

NEWSLETTER

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ECI from
A to Z

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



At the end of the academic year and during the summer holidays, the students of the Project "ECI: from A to Z" took part in the ECI Online Course, counting with a synchronous session and a final assignment.

ECI ONLINE COURSE

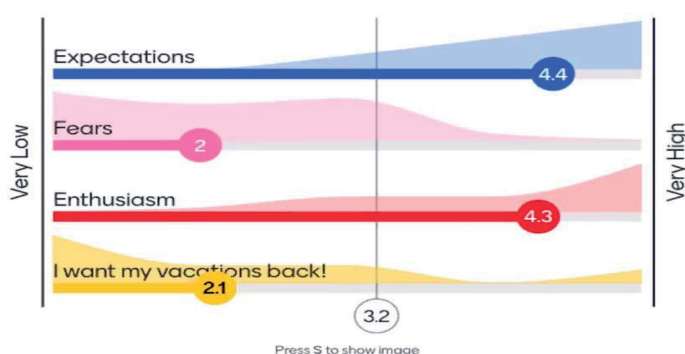
The ECI Online Course was organized by the University of Coimbra's Distance Learning Unit and elaborated by the professors and tutors of the Project and is composed of eight modules regarding participation, EU citizenship and the European Citizens' Initiative at a substantive and procedural level. Students have acquired the fundamental knowledge to understand the ECI procedure and to develop sustainable proposals concerning their subjects of interest.

The eight modules rely on a diversified structure of written text, videos, quizzes and group activities, aiming at enhancing students' learning process and fostering their critical spirit. In order to ensure the interactive and dynamic nature of the Project in all its dimensions, the Course included a forum as a constant channel of communication between students, tutors and professors, boosting the debate about different subjects and the clarification of possible doubts.

At the end of the ECI Online Course, the students had to submit a final assignment that aimed at testing their creativity: a slogan that conveyed the importance of the ECI as an instrument of direct democracy and reflected the relevance of its strategic use. The slogan should be presented in two different supports and translated into three different EU official languages



Tell us how you feel about the Online Course!



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PEER LEARNING

One of the greatest components of the ECI Project is the “peer learning” activities guided by the tutors designated for each team composed of eight students (two students from each partner University). During the ECI Online Course, the tutors organized multiple online meetings with the respective teams, in order to boost team spirit and complete the group activities, described in Module 8, through which the teams analyzed the qualities and flaws of different ECI’s and evaluated the ECI as a participatory tool.

MODULE 8 | EVALUATION OF THE ECI PARTICIPATORY MECHANISM



6. Let's work in groups!

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The ECI is a tool for democracy in the EU. But, as we have seen, this mechanism can generate frustration among participants who feel defeated when the final result is not positive. In the long process of an ECI, adversities can occur and difficulties must be faced and overcome.

The activities proposed in this module consist in performing a collective reflection and a systematic analysis of this democratic tool. As a group, complete one (and only one) of the three different activities proposed below.

Please, find your group below!

- Activity 1 | SOAR analysis of the ECI;
- Activity 2 | SWOT analysis of ECI;
- Activity 3 | PESTEL analysis of ECI.

COMING SOON...

After multiple amendments to the initial schedule due to the pandemic context, the easing of restrictive measures seems to allow the first trips within the ECI Project. A mid-term meeting between the professors and tutors of the Project will soon take place in Vigo and the Model ECI, initially planned for November 2021, will hopefully take place in the first trimester of 2022 in Göttingen, allowing students and the staff from the four Universities to finally meet in person.

Let's hold onto this wishful thinking and hope we will be able to pack our bags soon!

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