

NEWSLETTER

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ECI from
A to Z

EUROPEAN CITIZENS' INITIATIVE:
A TOOL FOR ENGAGEMENT AND ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP



At the end of the academic year and during the summer holidays, the students of the Project “ECI: from A to Z” took part in the ECI Online Course, counting with a synchronous session and a final assignment.

MEDIUM TERM MEETING IN VIGO

On the 25th and 26th of October, some of the Professors and researchers of the ECI Team headed towards Vigo in order to attend the Medium-Term Meeting hosted by the University of Vigo.

Throughout these two days, the ECI Team carried out the evaluation of the ECI online course, discussed the organization of the upcoming Model ECI and related peer learning activities, planned the production of the scientific outcomes of the Project and reflected on financial aspects of the project.

Moreover, since they finally got the chance to enjoy each other's company (in person), the members of the Team got to know the local culture, by walking around Vigo and being warmly received in Baiona, and had, overall, a great time together!



NATIONAL MEETINGS: ANALYSIS OF THE COMMISSION'S COMMUNICATION REGARDING THE ECI “END THE CAGE AGE”



Taking into consideration the scope of the Project, each partner University's team organized a meeting with the respective students in order to analyze the Commission's Communication regarding the ECI “End the Cage Age”.

The “End the Cage Age” Initiative is the sixth European Citizens' Initiative to reach the minimum number of signatures required by the Treaties (one million signatures). The Initiative calls out the inhumane treatment of farm animals through the use of cages and aims at enabling the implementation of cage-free systems which would improve the welfare of farm animals.

In each meeting, the students reflected on the ECI's organizers' arguments, on the Commission's conclusions, on the legal and political framework and on the ECI's impact. Furthermore, each University planned dynamic activities regarding the ECI and its analysis with the purpose of boosting teamwork and critical thinking.

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ONLINE EVENT “GET TO KNOW ECI”

On the 9th of December, the event “Get to know ECI” took place online and reunited members of the ECI team from the four partner Universities, students of the first year of the Project and, mainly, other students interested in applying for the upcoming year.

The event aimed at publicizing the Project “ECI: From A to Z – European Citizens Initiative: a tool for engagement and active citizenship”, by sharing some of its outcomes and experiences, and clarifying doubts of potentially interested students.

For that effect, the event started with the presentation of a promotional video and opening words, followed by a series of Frequently Asked Questions, the testimonies of students already engaged in the project “ECI: From A to Z”, the presentation of the best videos and posters made by students of the Online Course on ECI, a Q & A session and a final activity.



WHAT'S TO COME IN 2022?

After a year filled with challenges and obstacles due to the pandemic context, yet extremely fruitful thanks to the dedication of everyone involved in the Project, what can we expect from the second year of the ECI journey?

The students that engaged in the first year of the Project will participate in the last event, the Model ECI, that will (hopefully) take place in Göttingen in March.

Regarding the students of the second year, the selection process will be carried out between January and March and, depending on the circumstances and restrictive measures, some of the activities will take place in person, starting with the Peer Learning Activity in Iași in May and ending with the Second Model ECI in Vigo in October. The second year of “ECI: from A to Z” will, naturally, entail a second edition of the ECI Online Course prepared by the Professors and researchers of the Project.

The members of the Project “ECI: from A to Z” wish you all a Happy New Year”!

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