

Abstract

European Citizens' Initiative

The main core of the thesis is the problematics of the European Citizens' Initiative, a tool relatively new that was put in place by the Lisbon Treaty and allows one million citizens from at least seven EU Member States to ask the European Commission to propose legislation in areas that fall within its competence. This thesis provides a detailed description of this instrument of participatory democracy, its historical foundations, its development and also the recent proposal for a regulation on the European citizens' initiative that aims to fill the gaps discovered during the period of its existence. It describes the formal and procedural requirements required for the successful submission of the initiative to the European Commission, particularly for registration, and thus the official launch of the initiative. It focuses on the forms of statements of support and the complication that it brought. The thesis also introduces some of the initiatives that have been organised since 2012, both successful and unsuccessful, including those that the Commission has refused to register. There is also an evaluation of the initiatives, the experiences and challenges that the organizers have met and especially the impact of the successful ones. The thesis points out particular problematic areas that could be the cause of a little participation of EU citizens and their belittling interest not just in this instrument, but in European affairs in general. Last but not least, the thesis is intended to achieve the objectives for which the European Citizens' Initiative was introduced by the Lisbon Treaty. So whether this instrument has succeeded in involving EU citizens in its affairs, inspiring them to propose legislation and reducing the EU's democratic deficit, but also enhancing an international cooperation and belonging of the EU citizens.

Keywords

European Citizens' Initiative – Democratic Deficit – Instrument of Participatory Democracy