



## ECIT'S A-Z RESOURCES

**ECIT Foundation** (European Citizens' Rights, Involvement and Trust) was established as a public foundation under Belgian law on 2015. In the world of European think-tanks, it fills a gap being the only one to concentrate solely on **European Citizenship**. ECIT is becoming a resource of know-how, research, and contacts, but also one of support for civil society organisations, academics and policy makers when they work on this theme. So far, the Foundation has to its credit a book: *Piecing together Europe's citizenship*, published in English and French.

Although 60% of people recognise that they are both national and European in some sense, the concept of European Citizenship itself remains elusive. By bringing together its scattered elements in the ECIT Statute, we aim to improve an understanding of what it is and what it could become. This matters because the European Union is crisis-ridden, torn apart by centrifugal forces over the management of the **Euro**, **asylum** and **immigration**, **free movement** within the EU and the rise of extreme nationalism and xenophobia. What else but a stronger transnational citizenship can hold the EU together? The dilemma is that European Citizenship as a shared concept. It will take a generation to build. However, there is no option but to start.

This awareness led to the desire to develop this **A-Z Resource** targetting at European citizenship, participatory democracy and networking and involvement throughout Europe. The ambition is to reduce the knowledge gap between the EU and its citizens.



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## A – Access to documents

As established in Article 15 TFEU, every citizen and resident of the Member States has the right to access to documents of EU institutions.

In order to find documents:

- European Commission
  - *Publications | European Commission*
  - *Register of Commission Documents*
- European Parliament
  - *Home Page of the EP Public Register of Documents*
- European Council
  - *Documents and publications - Consilium*

In order to request documents:

- European Commission
  - *How to access Commission documents*
  - *Electronic Access to Commission Documents (EASE)*
- European Parliament
  - *Document request form*
- European Council
  - *Request a document - Consilium*

## B – Budget

Europe for Citizens was a programme divided into two strands: “Remembrance and European citizenship” and “Democratic engagement and civic participation”. Now it’s part of another programme called CERV.

- *Funding & tenders (europa.eu)*
- *The Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values programme (CERV) under EACEA | EU Funding Overview*



## C – Citizens' Initiatives

Under the new Regulation no 788/2019, a legislative proposal can be submitted to the European Commission as long as it is signed by at least 1 million citizens from seven different Member States.

- *European Citizens' Initiative*
- *How it works*
- *Find initiative | European Citizens' Initiative*
- *European Citizens' Initiative Forum*

## D – Directive on European Citizenship

A European Directive sets an objective and allows each Member State to implement through national laws. The so-called citizenship (2004/38) introduced a set of free movement rights for every European citizen and their families.

- *An example*

## E – Erasmus+

This programme creates more opportunities for students to study abroad in Europe. In addition to this, the EU offers lifelong learning programmes.

- *Explore the Erasmus+ programme*
- *Erasmus+ Programme Guide*
- *Erasmus Student Network*



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## F – Free movement of people in the European Union

One of the basic rights conferred to European citizens.

- *Moving & working in Europe*
- *Residence rights*

## G – Green Deal

To overcome the challenges of climate change, the European Green Deal will transform the EU into a modern, resource-efficient and competitive economy. Through it, the European Commission has adopted a set of proposals to make the EU's climate, energy, transport and taxation policies fit to reduce net greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55 per cent by 2030, compared to 1990 levels. Find more info below:

- *A European Green Deal: Striving to be the first climate-neutral continent*

## H – Human rights and their protection

The European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) is based in Strasbourg, and The European Court of Justice (ECJ) is based in Luxemburg. The first acts as the guardian of the European Convention of Human Rights and the second of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU.

- *European Court of Human Rights (ECHR)*
- *Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU)*
- *Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms*
- *Charter of fundamental rights of the European Union*



## I – Institutions of the EU and how they work

You can find this information at one of the 800 information points near you:

- *Contact the European Union*
- *Decision-making process of the EU*
- *EU's actions by topic*

## J – Justice

The Commission is organised into policy departments, known as Directorates-General (DGs). DG Justice has a specific department about European citizenship.

- *DG Justice*
- *Your rights in the EU*
- *EU citizenship report 2020*

## K – Karlsruhe Court

The ruling on the Lisbon Treaty by the German Constitutional Court is highly significant since it denied the existence of a European demos and a truly European public sphere.

- *Karlsruhe's Europe*

## L – Lisbon Treaty

This treaty aims to achieve “a more democratic and transparent Europe” and “a Europe of rights and values, freedom, solidarity and security.

- *Consolidated Version of the Treaty on European Union*
- *The Treaty of Lisbon | Fact Sheets on the European Union*



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## M – Maastricht Treaty

Redacted in 1992, this treaty stands as a milestone of the EU, with the creation of the concept of European citizenship.

- *Five things you need to know about the Maastricht Treaty (europa.eu)*
- *The Maastricht Treaty*

## N – NGOs & Civil Society

An involved civil society has a key role to play in European citizenship. To see what has been done:

- *With Civil Society no one is left behind*
- *Citizens for Europe*
- *European Civic Forum*

## O – Ombudsman

The European Ombudsman is an independent body that investigates complaints coming from citizens regarding possible maladministration in EU institutions, agencies or bodies.

- *The European Ombudsman*
- *Ombudsman's Annual Report*

## P – Petitions to European Parliament

This treaty aims to achieve “a more democratic and transparent Europe” and “a Europe of rights and values, freedom, solidarity and security.”

- *Find a petition | European Parliament*
- *Register or support a petition | European Parliament*
- *PETI Committee | European Parliament*



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## Q – Quo Vadis Europe

A vast amount of academic research is dedicated to the future of the European Union.

- *Think Tank Directory Europe*
- *European Policy Institutes Network*
- *CEPS*
- *European Alternatives*

## R – Regulation

A European regulation is a binding legislative act, applied in the whole European Union. Regulation No 883/2004 established a coordination of social security systems.

- *Types of Legislation*
- *Example of Regulation - Regulation No 883/2004*

## S – Subsidiarity

This principle establishes that the Union does not take action unless it is in areas that are its exclusive competence or if its action is more effective than if taken at a lower level.

- *The principle of subsidiarity*
- *The principle of subsidiarity | Fact Sheets on the European Union*



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## T – Transparency register

It lists which interests are being represented at the European level. They have to declare how much they spend in lobbying and its activities. The Commission has promised that registering will be mandatory soon.

- *The Transparency Register*
- *Search or register an organisation*
- *Lobby groups and transparency*



## U – Universities

European citizenship is an increasingly researched topic throughout European universities.

- *Edu4Europe: Education for European democratic citizenship forum*



## V – Volunteering

There are many ways to volunteer at European and international level. Discover the possibilities offered to you:

- *Volunteering - European Youth Portal*
- *EU funded volunteering opportunities*
- *European Solidarity Corps*



## W – War in Ukraine

The EU and its member states stand united in their unwavering support for Ukraine and firmly condemn Russia's unprovoked and unjustified military aggression.

- *EU response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine*



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## X – (Fight against) Xenophobia

In the Article 13 of the Amsterdam Treaty, set the legal basis for combating discrimination of any kind. After 2000, the Council approved several directives and two programmes were created to prevent discrimination based in ethnic origin.

- Article 13 - Treaty establishing the European Community
- European Commission - Employment, Social Affairs & Inclusion
- Your rights in the EU

## Y – Year of Citizens

The European Union promotes different issues by proclaiming an “official year”. 2013 was “Year of Citizens”.

- European years

## Z – Zambrano and other relevant cases

There is a vast number of cases that deal with the enforcement of European citizens' rights. The cases Van Gend en Loos, Martínez Sala, Baumbast, Zambrano, Metock, Chen and Dano, or stand among others.

- *Judgment Van Gend en Loos* (1963): thanks to it, individuals can rely on EU law directly before national authorities and courts
- The *Zambrano case* reaffirmed European residence rights even when there was no actual freedom of movement; it was also important because it was based on children's rights.



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