

ECAS



ECAS

Work Programme
2019

2019 ECAS' Work Programme

is comprised of **36 activities**, carried out in the **EU Rights** and the **European Democracy** focus areas, in line with ECAS' mission of empowering citizens in relation to EU rights and democratic engagement and participation in EU policy-making.



ECAS' Activities in 2019



PROJECTS



**SERVICES TO
CITIZENS**



**ADVOCACY &
AWARENESS-RAISING**



RESEARCH



EVENTS



EU RIGHTS

Projects

Fair EU: a project aiming to foster the successful inclusion of mobile EU citizens in their host EU country's civic and political life.

IMPEU: a project aiming to foster political participation of mobile EU citizens and enhance capacity and knowledge of civil servants and relevant national and local experts on EU citizenship and related political rights

Mobility Rights Enforcement for EU citizens (MORE for EU Citizens) (expected to start in the second quarter of 2019): the project will aim at creating more enabling environment for proper enforcement of freedom of movement rights through EU and national level advocacy and awareness raising activities

Services to citizens

Your Europe Advice : A service that ECAS manages on behalf of the European Commission. ECAS' 59 legal experts provide legal advice to about 20,000 citizens annually on their rights under EU law, covering entry, 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: a service aimed at helping citizens resolve problems associated with breaches of EU rights





Advocacy & Awareness-Raising

Public awareness campaign at national level focusing on concrete problems and obstacles to freedom of movement

Advocacy towards newly elected MEPs and involving them on putting pressure on the national authorities where the most persistent problems to freedom of movement that have been identified

Platform for **crowdsourcing** the opinions of EU mobile citizens: 1st phase between September 2018 and February 2019 analyses obstacles to free movement and the exercise of political rights experience by EU mobile citizens; 2nd phase between February and April 2019 will focus on crowdsourcing citizens' suggestions for enhanced political participation and identification of best practices

Launching an **open competition** on the most EU mobile citizen-friendly city

Involving citizens in selecting on the most EU mobile citizen-friendly city through the crowdsourcing platform

Outreach activities in 28 Member States to promote European Commission's assistance services to citizens including live chats for advising citizens and businesses on their EU Rights. These outreach activities include chats events with citizens on the Facebook page of the European Commission (Your Europe) on various topics



Research & Analysis

Desk research on best practices for political inclusion policies in EU28 and production of Good Practice Guide including 20 transferable good practices

Analysis of civil servants' training needs based on surveys and roundtables in five Member States (Italy, Spain, Bulgaria, Belgium, Greece)

Monitoring and analysis of recurrent problems related to entry and family reunification

Policy paper, in cooperation with other EPIM grantees, on the most recent policy developments related to freedom of movement, political participation, access to health, homelessness among EU mobile citizens

Your Europe Advice Annual Trends: Report on the 2018 trends in problems EU citizens face when exercising their free movement rights, based on enquiries received by Your Europe Advice

Legal updates on EU rights sent to YEA on a monthly basis. Also regular webinars



Events

Two **focus groups** in the framework of the FAIR EU project: in Luxembourg (17 January), Paris (24 January)

Workshop at the European Parliament on political participation of EU mobile citizens and their freedom of movement, 19 February 2019

Citizens dialogues to discuss obstacles faced by EU mobile citizens and their political participation, 20 February 2019

IMPEU **roundtable** to analyse civil servants' training needs, 25 February 2019

Two **awareness raising events** in the Member States where the most persistent obstacles to freedom of movement are identified

Annual Conference on **State of the Union Citizens' Rights** to address the obstacles to freedom of movement and political participation of mobile EU citizens in the framework of the FAIR EU project, 14 May 2019

Your Europe Advice legal experts' **training seminar** – November 2019





EU DEMOCRACY

Projects

Digital Democracy

You Vote EU: The aim of the project is to stimulate the participation of EU citizens in the 2019 European Parliament elections and increase the understanding of current and future EU policies. The project successfully created an innovative web platform that will inform voters on EU policies and connect voters with their current representatives, new candidates or other voters.

We are Europe – Empowering European Civil Society (WAE): The aim of the project is to allow civil society organisations (CSOs) to become actors in the “Future of Europe debate” in the 2018-2019 period. The project will equip CSOs with the necessary tools to participate in bottom-up initiatives regarding the debate on the future of Europe at all levels.

Road to European Parliament 2019 – Empowering a new generation of EU citizens (REP 2019): The aim of the project is to increase the participation of young people (aged 18-19) to the 2019 European Parliament elections. This ambitious goal will be achieved by designing and delivering a training programme directed towards students attending their last year of school and aimed to increase the understanding and participation of young people to the European Union political and decisional process (understanding of EU institutions, the process of lobbying, implementing EU projects, etc.).

Understanding Populism

Democratic Efficacy and the Varieties of Populism in Europe (DEMOS): The project is built on the assumption that populism is symptomatic of disconnect between how democratic polities operate and how citizens perceive their own aspirations, needs and identities within the political system. As such, DEMOS explores the practical value of 'democratic efficacy' as the condition of political engagement needed to address the challenge of populism.

Peel back the layers on populism with this study on "**Societies outside Metropolises: the role of civil society organisations in facing populism**", carried out by ECAS on behalf of the European Economic and Social Committee.

Online Disinformation

Smart eDemocracy Against Fake News (SMART eD): The project aims to foster European citizenship and improve conditions for civic and democratic participation at EU level by raising citizens' awareness of national and EU level initiatives to counter fake news and online disinformation.

Services to citizens

European Citizens' Initiative Forum: in the second year of the pilot-project, ECAS will continue its work in supporting Secretariat-General of the European Commission in the development and the implementation of online the collaborative platform that offers support to citizens when organising a European citizens' initiative.

European Citizens' Initiative Forum SEEK Advice: ECAS is responsible for handling the enquiries of (potential) ECI organisers received through the SEEK Advice function of the ECI Forum. The responses to the enquiries are provided in any of the official EU languages within maximum 8 working days. The advice provided includes, legal aspects, campaigning and fundraising advice, and any other relevant topics.

Research & Analysis

Chapter in the book: 'Democratic Participation in a Citizen's Europe' (Alemanno and Organ).

Events

Digital Democracy Day conference Brussels, 7 March 2019

ECI Day - Europe-wide conference organised in collaboration with the EESC, April 2019

Civil Society Days, organised in cooperation with the EESC and other partners of the Liaison Group with civil society, June 2019

Online Disinformation conference Brussels, October 2019



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