

How to... Navigate the ECI Support Infrastructures

5 March | 14:00 – 15:30



Organised by: Vasiliki Mustakis, European Citizen Action Service (ECAS)

Report

On 5 March, as part of ECI Day, ECAS organised a workshop on the support infrastructures of the ECI. This workshop, designed with an interactive approach, aimed to explain and showcase the support infrastructures of the ECI, specifically the ECI Forum, the Organiser Account and the ECI official website (portal). The interactive puzzle game, a key component of the workshop, not only tested the participants' knowledge and understanding of the ECI Forum and the Organiser Account but also fostered a collaborative learning environment. Participants were split into small groups, encouraging teamwork to find the correct puzzle pieces for the ECI Forum and Organiser Account puzzles. The puzzle results then led to in-depth presentations of the different support infrastructures of the ECI.

After the puzzle game, Vasiliki Mustakis, ECAS's Participatory Democracy Manager, presented the ECI Forum. Her presentation focused on clarifying the role of the ECI Forum as the primary support centre for potential and current ECI organisers. She highlighted the various support tools available on the Forum, including the Seek Advice tool, Guidance Notes, Success Stories, etc. Ms. Mustakis also underscored the distinction between the ECI Forum and ECI official website, explaining that while the ECI Forum is an online collaborative platform that provides guidance materials, training and advice, the ECI official website serves as a comprehensive information hub about the ECI, including details on registered, current, valid and successful initiatives, how to sign an initiative, EC official communication material of the ECI and a step-by-step guide on how the ECI works.

Following the presentation of the ECI Forum and the ECI official website, Ms. Mustakis introduced Jérôme Stefanini, Lead of the IT Team on ECI, DIGIT, and European Commission, who presented the Organiser Account. This account, located on the ECI official website, is a crucial tool for ECI organisers. Mr. Stefanini walked through all its features, demonstrating how organisers can register an ECI through the account, the different phases of the registration

process, how to set up and customize their central online collection system, the data that citizens can collect through the system, how to declare funding and sources of support, how signatures are sent for verification, how a valid ECI is sent to the Commission and how citizens can sign an ECI online and on paper.

Ms. Mustakis concluded the workshop by stressing the necessity of support infrastructures for potential and/or current ECI organisers. She stated that it is vital for these organisers to know how these support infrastructures work and what they offer. We need to continuously update, develop and improve these support infrastructures to ensure their usefulness for organisers.