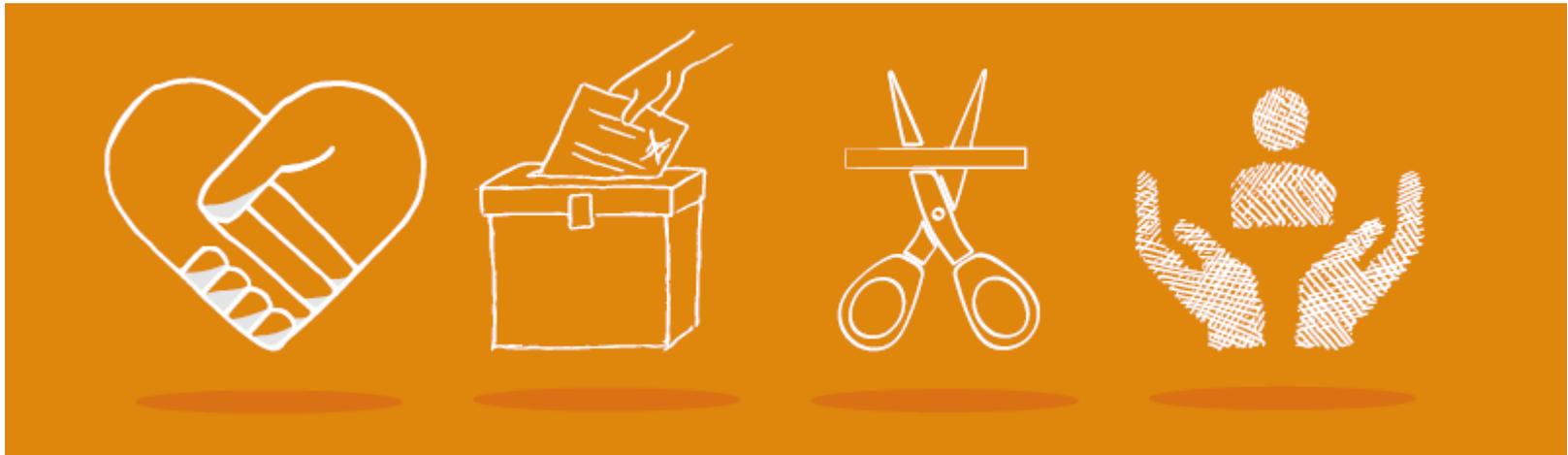




# EU Citizenship Report 2017

## Strengthening Citizens' Rights in a Union of Democratic Change



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## What is EU citizenship?

Citizens of an EU Member State are also EU citizens. EU citizenship does not replace national citizenship, it adds to it.

EU citizens have many rights, such as the right to free movement in the European Union, and the right to vote and stand as a candidate in municipal and European Parliament elections wherever one lives in the EU.

Ensuring that EU citizenship rights are effective in practice is a priority for the European Commission.



## Positive achievements of the EU - findings from recent Eurobarometer reports

European citizens recognise free movement (in the Eurobarometer 2015 on EU citizenship) as a benefit for themselves as well as for their countries' economies: **71%** consider that free movement of people within the EU brings overall benefits to the **economy of their country**.

Europeans consider **free movement** and peace (Standard Eurobarometer Autumn 2016) as the EU's most positive achievements (56% of total answers). This is a trend over the last years (the Standard EB is conducted every six months).



## The EU Citizenship Report 2017 package

The package consists of:

- COM(2017)30/2 – "Strengthening Citizens' Rights in a Union of Democratic change"
  - **Sets out 12 priorities for 2017-2019 (outline to follow)**
  - **Also reports on 2013 EU Citizenship Report actions (completed)**
  - **such as e.g. the e-learning tool on free movement rules**
- and COM(2017)32 – Article 25 Report, covering developments in the field of EU Citizenship for the period from 1 January 2013 to 30 June 2016
  - **COM reports every three years on the application of the provisions of non-discrimination and Union citizenship.**



# The EU Citizenship Report 2017

Booklets available in all official languages of the Member States

Factsheets available in all official languages of the Member States

## The EU Citizenship Report 2017 - "Strengthening Citizens' Rights in a Union of Democratic change"

The Commission focusses its actions on EU citizenship around four themes:



Promoting EU citizenship rights and EU common values



Promoting and enhancing citizens' participation in the democratic life of the EU



Simplifying daily life for EU citizens



Strengthening security and promoting equality



## Theme 1: Promoting EU citizenship rights and EU common values

### The Commission will...

In 2017 and 2018 conduct an **EU-wide information and awareness raising campaign on EU citizenship rights** including on consular protection and electoral rights ahead of the 2019 European elections.



## Theme 1: Promoting EU citizenship rights and EU common values

### The Commission will...

Take action to strengthen the European Voluntary Service and promote the benefits and integration of volunteering in education. Invite the first 100.000 young Europeans to volunteer with the **European Solidarity Corps** by 2020. It will provide the opportunity to develop new skills and meaningful experiences, to make an important contribution to society across the EU, and to gain invaluable experience and acquire valuable skills at the start of their career.



## Theme 1: Promoting EU citizenship rights and EU common values

### The Commission will...

Safeguard the essence of EU citizenship and its inherent values; in 2017/2018 produce a report on **national schemes granting EU citizenship to investors** describing the Commission's action in this area, current national law and practices, and providing some guidance to Member States.



## Theme 2: Promoting and enhancing citizens' participation in the democratic life of the EU

*In order to foster turnout, we need to better explain to citizens what the relevance of EU policies is to their daily lives and what the EP elections are. One out of five (21%) also experienced problems when voting.*

### **The Commission will...**

Report in 2017 on the implementation of EU law on local elections to ensure that EU citizens can effectively exercise their **voting rights** at local level.



## Theme 2: Promoting and enhancing citizens' participation in the democratic life of the EU

### The Commission will...

In 2018, promote best practices which **help citizens vote and stand for EU elections**, including on retaining the right to vote when moving to another Member State and cross-border access to political news, to support turnout and broad democratic participation in the perspective of the 2019 European elections.



## Theme 3: Simplifying daily life for EU citizens

*Europeans still find it difficult to move or live in another EU country, mostly due to **lengthy or unclear administrative procedures**.*

### **The Commission will...**

Submit a proposal for setting up a '**Single Digital Gateway**' to give citizens easy, online access to information, assistance and problem-solving services and the possibility to complete online administrative procedure in cross-border situations by linking up relevant EU and national-level content and services in a seamless, user-friendly way.



## Theme 4: Strengthening Security and Promoting Equality

### The Commission will:

In the first quarter of 2017, finalise the study on EU policy options to improve the security of EU citizens' **identity cards and residence documents** of EU citizens residing in another Member State and of their non-EU family members. The Commission will evaluate the next steps, options and their impacts in view of a possible legislative initiative by the end of 2017.



## Theme 4: Strengthening Security and Promoting Equality

### The Commission will:

In 2017, assess how to modernise the rules on **emergency travel documents for unrepresented EU citizens**, including the security features of the EU common format, to guarantee that citizens can effectively exercise their right to consular protection.



## Theme 4: Strengthening Security and Promoting Equality

### The Commission will:

Carry out in 2017 a **campaign on violence against women** and actively support the accession of the Union to the Council of Europe Convention on combating and preventing violence against women and domestic violence (the '**Istanbul Convention**') alongside Member States and present proposals to address the challenges of **work-life balance** for working families.



## Theme 4: Strengthening Security and Promoting Equality

### The Commission will:

Act to improve the social acceptance of **LGBTI people** across the EU by implementing the list of actions to advance LGBTI equality and actively support the conclusion of the negotiations on the proposed horizontal **Anti-Discrimination Directive**.



## Abstract from the conclusion of the EU Citizenship Report 2017

"Shaping and delivering this agenda is **not a job for the Commission to deliver on its own, but a collective effort for the Union as a whole.**

The Commission is fully committed to making EU citizenship a reality on the ground and it will work in partnership with the other EU institutions, the Member States, **local and regional authorities**, civil society and, most importantly, citizens themselves to bring this about."



***Thank you!***



## **EU Citizenship Report 2017**

Strengthening Citizens' Rights in a Union of Democratic Change