



ECI review

2020-2023

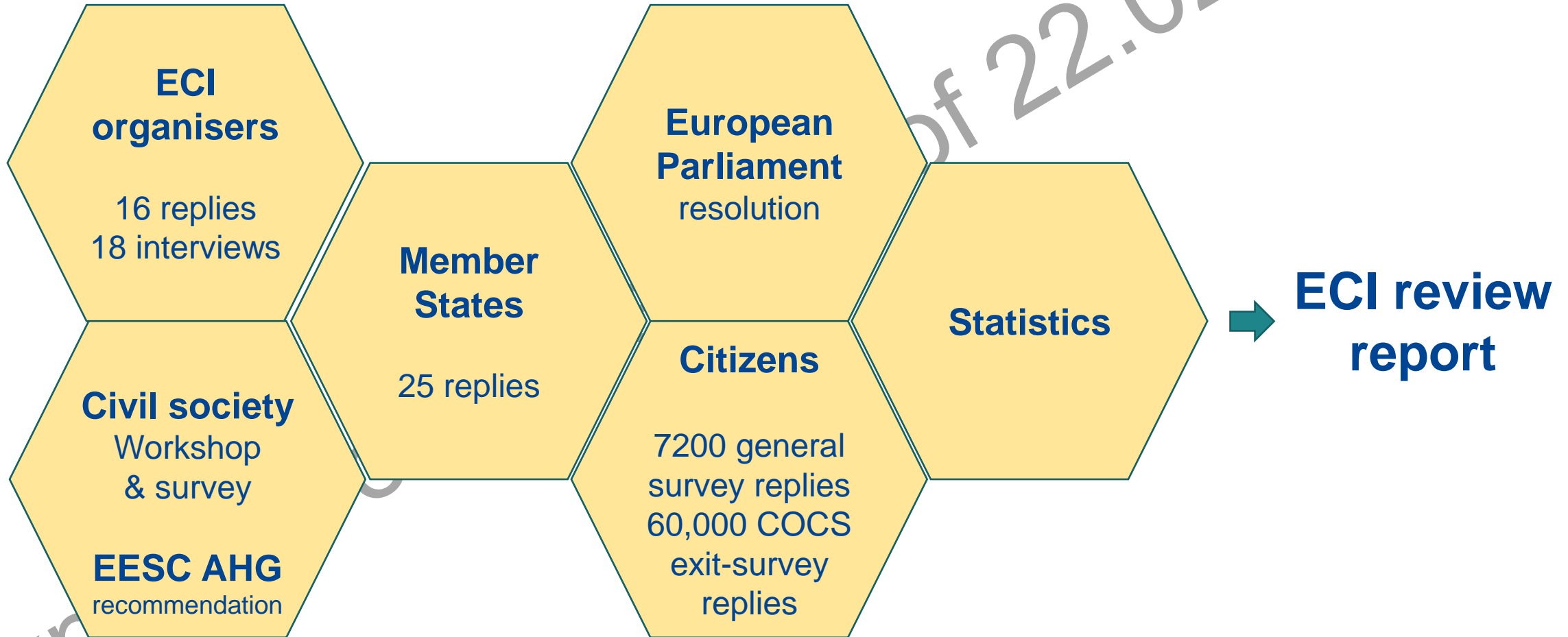
ECI Expert Group

22/2/2024

Review clause

- Art. 25 of Regulation (EU) 2019/788: *The Commission shall **periodically review** the functioning of the European citizens' initiative and present a report to the European Parliament and the Council on the application of this Regulation **no later than 1 January 2024**, and every four years thereafter. These reports shall cover also the **minimum age to support European citizens' initiatives** in the Member States. The reports shall be made **public**.*
- Scope of the review: take stock of the implementation and application of the rules so far, including COVID-19 temporary measures.

Data collected



Overall assessment of revised rules

- The revised rules provide a **more accessible, less burdensome and more user-friendly framework** for ECI organisers and supporters.
- **The full impact** of the revised rules can only be assessed over a **longer period of application under normal circumstances**.
- **Further practical improvements** can already be made **within the existing legal framework**.

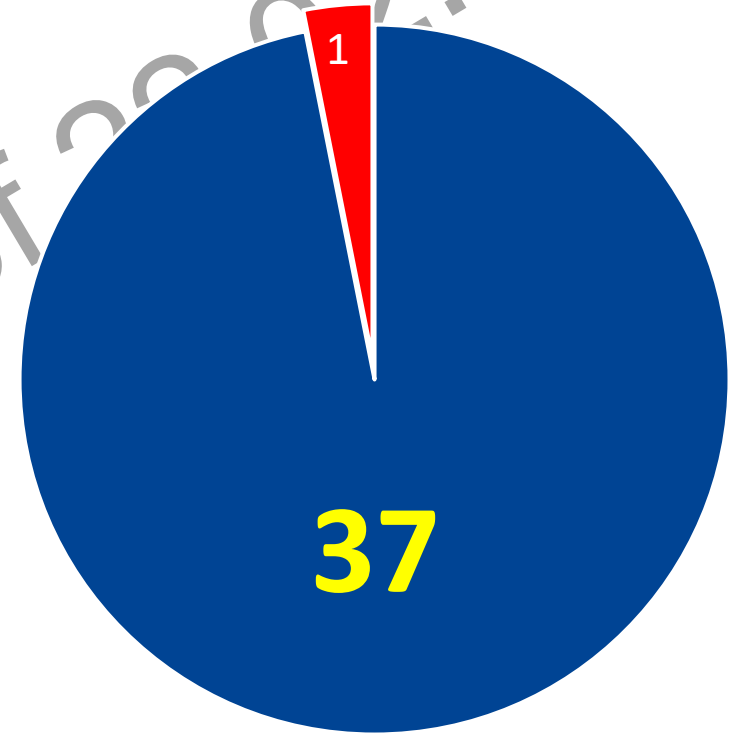
Minimum age to support ECIs

State of play

16 years old	5 MS: AT, MT, EE (as of 1/1/2020), DE (as from 1/1/2023), BE (as of 1/5/2023)
17 years old	EL
18 years old	21 MS: BG, CZ, DK, IE, ES, FI, HR, IT, CY, LV, LT, LU, HU, NL, PL, PT, RO, SI, SK, SE, FR

Registration phase (2020 – 2023)

- Over 95% registration success rate
- 2-stage procedure applied in 9 cases
- 75% of surveyed organisers concerned by the new rules considered the ECI procedure for registration **overall effective** and **straightforward**



■ Registered initiatives
■ Registration refused

Collection phase

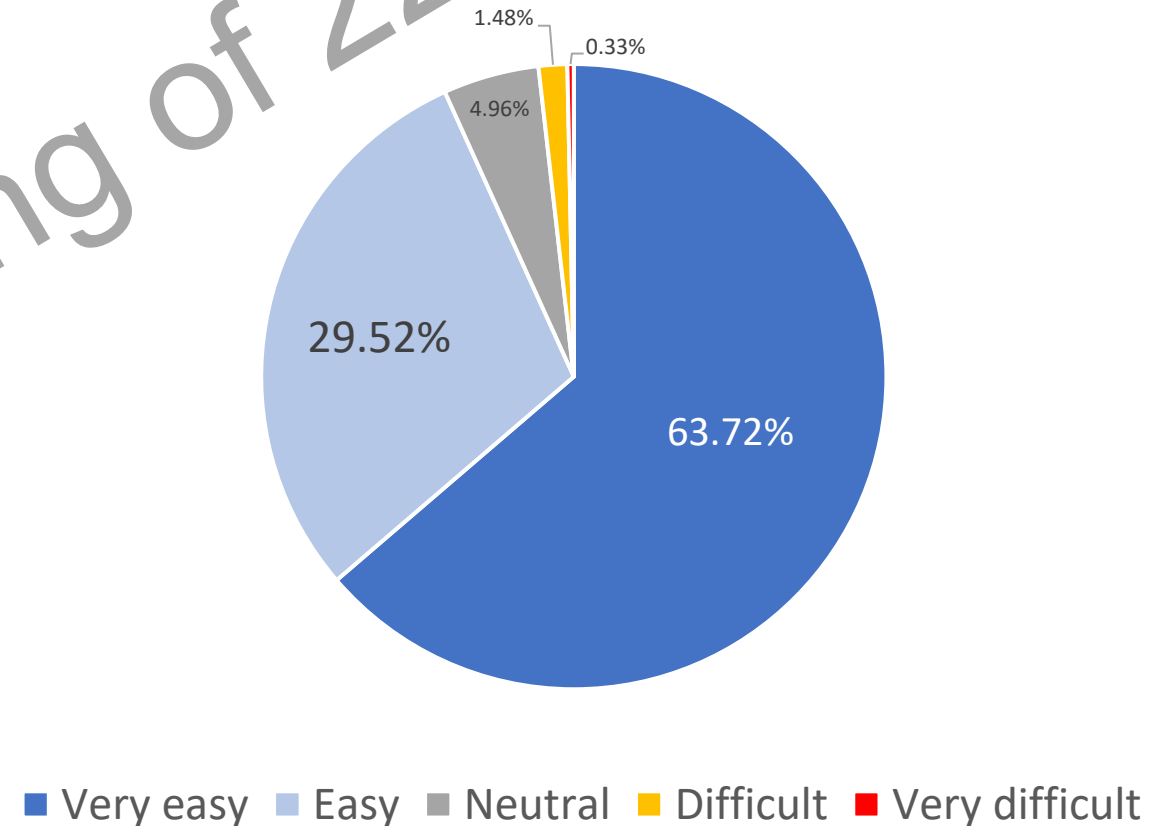
- **5** initiatives managed to collect 1 million signatures (2+3), **3** after COVID-19 extensions.
- **Organisers** surveyed were **fairly satisfied** with the effectiveness of the procedures and tools available for collection phase.
- The **6 months** for preparing the **collection** – essential for organisers.

5 ECIs
> 1 million
signatures

Online collection systems

- Before 31/12/2022: **20 initiatives** chose the **Central Online Collection system**, and **6** the **Individual Online Collection System**
- **Central system:**
 - Signatories – **high levels of satisfaction** (93%) with the system;
 - Organisers positive about **shift of most responsibilities for data protection to the Commission.**

How easy was it for you to support the initiative using the Central Online Collection System?



eID integration with COCS

02.2024

State of play of e-ID integrations with COCS (December 2023)		
Enabling eID	16	BE, CZ, DE, EE, ES, HR, IT, LV, LT, LU, MT, NL, AT, PT, SK, SE
Work in progress	5	BG, DK, FR, PL, SI
Not enabled	6	IE, EL, CY, HU, RO, FI

Expoc

Verification phase

- 7 initiatives completed the verification procedure during the reporting period, 6 with positive outcomes.
- File Exchange Service and prevalence of online signatures facilitate verification.
- Organisers considered the **procedure for verification as overall effective.**

6 ECIs
completed
verification
successfully

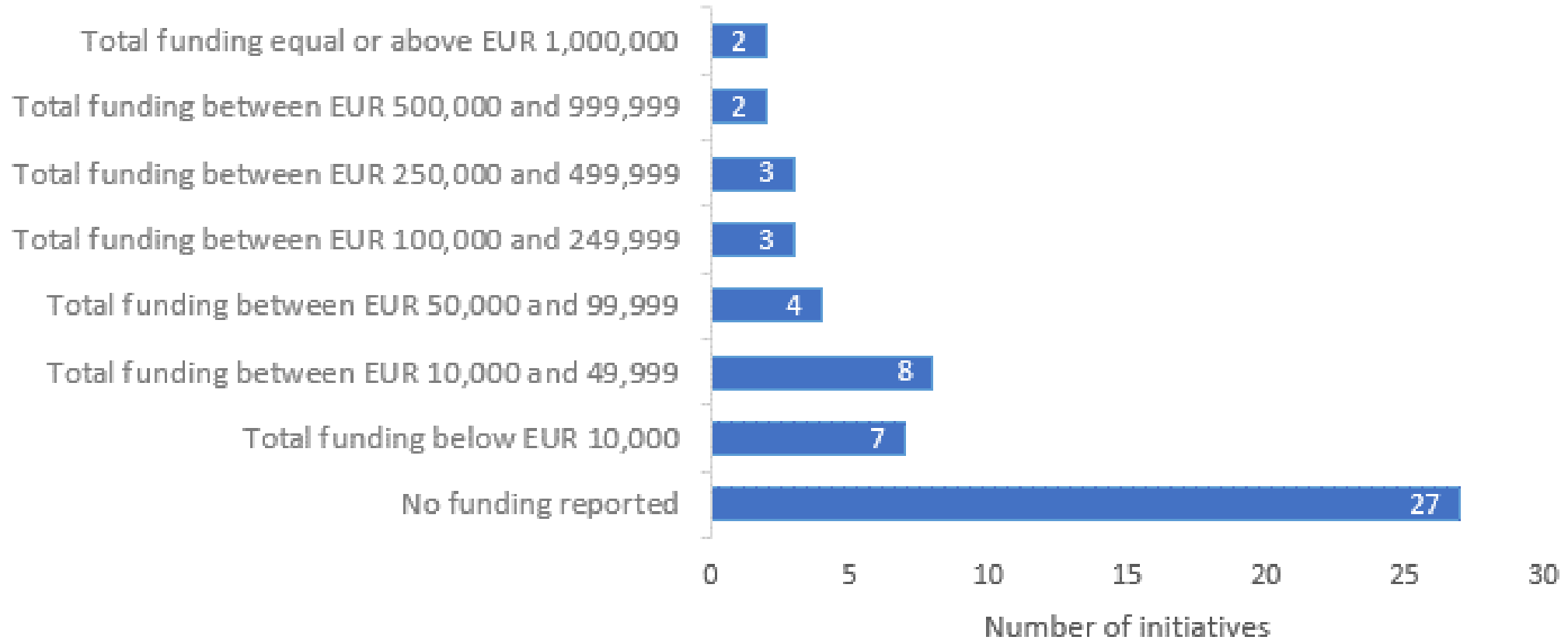
Examination phase

- **Organisers surveyed satisfied** with the opportunities offered to present their initiative (meeting with the Commission, public hearing at the EP).

6
Commission
replies
to valid ECIs

Transparency

02.2024



EXR

Information and guidance

- Communication
 - **'EU Take the Initiative' communication campaign** - traffic to the ECI website more than doubled since 2020; six-fold increase in subscriptions to the ECI newsletter, and the social media campaigns have substantial outreach.
 - **National Contact Points** – websites & replies to questions from citizens.
 - Other EU institutions: **EP** (public hearings & plenary debates), **EESC** – annual **ECI Day**
 - **64% EU-wide awareness of the ECI**
- Guidance to ECI organisers: **overall positive feedback** from organisers regarding the advice provided by the ECI Forum at different stages of the ECI procedure.

Impact of COVID-19

- The pandemic **significantly disrupted the functioning of the ECI** in the first two years of application of the new ECI Regulation.
- The temporary measures managed to limit the impact on initiatives.
- **12** initiatives granted extensions of up to 12 months for the collection of signatures
 - > **3** initiatives reached the required thresholds
- 1 MS granted upon request an extension of the deadline for completing its verification obligations.

Way forward

Support to ECI
organisers

More visible
follow-up of
ECIs

Public
awareness and
visibility

Central Online
Collection
System

ECI
implementation
at national level



Thank you for your attention