

# 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

## LAST - MINUTE BRIEFING FOR THE ECIT SUMMER UNIVERSITY 2017

Dear speakers, moderators, participants and partners,

This revised and updated briefing should be read alongside the latest version of the [programme for our three - day event](#), the [partners' meetings](#), the schedule of the [public debate](#) and the [lunchtime discussion with the Task Force 50](#).

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, you can check the [material and reports](#) for the Summer University. We would recommend also the following four books because the authors will be very much present:

- **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](#) and is 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*”.



The new development of this year is 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. For all this to come together we suggest repeating last year’s informal and participatory approach with speakers keeping speeches to under 10 minutes allowing maximum time for discussion and moderators encouraging round tables where participants give reactions and headline their own research/ projects.

The [temporary list of participants](#) shows a sizeable core group attending the 3-day event and more people coming to the public event and some of the partner meetings. This is also the case with the lunchtime meeting we have added on 1 September thanks to the Commission Task Force on Article 50 accepting our invitation to brief on the results of the negotiations with the UK. A good reason to stay until the end?

We are setting aside a small room called “The Melting Pot Room” where people can get or be put in touch and post their ideas and invitations to meetings.

**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](#). A member of the European Parliament may come to comment. There have also been a number of civil society events starting with the celebrations of the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Treaty of Rome. We are in a period of change which is throwing up questions about the future of European citizenship. *Should it still be centred on freedom of movement? How to bridge the somewhere/ anywhere divides?* A paper by the chair of this session Dora Kostakopoulou “[Citizenship Templates Post – Brexit](#)” is asking whether Union citizenship should be based solely on nationality. Hence the presentation of the ECI “[EU Citizenship for Europeans: United in Diversity in Spite of jus soli and jus sanguinis](#)”. 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 more popular resonance. What should be changed, added?

For those who were not present last year, please have a look at the [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 have done a [report on free movement under threat](#) which presents new ideas for policy makers for free movement for all and a free movement solidarity fund. A report related to BREXIT can be found [here](#).*
- **Empowering citizens and making their access to EU Institutions more effective and participatory.** Here again material is available - a [comparative analysis from the citizen perspective](#) of the different channels for raising concerns with the EU: complaints and access to justice, public consultations, freedom of information, petitions to the European Parliament. 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. Is it a question of institutional reform or providing help desks and giving citizens the tools to act?
- **Education for European Citizenship.** This is one of the greatest knowledge gaps when it comes to assessing the current state of EU citizenship. The researchers and experts will present models. 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?*

In all three areas some work has been completed by ECIT since the last Summer University: more needed!

After this session, we would like to invite everyone for an **interactive reception** where we can introduce you to others and particularly get a one - minute introduction to each of the partners' meeting on the following two days.

### **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 - 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. These workshops can feed into the Public Debate in the evening of 31 August.
- **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, an Interreg Volunteer Youth Initiative will be debated.
- **European House of Citizens.** European citizenship is not just about law and politics, it also needs strong symbols –which is where the architects must come in. The [MAI](#) and [ETH Zürich](#) will promote the discussion of whether such a welcoming structure should be available only in Brussels or from anywhere across Europe.

## WORKSHOPS, THURSDAY 31 AUGUST

Back to the core programme of the Summer University, the workshops in the afternoon will be looking more to the future and how to strengthen 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. This session clearly should link up with partner meetings and ideas for a more local/territorial European citizenship such as the solidarity fund.
- **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. The Chair of this session has produced a well-researched [paper](#). 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 analysed in an [ECIT working paper](#).
- **Master Class in citizen lobbying** This parallel 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 people attended the **Public Debate** and we are inviting back partly 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 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? For those who want to find out more there will also be the lunchtime debate with the representative of the Article 50 Task Force mentioned above, on the next day.*

## 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 draw the threads together and map both recommendations and our future work programme.

The Summer University comes just before the EU Institutions get back to work after the holidays so is well timed for sending short - term urgent messages. The Summer University is also an opportunity to help shape the longer - term future of European citizenship. How this last session is to be organised depends very much on how we gather in ideas and contributions from the previous days in "**The Melting Pot Room**". We envisage a world café style of approach with four roundtables meeting in parallel and coming up with conclusions:

- A roundtable on **a more coherent approach to European citizenship** looking in more detail at the ECIT 12 Point Agenda and Guidelines and how these should be developed and gather support; designing stronger symbols of this unique transnational citizenship.
- A roundtable on **a more locally based approach to European citizenship** and how community action can be linked across borders, identifying different types of network. This appears to be a new dimension and perhaps the most positive context in which to consider its future.
- A roundtable on **EU reforms necessary to connect to citizens** and ways in which their voices can be heard above the clamour of lobbyists. In the background to the crises and debate on the future of Europe another debate on reform and transparency is about to emerge.
- A roundtable on how at a time when **European citizenship** is on the agenda, it is becoming **more political in the run up to the 2019 European elections** – making voting rights universal for European citizens, making the European elections more European and even creating new genuinely transnational political parties.



After this, all are welcome to stay for the [Lunchtime Discussion on the results of the latest round of negotiations between the EU and the UK](#) which are happening in parallel to the Summer University.