

TAKE THE INITIATIVE Event - Vienna, 13.12.2018

TAKE THE INITIATIVE: the European Citizens' Initiative as a tool to shape Europe

TAKE THE INITIATIVE: this event will bring insights on citizens-powered democracy to Vienna for a day of learning, connecting and debating around the European Citizens' Initiative.

The interactive conference TAKE THE INITIATIVE will be held in the *Haus der Europäischen Union* in **Vienna, Austria, on Thursday 13 December 2018** in the context of #EUTakeTheInitiative, a campaign by the European Commission to raise awareness of the European Citizens' Initiative as a way for Europeans to have a greater say in the policies that affect their lives.

This event will be a unique opportunity to be among the first ones to learn first-hand what changes the EU will implement to make the European Citizens' Initiative more user-friendly and easy-to-use. You will also learn of how to coordinate a successful European citizens' initiative campaign; and will be invited to pitch your own idea of an initiative and look for innovative activities, tools and partnerships to turn it into a campaign with an impact.

AGENDA



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9:30 – 10:00

REGISTRATION | COFFEE

<p>10:00 – 11:00</p>	<p>OPENING SESSION</p> <p>WELCOME</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Robert Stein, Head of Department of Electoral Affairs, Federal Ministry of the Interior, Austria <p>Introduction on the reform of the European Citizens' Initiative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • György Schöpflin, Member of the European Parliament and rapporteur on the European Citizens' Initiative for the Committee on Constitutional Affairs • Rudiger Boogert, Head of Unit, Policy Priorities & Work Programme, Secretariat-General, European Commission <p>Europe as a People's Project: Towards a new paradigm for citizen participation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alberto Alemanno, Professor of European Union Law & Policy, HEC Paris & Founder, The Good Lobby
<p>11:00 – 11:15</p>	<p>COFFEE BREAK</p>
<p>11:15 – 12:30</p>	<p>Towards the new European Citizens' Initiative: a vision for more citizens' participation in EU policymaking</p> <p>Moderator Bruno Kaufmann, Initiative and Referendum Institute Europe</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • György Schöpflin, Member of the European Parliament and rapporteur on the European Citizens' Initiative for the Committee on Constitutional Affairs • Rudiger Boogert, Head of Unit, Policy Priorities & Work Programme, Secretariat-General, European Commission • Kinga Joó, Member of the European Economic and Social Committee and rapporteur of the opinion on the European Citizens' Initiative • Gregor Wenda, Deputy Head of Department of Electoral Affairs, Federal Ministry of the Interior, Austria • Erwin Mayer, Founder of Mehr Demokratie! Austria & Board member of Democracy International
<p>12:30 – 14:00</p>	<p>LUNCH</p>
<p>14:00 – 15:00</p>	<p>The European Citizens' Initiative in practice: how to realise its full potential</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to draft an initiative <p>Elisa Lironi, Digital Democracy Manager & Flavio Grazian, Digital Democracy Coordinator, European Citizens' Initiative Forum & European Citizens Action Service (ECAS)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to raise funds <p>Pieter Boeder, Communication consultant & Member of We are Europe!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to look for partners <p>Dessy Gavrilova, Chairwoman of European Network of Houses for Debate "Time to Talk" & Founder and Chair of The Red House Center for Culture and Debate, Sofia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to campaign & collect statements of support <p>Julia Hahn, Head of Bürgerforum Europa</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to communicate and collaborate better on the European Citizens' Initiative <p>Yana Pargova, #EUTakeTheInitiative Campaign Manager, GOPA Com.</p>
<p>15:00 – 15:30</p>	<p>COFFEE BREAK</p>

15:30 – 17:00	<p>What is your citizens' initiative idea or challenge you would like to work on for a greater impact?</p> <p>Moderator Yana Pargova, #EUTakeTheInitiative Campaign Manager, GOPA Com.</p> <p>Pitch your idea for a European citizens' initiative and develop it collaboratively; raise a challenge you are facing and find a solution together; look for innovative ways, activities, tools and partnerships to turn your idea into a campaign with an impact.</p>
17:00 – 17:05	CLOSING
17:05 – 18:00	COCKTAIL

REGISTRATION IS NOW CLOSED

COLLABORATION

To prepare for the conference, you can already explore the European Citizens' Initiative Forum, register as a member of the Forum and take advantage of opportunities for learning and collaboration:

- [Sign up for the monthly newsletter](#) to get regular updates about the European Citizens' Initiative
- Visit the [LEARN section](#) for webinars, how-to guides and success stories
- Visit the [DISCUSS section](#) to contribute to topics of discussion and existing ideas of initiatives
- Find partners through the [CONNECT section](#)
- Download videos and other visual materials at the dedicated [COMMUNICATION page](#)

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

The event will have simultaneous interpretation in German, French and English.

The *Haus der Europäischen Union* in Vienna is located at Wipplingerstraße 35, 1010 Wien.
If you have any questions, do not hesitate to get in touch on team@eutaketheinitiative.eu.