

NEWSLETTER

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ECI from
A to Z

EUROPEAN CITIZENS' INITIATIVE:
A TOOL FOR ENGAGEMENT AND ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP



Following multiple peer learning activities and the second edition of the ECI Online Course, the second ECI Model took place in Göttingen, from the 11th to the 15th of October, allowing the second group of students to meet and take part in the simulation of the ECI procedure. The present number of the Newsletter of "ECI: from A to Z" also covers the scientific outcomes and some relevant developments of this EU-funded project.

SECOND ECI MODEL IN GÖTTINGEN

The final activity of each year of the Project, the ECI Model, is a **simulation of the ECI procedure**, as enshrined in the EU treaties and regulations, and constitutes the peak of the students' work and the result of all the meetings, peer learning activities and the ECI Online Course.

For five days of successive activities, the students put into practice their ideas and articulate all the measures they had discussed among the groups regarding a theme of their preference. Moreover, they get the chance to get to know each other and the city which hosts the event through a set of **social activities**.



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SECOND ECI MODEL

October 11-15, 2022

UNIVERSITY OF GÖTTINGEN



Universidade de Vigo



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EU



After the inauguration of the ECI Model on the 11th of October by Professors Dulce Lopes (the Project's coordinator), Peter-Tobias Stoll and Phillip M.Reuß, the two first days were mainly dedicated to **group work** in order to finish the ECI proposals and fill in the request for registration.

On the third day, the 13th of October, **the European Commission deliberated**, in private, **on the registration** of each ECI proposal and the respective Decisions, all of which were positive, were transmitted to the teams.

Meanwhile, the students prepared their presentations for the following day.



On the fourth day, the 14th of October, all the teams presented their ECI Proposal, in around 15 minutes, in the much-awaited **Parliament Hearing**, the highlight of the ECI Model. The European Parliament, represented by 10 MEP's (members of the Project and PhD students from the Georg-August-Universität Göttingen), carefully heard the speakers of each group and analyzed the proposals, posing questions they found relevant at the end of each presentation. This activity tests students' public speaking skills, creativity and capacity to defend their proposals against critical observations.

On the 15th of October, after having carefully examined all the proposals and considering the presentations as well as the Parliament's Resolutions regarding each ECI proposal, **the Commission publicly read its Communications** containing the political and legal conclusions on the substance of each proposal, allowing the organizers to give their feedback.

The final session was closed with the **delivery of participation certificates** to the students and some final words by the Project's coordinator.



THE TEAMS' PROPOSALS

After several months of creative and constructive work in groups, among themselves and with the tutors, the Project's students from the four partner Universities finished and presented their ECI proposals, that we hereby expose briefly.

Group 1 – “Microplastic, a Macroproblem!”

The initiative asks for the adoption of measures to raise awareness about the impact of micro- and nano-plastics on human health and the environment and an increase of funding to support research in this area.



Group 2 – “Sustainable Tourism: Take a Trip to a Better Future”

The ECI proposal demands the adoption of measures to fight “overtourism” and reduce its environmental and social impacts.

Group 3 – “Free Access to Essential Products”

This initiative asks for the provision of free access to sanitary and contraceptive products to all European Union citizens by 2027.



Group 4 – “Greenergy4EU”

The Citizens' Initiative asks the Commission to adopt a directive forcing EU Member States to progressively limit the use of nuclear energy and gas as fuels in their territories by public services and private companies.

Group 5 – “Protect and Monitor: Ensuring Human Rights in the Mediterranean Area”

The ECI proposal asks the EU to take action, by reformulating and monitoring the agreements with third countries which have already entered into force and creating other programs that can guarantee the respect of the human rights of forced migrants, refugees and asylum seekers.



Groups 6 and 8 – “No deals with Exes”

This initiative asks for more efficient restrictions and mechanisms to prevent “revolving doors” in EU institutions, which would lead the EU to be a good administration example.

Group 7 – “TransparenTcy: Transparency behind Parenthood”

This Citizens' Initiative asks for a EU framework that guarantees the effectiveness of the right to biological truth, ensuring and protecting the well-fare of children all around Europe.



TRAINING SESSIONS



Alongside the activities involving students, the Project's Professors, researchers and tutors gathered during the week within the scope of training sessions in order to discuss important topics, such as scientific writing, academic publishing and financial management.

EXTENSION OF THE PROJECT'S DEADLINE TO MARCH

Initially planned to end in December 2022, the Project's deadline has been successfully extended to the end of March 2023, thus entailing the delay of the final events and submission time limits.

COMING SOON: THE "ECI: FROM A TO Z WORKBOOK"

Besides the crucial activities involving students from the Universities of Coimbra, Iași, Göttingen and Vigo, carried out throughout the years of 2021 and 2022, the Project "ECI: from A to Z" also entails a set of academic outcomes which will be delivered at the end of the deadline.

The main scientific outcome of the Project is the "ECI Workbook", a compilation of theoretical and practical contributions of Professors and researches, who contributed directly or indirectly to the Project, regarding the ECI as a participatory tool and, in particular, to the Project as an important source of participation of Higher Education students in the European project.

The Workbook will gather a multitude of articles and more practical inputs, structured in a very dynamic yet simple way in order to maximize its availability for a general public interested in EU affairs and, especially, in the ECI as a tool. **It will be available at the end of the Project, namely in the dissemination event.**

SAVE THE DATE: FINAL CEREMONY IN COIMBRA ON 28 MARCH 2023

Marking the end of this extraordinary journey, our final dissemination event will take place in Coimbra on 28 March 2023 and will count with the presence of some of its participants as well as interesting guests.

Save date, be present and come commemorate our Project with the ECI team!