

The IMPEU Project

The aim of the project Improving Inclusion of EU Mobile Citizens (IMPEU) is to foster political participation of EU mobile citizens and enhance capacity and knowledge of civil servants and relevant national, regional and local experts on EU citizenship and related political rights.

The first phase of the project will focus on the research into best practices on political inclusion policies across the European Union. The project partners will identify obstacles faced by EU mobile citizens when claiming their EU citizenship rights. Finally, they will also analyse civil servants' training needs related to political participation of EU mobile citizens. This will be done through desk research, online surveys, citizens' dialogues and roundtables gathering representatives of policy-makers.

Based on that, in the second phase, a needs-based training course will be developed for civil servants and relevant national, regional and local experts. The course will be available on an online training platform, while additional material will be also developed for the trainers to administer and facilitate the delivery of the program. Relevant and tailored information on EU citizenship will be also available for citizens, public officials, civil servants and experts through provision of online information toolkits and establishment of Info Kiosks.



The project is funded by Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme of the European Commission and is implemented by:

- Agenzia per lo Sviluppo dell'Empolese Valdelsa (ASEV), Italy
- Institut za Podgotovka na Slujiteliv Mejdunarodni Organizacii Zdruzhenie (ITPIO), Bulgaria
- European Citizen Action Service (ECAS), EU-wide organisation
- Helping Hand NGO (HELPING HAND), Greece
- Municipality of Vrilissia (MUVRI), Greece
- Magenta Consultoria Projects SI (MAGENTA), Spain



Improving Inclusion of EU Mobile Citizens



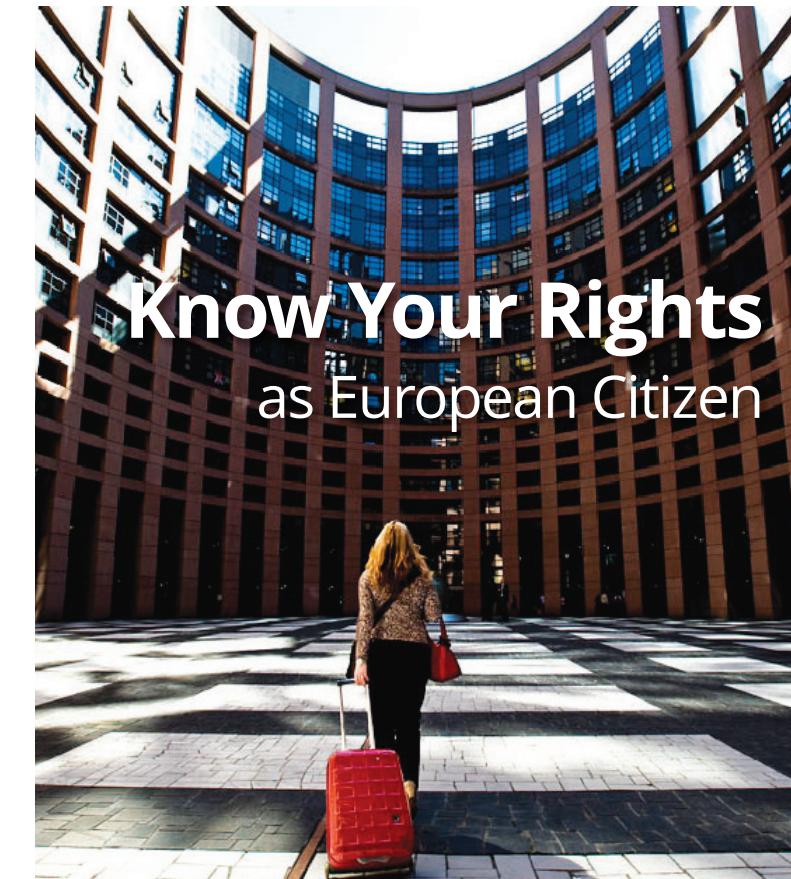
Improving Inclusion of EU Mobile Citizens



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The Background

Europeans are more than ever aware of their status as citizens of the European Union. Four out of five Europeans cherish, in particular, the right to free movement that allows them to live, work, study and do business anywhere in the EU (December 2016 Eurobarometer).

While the majority of Europeans feel better informed about these rights, some gaps in the knowledge of EU citizenship still persist. Citizens need to be aware of their rights in order to benefit from them, so further improving the understanding of EU rights, including the right to free movement and the conditions attached to it, is crucial for their effective day-to-day implementation.

Being a European citizen also means enjoying political rights. Every adult EU citizen has the right to vote and stand as candidate in elections to the European Parliament and in municipal elections in their Member State of residence, under the same conditions as nationals of that State.

While the number of EU citizens of voting age has been steadily increasing in the EU, many citizens are not aware of their electoral rights and experience challenges when they want to participate in elections. As a result, this right is not exercised as fully as it could be and political participation of mobile EU citizens remains limited.

IMPEU Main Aim

To respond to the aforementioned challenges and in view of the 2019 European Parliament election and municipal elections in Spain, Greece, Italy and Bulgaria, IMPEU will:

- a) provide public authorities and relevant experts with policy guidance and capacity-building training resources with an aim to enable and facilitate the participation of mobile EU citizens in their host Member States, and
- b) provide EU mobile citizens with information on their rights through the development of on-site and online tools and awareness raising activities, thus enhancing their social and political participation in host communities.

IMPEU Objectives

- To identify the existing best practices on political inclusion policies across the EU28 and assess their transferability.
- To identify the obstacles faced by EU mobile citizens when claiming their EU citizenship rights and the training needs of civil servants to enable and facilitate the social and political participation of EU mobile citizens
- To enhance the capacity of civil servants and relevant national, regional and local experts to enable and facilitate the participation of mobile EU citizens in the participating countries, through needs-tailored training
- To enhance social and political participation of EU mobile citizens through the development of information tools and provision of awareness raising activities
- To provide policy-makers in local, regional, national and EU levels with evidence-based policy recommendations aiming at promoting the inclusion of EU mobile citizens, active citizenship and democratic participation



Major IMPEU Results

Online trainings for public officials

The IMPEU training workshops will be addressed to civil servants and will aim at enhancing their capacity to enable and facilitate political participation of mobile EU citizens in the participating countries. The training programme will be a Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) delivered via an online platform, thus allowing participants to follow the course at their own pace.

Q&A Citizen Toolkit "Know Your Rights as a European citizen"

The toolkit for EU mobile citizens will provide one-stop information to support the participation of EU mobile citizens in the political and social life of their host communities. It will contain a number of practical recommendations, helping them participate in the democratic life, create links in/with the local community and have access to competent national, regional and local authorities.

Physical and online Info Kiosks.

Info Kiosks

Info Kiosks will be established in each partner country and will be also available online, aiming at directly supporting the participation of mobile EU citizens through information and advice. The establishment of the Info-Kiosks will give the opportunity to mobile EU citizens to access information and advice on major EU topics, including legislation and administrative practices related to political participation, including voting rights, and responsibilities of EU mobile citizens in a given country/region/city.

IMPEU Web App

The Q&A Citizen Toolkit that will be transformed into a web application compatible with mobile phones and tablets, thus facilitating the access of EU citizens to information that will enhance their awareness of EU rights and their socio-political participation in host communities.