



# TAKE THE INITIATIVE

## European Citizens' Initiative

Help shape the European Union

# European Citizens' Initiative | Step-by-Step

The European Citizens' Initiative is a tool of participatory democracy giving EU citizens the power to shape European policy.



### Step 1: GET STARTED



- Form a group of organisers made up of at least 7 EU citizens old enough to vote in European elections and living in 7 different EU countries.

Max. 2 months  
(Possible revision of proposal:  
+ 2 months)



### Step 2: GET YOUR INITIATIVE REGISTERED



- Submit a request to register the initiative to the European Commission.

- The Commission will register your proposal (fully or partially) if it falls within its competences, and translate it into all official EU languages.



Start: max. 6 months  
after registration

### Step 3: GET SUPPORT



- Collect at least 1 million statements of support overall with minimum numbers of signatories in at least 7 EU countries. You can collect support on paper and online.

Max. 12 months



### Step 4: GET STATEMENTS OF SUPPORT VERIFIED



- Get the statements of support verified by the relevant national authority in each country in which you have collected support.



Max. 6 months:  
3 months to submit  
+ 3 months for verification



Max. 3 months  
from end of verification

### Step 5: SUBMIT YOUR INITIATIVE



- Once verified and if you have reached the required number of statements of support, submit your initiative to the Commission.



### Step 6: GET AN ANSWER

- You will have a meeting with the Commission and hearing at the Parliament. After consultations, analysis and debates, the Commission will adopt a formal response stating what action it intends to take.

- If the Commission considers proposing legislation, they will make a proposal, which will be submitted to the Parliament and the Council which will need to adopt it for it to become law.



Max. 6 months



For more information on how to organise a European citizens' initiative:

[europa.eu/citizens-initiative](https://europa.eu/citizens-initiative)

[#EUTakeTheInitiative](https://twitter.com/EUTakeTheInitiative)