

Summer University on European Citizenship

Countering threats to European citizenship
across borders, reconfiguring its future



30 August - 1 September 2017

Maison des Associations Internationales

40 Rue Washington, 1050 Brussels

BACKGROUND BRIEFING FOR THE ECIT SUMMER UNIVERSITY 2017

Dear participant and would-be participant,

The agenda for the second edition of the Summer University on European Citizenship is deliberately broad so that we stand a chance of capturing the latest trends in thinking among civil society groups, academics and policy makers on the current state and future of European citizenship.

If you want to do some background reading we would recommend the following four books because the authors will be very much present and they are complementary:

- **European Alternatives**, *Shifting Baselines of Europe: New Perspectives beyond Neoliberalism and Nationalism*, , Transcript Verlag, 2017.
- **Alberto Alemanno**, *Lobbying for Change: Find Your Voice to Create a Better Society*, Icon Books Ltd, 2017.
- **Tony Venables**, *Piecing together Europe's Citizenship – Searching for Cinderella*, Nomos, 2016 (English Version) / *Vers un citoyen européen*, Éditions Charles Léopold Mayer, 2016 (French Version)
- **Delphine Bourgeois**, *Bruxelles, une capitale 27 étoiles: Témoignages de ceux qui font l'Europe*, Marque Belge, 2017



held under the Patronage
of the European Parliament

The three-day event will be held under the [high Patronage of the European Parliament](#), considered as a “*praiseworthy initiative*” which “*continues to provide a platform for serious debate on European Citizenship, its future, as well as the future of the European Union*”.



But the great new development of this year consists in a big presence of partners, who will organise their own meetings and workshops, so that you have an offer of different events to go, organised differently with a wide range of materials.

Here is a quick journey through the programme, indicating highlights and materials you will receive in addition to contributions from our partners.

WEDNESDAY, 30 AUGUST 2017

The Opening Session really will provide a baseline to assess where European citizenship stands now with the presentation of the [Commission’s citizenship report](#) and the results of the four year [bEUcitizen project](#). There have also been a number of civil society events particularly during the celebrations of the 60th anniversary of the Treaty of Rome or more recent ones such as [#citizensroute73](#) and the [EESC Civil Society Days 2017](#).-We are in a period of seismic change which is throwing up radical questions about the future of European citizenship. *Should it still be centred on freedom of movement? How to bridge the somewhere/ anywhere divides?* We are all learning and having our attention focussed by its potential loss with a Member State set to withdraw from the EU, so that what was taken for granted can no longer be so. Hence the presentation of the ECI “[EU Citizenship for Europeans: United in Diversity in Spite of jus soli and jus sanguinis](#)”, but also a number of petitions including one from ECIT ([Petition 0101/2017: To challenge the loss of of EU citizenship of 64 million people and to challenge the limitation of the rights all other European citizens as a result of BREXIT](#)). All the signs are that at the risk of becoming irrelevant European citizenship needs to become more social and political. In the light of all this questioning we suggest revisiting the [guidelines](#) and the [background document](#) from last year’s event, so that they meet the challenges and have public resonance. ECIT will table new, less technical texts just before the Summer University. We will still be still keeping the approach to European citizenship as including elements of rights, involvement and trust which should be available to all.

For those who were not present last year, please have a look on these [event report](#) of the previous edition. It helps explain the next three sessions which pinpoint areas where further analysis of specific aspects of European citizenship appeared necessary:

- **Free movement of Persons across the EU.** *What is going on here across Europe? What have been the failures to allow so much opposition and a return to erecting borders to happen? Is this freedom always a win-win situation? How to combat unacceptable side effects with legal, but not just legal instruments? What new policies?* We are working on a report you will receive at the end of July.

- **Empowering citizens and Making their Access to EU Institutions more Effective and participatory.** Here again you will receive interesting material - a comparative analysis from the citizen perspective of the different channels for raising concerns with the EU: complaints and access to justice, public consultation, freedom of information, petitions, requests to the European ombudsman and citizens' initiatives. Rather than seizing on the latest gadget the idea is to stand back and examine the strengths and weaknesses of different options to recommend how all could reach the citizen-beyond the insiders.
- **Education for European Citizenship.** This is one of the greatest knowledge gaps when it comes to assessing the current state of EU citizenship. In theory, every European education system is committed to citizenship education as a stand-alone subject or integrated with others. *Really? Why then is it so difficult to find good examples of education for European citizenship? Can this transnational citizenship work without education and experience?*

Ending the day in a more informal and friendly way, partners and moderators (as well as participants) will be invited to an **Interactive Reception** in order to get to know each other and sharing ideas. This will be the right moment to present ongoing initiatives and new experiences, which might bring concrete solutions and cooperation, common actions and original projects.

PARTNER EVENTS, MORNING 31 AUGUST 2017 & 1 SEPTEMBER 2017

The whole of the morning is given over to partner events: these workshops will allow for more treatment in depth of a particular theme, all are using their own methods - the results of which can be fed into the Summer University. For example:

- **Brexit** [New Europeans](#), [Fragomen](#), [Flock Brexit](#) have BREXIT related workshops which will be a chance to get together EU citizens from the UK and UK citizens in the EU which have petitioned the European Parliament for example or become otherwise active. Nevertheless these workshops can feed into the public debate in the evening of 31 August. *And, isn't this an opportunity for European citizenship?*
- **Youth Participation** [CATCH-EyoU](#) and [CUBE.your take on Europe](#) focus on the new generations' possibilities, needs and actions. Using different methodologies and organising techniques the participants will debate on the role of education, the youth participation channels and the factors influencing young people active EU citizenship.
- **Territoriality** [AEBR](#) and [IVY](#) will focus on how the territory might influence the belonging to the European Union. Among other ongoing projects, Interreg Volunteer Youth Initiative will be deeply debated.
- **European House of Citizens** European citizenship is not just about law and politics, it also needs symbols –which is where the architects must come in. The [MAI](#) and [ETHZürich](#) will promote the discussion whether such a welcoming structure should be available only in Brussels or from anywhere across Europe.



WORKSHOPS, THURSDAY 31 AUGUST

The three workshops in the afternoon will be looking more at the future and at how to strengthen the support for European citizenship in three distinct ways:

- **Enacting European citizenship.** This first workshop explores practical local activism networked across Europe - how to bring the actors together and scale up this new approach to European citizenship? How to bring together and give more weight to local and European experimentation by citizens for citizens without killing off spontaneity? Those contributing to the workshop have some answers.
- **Political European Citizenship** The third workshop on political European citizenship will look at a forthcoming proposal by ECIT for an ECI demanding voting rights for European citizens living on other EU countries in all elections. Options are described here for civil society to make an impact on the 2019 European elections, ranging from the classical approach to one of partnership with political parties to forming a new transnational political party. This last possibility is acutely analysed in the recent [ECIT working paper](#).
- **Master Class in Citizen Lobbying** This session will be more about how local action can if conditions are right be followed up by claims to the EU, using the range of existing possibilities which we will have compared on day one. Thanks to [The Good Lobby](#) experience this workshop will take the shape of a real training session for citizen lobbyists.

Last year some 200 000 people attended the **public debate** and we are inviting the back with the same panel: *has anything changed? How many UK citizens are applying for Belgian citizenship? Are we any wiser about the future of European rights post-BREXIT?* The EU and the UK have only published recently their positions. The opening shots in the negotiations give little clue. *What is going on in with the European citizens' initiatives and all the petitions? To what extent will they be heard in the European Parliament which is preparing a report for this autumn?*

FRIDAY, 1 SEPTEMBER 2017

The Final Plenary Session of the Summer University will be particularly important:

- to hear results from all the partner events and parallel workshops;
- to drawing the threads together and mapping both recommendations and our future work programme.



The Summer University comes just before the EU institutions get back to work after the summer holidays so is well timed for sending short-term urgent messages. The Summer University is though more ambitious and an opportunity for you to help shape the longer term future of European citizenship. In this last session we will draw up a **list of priorities and recommendations** and take a last look at the new guidelines and background document.