary participation in several spheres of public life is not taken into account.

This project aims to develop strategies to fill in this gap. The core purpose of the project is to experiment new methods and tools for learning processes that are to be applied in a collaborative and practical way (learning by doing) in which students co-construct create and launch their own European Citizens' initiative.

Who will participate?

The participants in the project will be higher education students (undergraduate or master students). Each partner organization will be responsible for the selection of 15 students (60 in total). Out of these 15 students, at least five should be selected among students having some social or personal vulnerability, in order to increase the inclusive character of the project (20 in total).

- If students are enrolled into a cycle of studies and expect to continue their studies during the year 2021/2022;



- If students wish to engage in an international experience with other colleagues, tutors and professors coming from other countries of the European Union (Germany, Portugal, Romania, Spain);
- If students want to make their voice heard around Europe and are interested in actively debating European issues;
- If students want to put into practice what they are learning
- If students want to develop their English language skills;
- If students want to enrich their curriculum with certified peer-learning experience,

Then this project is for them!

Why should students be involved in this project?

The active engagement of the students will be ensured by the dynamic and collaborative nature of the project. Given the fact that the outputs will include two short term transnational training activity (one initial and one final) and an online Course on the European Citizens Initiative, students will have three certificates – or a joint certificate – of attendance at the end of their participation on activities within the project. Also, the participation in the design of the open education e-materials and e-workbook will be an important part of the student's commitment and engagement.

Therefore, involvement in the “ECI: From A to Z” project will allow students to:

- participate in *learning by doing* processes with their peers;
- eventually travel and visit other Countries;
- receive a formal recognition for their activities;
- develop their personal and professional competencies;
- give their contribution to important European issues.



Selection of students

This call for participations is publicly disseminated. If students are interested in joining the project, they should send their application with the following information:

- Name and personal coordinates (e-mail and mobile phone),
- brief CV (1 page);
- motivation letter (máx. 4 pages) in which you let us know about
 - a) interest in the project
 - b) availability to take part in it
 - c) why they think they should be chosen considering their curriculum, experience, future projects, social or personal vulnerabilities, special skills and so on.

Application should be sent to until the 15th of March. Use the same format for questions or suggestions.

In what regards participants with fewer opportunities, a direct call will be sent to specific stakeholders (Associations, University Departments) in order to increase the possibilities of vulnerable student's participation.

Criteria for selection of the candidates will be:

- being an European Union Citizen or intending to acquire the nationality of a Member State;
- being enrolled in the 1st or 2nd cycle at the University of Coimbra, Göttingen, Iasi or Vigo presently and in the 2021/2022 academic year
- quality of motivation letters;
- academic curriculum
- gender balance will be considered;



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- diversity of nationalities will be considered;
- vulnerability criteria (at least 5 students)

The decision on the participants will be communicated, in principle, until the end of March. The 15 students that are selected at each University) and the respective alternates (5 in each University) will be notified and will sign a declaration of commitment to the project.