

European Citizen Action Service Work Programme 2018

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ECAS' Work Programme 2018

ECAS' work programme for 2018 is comprised of **48 activities**, 25 in the EU Rights focus area and 13 in the Digital Democracy focus area, in line with ECAS' mission of empowering citizens in relation to EU rights and democratic engagement and participation in EU policy-making. The remaining activities ensure ECAS' good governance and outreach.

In the framework of its **EU Rights focus area**, ECAS' work programme in 2018 envisages:

- The **Your Europe Advice** service, which ECAS manages on behalf of the European Commission. ECAS' 63 legal experts provide legal advice to over 20,000 citizens annually on their rights under EU law, covering social security, residence and visas, work issues, taxes, and more in all 24 official EU languages and all 28 EU member states.
- The **EU Rights Clinic** to help citizens resolve problems associated with breaches of EU rights.
- ECAS' leadership in fostering the successful inclusion of EU mobile citizens in their host EU country's civic and political life, including research into obstacles to political rights, evidence-based recommendations to inform local election campaigns in Belgium in 2018, and an EU-wide campaign targeting local, national and EU level authorities and stakeholders prior to the European elections in 2019.
- A citizen-orientated outreach component, based on ICT, to crowdsource citizens' input on problems and possible solutions.
- EU-wide digital public-awareness campaign on current trends with regard to obstacles to free movement and political participation and possible policy solutions.
- **State of the Union Citizens' Rights** high level conference and a workshop in the European Parliament
- **Citizen Brexit Observatory** in cooperation with Sheffield University and the Law Centres Network (LCN), with the objective to support the fair treatment of EU citizens living in the UK and UK citizens living in the other countries of the EU.

Under the **Digital Democracy** focus area, ECAS will implement the following activities:

- Support to the development of an **ECI Online Collaborative Platform** by Secretariat-General of the EC through the provision of advice, guidance material and help to organisers of European Citizens' Initiatives, and to raise awareness of the ECI as the only tool for participatory democracy at EU level.

- Managing the **ECI Online Collaborative Platform's Help Desk** in order to provide support to ECI organisers, mainly to handle the enquiries related to legal issues and offer campaigning and fundraising advice.
- **Digital Democracy Day 2018** to present the lessons learnt from 6 national conferences assessing crowdsourcing experiences, with the aim of completing the framework for the future pilot on crowdsourcing at EU level outlined in ECAS' study "Towards a Crowdsourcing Pilot at the EU level: Taking Decisions with Citizens and Not for Them".
- European Civic Participation Day within the framework of the Bulgarian Presidency to promote the democratic potential of ICT in enhancing youth engagement and fostering new ways of participating in EU decision-making beyond the traditional forms.
- Mainstream the **Digital Dashboard** as a tool for analysing the digital space and identifying young people's views on certain topics, as well as promote ECAS' guidelines for decision-makers on how to engage with young people in the digital space where they are active.
- Stimulate the participation of EU citizens in the 2019 European Parliament elections by creating, with partners, an innovative web platform that informs voters on, and connects them with, candidates and other voters.

In 2018, ECAS will continue to provide support to civil society organisations in accessing EU funding through an annual Funding Guide, monthly funding alerts and tailored advice.

ECAS will co-organise the ECI Day and the Civil Society Days and will actively participate in the work of the REFIT Platform for Better Regulation to contribute to improving EU legislation.



EU RIGHTS

Projects Being Implemented

- ACT for Free Movement: A project to establish permanent direct advocacy in Brussels and provide support, resources and training to citizens throughout Europe to take action to counter the trend towards a restrictive interpretation of the EU Citizenship Directive (2004/38/EC).
- Fair EU: A project aiming to foster the successful inclusion of EU mobile citizens in their host EU country's civic and political life.

Services to Citizens

- Your Europe Advice (YEA): Free legal advice provision to EU citizens who exercise their right to free movement in the EU
- EU Rights Clinic: Problem-solving service of EU rights breaches. 60-70 cases addressed annually
- EU Citizens' Help Desk: Advice to EU citizens facing expulsion from Belgium

Advocacy and Awareness-Raising

- Outreach activities in 28 Member States to promote the European Commission's assistance services to citizens, including live chats to advise citizens and businesses on their EU Rights
- Public Awareness Campaign on the Obstacles and Good Practices related to freedom of movement in the EU
- Platform for crowdsourcing the opinions of EU citizens (focusing, in particular, on EU mobile citizens) regarding obstacles to free movement and the exercise of political rights as well as their suggestions for solutions and/or best practices they have encountered (from July to December 2018)
- Free Movement digital campaign: a series of 6 videos in English with subtitles in French, German, Italian, Spanish and Polish on free movement rights
- Fair EU Digital campaign on Political Rights of EU mobile citizens in the host country (from September to December 2018)

Research and Analysis

- Desk research on the obstacles to free movement of EU mobile citizens in view of developing a hypothesis of their link to political rights and activism to be tested through 5 focus groups (January-July 2018)
 - Focus group in Paris, 18-19/07/2018

- Focus group in Brussels, 12-13/09/2018
- Focus group in Rome, 16-17/10/2018
- Focus group in London, 7-8/11/2018
- Focus group in Berlin, 3-4/12/2018
- Identification of the best practices in the implementation of the EU Citizenship Directive at national level. The best practices will feed into an **interactive guide** (accessible both to EU mobile citizens and decision-makers at EU and national level).
- Further developments of the Citizens Brexit Observatory as an online resource for raising awareness on the post-Brexit impact on different types of citizens' rights, in collaboration with the University of Sheffield (as an open platform with the objective to support the fair treatment of EU citizens living in the UK and UK citizens living in other countries of the EU)
 - Winter Fellowship of a Sheffield School of Law student: Research and publication of a study on discrimination and xenophobia towards EU citizens in the UK.
 - Summer Fellowship of a Sheffield School of Law student: Research on the effects of Brexit on the free movement rights of citizens of Northern Ireland.
 - questionnaire on discrimination towards EU citizens in the UK in cooperation with ECAS' members in the UK, Ireland and Gibraltar.
- Your Europe Advice Annual Trends: Report on the 2017 trends in problems EU citizens face when exercising their free movement rights, based on enquiries received by Your Europe Advice

Events

- Kick off meeting of the FAIR EU project and training on financial management provided by ECAS, 25-26 January 2018
- Workshops and training of EU rights activists
 - London, 5-8 February 2018
 - Florence, 15-18 May 2018
- Workshop at the European Parliament on European Citizenship and EU Freedom of Movement Rights, 5-6 November 2018
- Conference in Gothenburg on the obstacles to free movement of EU mobile citizens and their family members in Sweden with a special emphasis on challenges encountered by the most vulnerable citizens, 5-6 July 2018
- State of the Union's EU Rights conference, 22 October 2018



DIGITAL DEMOCRACY

Projects Being Implemented

- European Citizens Crowdsourcing (EUCROWD): this project aims to raise awareness of the possibilities and to develop the skills at national and European level for using innovative channels of e-participation of citizens in politics and policy with a focus on the application of crowdsourcing in fostering a democratic debate on the future of the European Union. It is co-funded by the Europe for Citizens Programme – until March 2018
- You Vote EU: Project developing a digital platform to enhance participation in the 2019 European Parliament elections

Services to Citizens

- ECI Online Collaborative Platform: To support the development of the platform by Secretariat-General of the EC to provide help, guidance material and advice to organisers of European Citizens' Initiatives, and to raise awareness of the ECI as the only tool for participatory democracy at EU level.
- ECI Online Collaborative Platform's Help Desk: to provide support to ECI organisers, mainly to handle the enquiries related to legal issues and offer campaigning and fundraising advice.

Advocacy and Awareness-Raising

- Platform dissemination and population strategy implemented in the framework of the You Vote EU project in order to allow the information on the platform to be widely disseminated amongst citizens and EU stakeholders.
- Mainstreaming the use of the Digital Dashboard to promote it as an innovative tool for analysing the digital space and identifying young people's views on certain topics, as well as promote ECAS' guidelines for decision-makers on how to engage with young people in the digital space where they are active.
- EU stakeholder mapping: to identify relevant EU stakeholders who would use the project platform to enhance interactions with citizens in policy-making (January-June 2018)

Research and Analysis

- Knowledge Centre on Crowdsourcing: case studies worldwide to provide best practices and experiences which can be taken into consideration in the EU
- Guidelines for crowdsourcing at EU level: policy paper with findings from different European countries and policy recommendations on a possible crowdsourcing experience at EU level.
- Update working paper 'Towards a Crowdsourcing Pilot at the EU Level: Taking Decisions with Citizens and not for Citizens' to include the latest crowdsourcing initiatives around the world and the lessons learned

Events

- ECI Day - Europe-wide conference organised in collaboration with the EESC, April 2018
- Civil Society Days, organised in cooperation with the EESC and other partners of the Liaison Group with civil society, June 2018
- Digital Democracy Day conference Brussels, 27 February 2018
- European Civic Participation Day in the framework of the Bulgarian presidency organized by ECAS' Bulgarian member the Citizen Participation Forum, 31 May 2018
- You Vote EU launch event to present the aim and functionalities of the You Vote EU project platform as well as to explore its potential and challenges to enhance EU citizens participation in the European elections in 2019.

FUNDING ADVICE AND TRAINING CENTRE

Services

- Monthly alerts on funding opportunities at the EU level
- Timely information on EU funding updates and networking opportunities organised by the EU institutions
- European Funding Guide for the Non-Profit Sector 2018

Training Centre of Excellence

- Regular and on demand training sessions on EU Fundraising, Project Management and Advocacy at ECAS' premises – Spring and Autumn 2018
- Tailor-made workshops for organisations and groups upon request

CROSS-CUTTING ADVOCACY AND NETWORKING ACTIVITIES

- Further develop the issue-based networks of member organisations based on ECAS' focus areas
- ECAS' newsletter distributed to a mailing list of almost 3,000 subscribers – bimonthly basis
- Revamp of ECAS' website in terms of both functionalities and content
- Active participation in the Stakeholders' group of the REFIT Platform for Better Regulation
- Active participation in the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) Liaison Group with Civil society meetings
- Coordination of the work of the Brexit working group within Civil Society Europe - a coordination platform of European Association
- Up to 4 webinars with network members and partners on challenges, opportunities and exchange of good practices in ECAS' focus areas

In 2018, ECAS will monitor the following key dossiers falling under its focus areas:

EU Rights

- Revision of the Regulation on Social Security Coordination (Labour Mobility Package)
- Revision of the Posting of Workers Directive (Labour Mobility Package)
- Proposed Regulation for establishing a European Travel Information and Authorisation System (ETIAS)

- Measures for a better enforcement of Single Market Rules including proposals for a Single Digital Gateway and a Single Market Information Tool, and an action plan on the reinforcement of SOLVIT
- European Accessibility Act
- Follow-up measures by the Commission to the REFIT opinion for a new communication on the Citizenship Directive
- Follow-up measures by the Commission to the REFIT opinion on harmonising ID and residence documents
- Revision of the Schengen Information System II

Digital Democracy

- Revision of the European Citizens' Initiative
- Digital Single Market
 - New e-Government action plan 2016-2020
 - Legislative proposal on the free flow of data
 - 5G Action Plan
 - E-Privacy reform
 - Geo-Blocking

Others

- Proposal for an inter-institutional agreement on a mandatory transparency register for lobbyists
- Revision of the Access to Documents regulation
- Reform of the electoral law of the EU

ECAS' GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

- 4 meetings of ECAS' Board of Directors – quarterly
- ECAS' Annual General Assembly meeting, June 2018

ECAS' SUPPORTERS

In 2018, ECAS will be supported by:

- DG Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs
- DG Justice and Consumers

- Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme
- Europe for Citizens Programme
- Secretariat-General of the European Commission
- European Programme for Integration and Migration





European Citizen Action Service
77, Avenue de la Toison d'Or
B-1060 Brussels, Belgium
+32 (0) 2 548 04 90
info@ecas.org
www.ecas.org