

DRAFT PROGRAMME:

SUMMER UNIVERSITY ON EUROPEAN CITIZENSHIP 2017

Countering threats to European citizenship across borders, reconfiguring its future

DATE: 30 August 2017 – 1 September 2017

LOCATION: Maison des Associations Internationales (40 Rue Washington, 1050 Brussels)

DAY 1, WEDNESDAY 30 AUGUST 2017

13.00 – 14.00	Arrival and Welcome Coffee
14.00 – 15.30	<p>Opening Plenary Session: <i>Countering the threats</i></p> <p><u>Roundtable</u>: introduction by partners and participants to their projects and contributions <u>Panel</u>: Representatives of European civil society organisations, DG Justice, BEUCITIZEN and MEPs</p> <p>At the first Summer University a background discussion document attempting to frame the debate on European citizenship was generally supported and then revised in the light of the discussion. Does this document stand up to further analysis? How does it compare to the Commission's "citizenship report" of January 2017 and the findings of the closing conference of the BEUCITIZEN project in April.</p>
15.30 – 15.45	Coffee Break
15.45 -17.30	<p>On the basis of the recommendations from the first Summer University, the aim will be to review three projects being developed by ECIT which can help counter threats to European citizenship and secure its future. Each will be introduced briefly by a cross-sectoral panel.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Free movement of persons across the EU</i>. What is the current state of free movement within the EU, push and pull factors, the main trajectories, advantages to the host country, the country of origin and those on the move? What are the disadvantages and how to overcome them without restricting European rights? Having a "photograph" of the current situation across EU might encourage a less toxic debate. This was identified as a high-profile project from the first Summer University. 2. <i>Empowering citizens and making their access to EU Institutions more effective and participatory</i>. The idea of a comparative test of the strengths and weaknesses of the different systems was supported at the event last year. Together with The Good Lobby, ECIT will review complaints, consultation procedures, freedom of information, petitions, appeals to the European Ombudsman and European Citizens' Initiatives (ECIs). Should there be reform of the systems or more effective help desks for citizens? Is a citizens' guide necessary?

	<p>3. <i>Education for European citizenship.</i> The importance of civic education for Europe is recognised in resolutions, comparative studies or the charter of the Council of Europe. Beyond the rhetoric what though is going on in and out of school and across borders? ECIT is investigating the recent trends in education for European and global citizenship as well as examples of best practice.</p>
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DAY 2, THURSDAY 31 AUGUST 2017

09.00 – 09.30	Welcome coffee
9.30 – 11.00	Partner Meeting
11.00 – 11.15	Coffee Break
11.15 – 12.45	Partner Meeting
12.45 – 14.00	Lunch Break
14.00 -17.15	<p><i>Reconfiguring the future</i></p> <p><u>Location:</u> Commission room 1, 2, 3</p> <p>Participants divide into three parallel workshops, each exploring a different pathway to the future of European citizenship.</p> <p><i>Panel 1- Enacting European citizenship.</i> A strong appeal is made by researchers and civil society activists beyond a formalistic and bureaucratic citizenship in favour of one of initiative within one's own community -acting locally and across borders. Can we reconfigure European citizenship in these terms? Certainly there are examples of grassroots campaigns with European resonance, but they are not always connected to each other to achieve a critical mass and offer an effective alternative to rising nationalism and xenophobia.</p> <p><i>Panel 2- Master class in legal action.</i> A different approach but one which could well carry local issues to the European level is to rely on the law. Organisations such as The Good Lobby, Client Earth or the American Council for civil liberties are promoting this approach which must depend on significant pro-bono support. The case law of the Court of justice of the EU offers more support to citizens defending their European rights than generally recognised. What is the scope and limits of the Charter of fundamental rights? Could collective rather than just individual action be recognised and supported? Can more use be made of EU anti-discrimination legislation?</p>

	<p>Panel 3- Political European citizenship. Political rights are the defining feature of citizenship. How well are existing rights to vote and stand in local and European elections enforced and taken up? Is i-voting the answer for people living and working abroad? Should these rights be extended to regional national and presidential elections as well as referenda? Could transnational social movements become European political parties? How to Europeanise the European elections in 2019?</p>
17.15 – 18.30	Reception
18.30 – 20.30	<p>Public debate: <i>European citizenship and BREXIT. Whither European rights and the status for EU citizens in the UK and UK citizens in the EU?</i></p> <p><u>Location:</u> Magistrat Room</p> <p>Last year some 200 people attended this debate and we are inviting them back with the same panel. Has anything changed? Despite intense debate European citizens in the UK and UK citizens in the EU still face an uncertain future. Guy Verhofstadt, the chief negotiator for the European Parliament will be invited to answer this question and others about the idea of associate European citizenship being discussed in the European Parliament.</p>

DAY 3, FRIDAY 1 SEPTEMBER 2017

09.00 – 09.30	Welcome coffee
9.30 – 11.00	Partner Meeting
11.00 – 11.15	Coffee Break
11.15 – 13.00	<p>Final plenary session. <i>How to defend and reconfigure European citizenship?</i></p> <p><u>Location:</u> Washington Room</p> <p>Conclusions from the debates on the first day and reports from each of the three workshops on the second.</p> <p>Round table of participants to consider the future agenda of ECIT and the future challenges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The growth in a networked constituency round European citizenship and cross sectoral dialogue among civil society activists, academics and policy makers, - Promotion of a transnational citizenship and the values of respect and non-discrimination on which it is based,

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Arguments against xenophobic populism and the retreat to national citizenship,- New ideas for the development of a citizenship whose potential is being ignored in an EU faced with a number of crises but which could well become the key to solving them in future. |
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For more info, contact us at info@ecit-foundation.eu.