



European Citizen's Initiative:
A tool for engagement and active citizenship.
"ECI from A to Z"

University of Coimbra (Portugal) – University of Vigo (Spain) –
University Alexandru Ioan Cuza Din Iasi (Rumania) – University of Göttingen (Germany)

The Jean Monnet Chair has joined the universities of Coimbra (Portugal), Vigo (Spain), and Iasi (Romania) to promote civic engagement and voluntary participation among their students. The interactive project "European Citizen's Initiative: A tool for engagement and active citizenship" seeks to develop participation skills for university students with tools that they can and probably will use in their path to an ever-increasing active and inclusive citizenship. The project is co-funded by the Erasmus Program.

Who can participate?

Students from Bachelor or Master from all faculties and programs at the University of Göttingen. A total of 20 students will be selected each year to participate in the ECI Project, including at least five students with disabilities, belonging to minorities or migrants.

How are students involved?

- They will participate in peer-learning activities with students from all-participant universities. Peer learning activities include collaborative events, meetings, workshops, and coaching.
- They will participate in the online course on the European Citizen Initiative.
- They will choose the subject to be the European Citizens' Initiative proposal theme for the ECI model.
- They will participate in an ECI model in teams with students from all-participant universities.

What is the online course on ECI?

In 2021, students will have the opportunity to participate in an interactive online course on ECI to equip them with all necessary competencies (professional, linguistic, social) to assume an active stand in common interest subjects. Students will interact with each other, even from different Universities, to discuss common concern topics and joint proposals and integrate transnational teams. Some topics addressed in the course are:

- Comparative direct participatory mechanisms,
- European Citizenship,
- European Citizens Initiative: goals, regulation, procedure, and
- ECI experiences in several fields, etc.



What is the ECI model?

At the end of their training experience, students will put into practice what they learned. In teams with students from all-participant universities, they will participate in an ECI model similar to a European Law "Moot Court" or "Model European Union," but with incidence on a European Citizens' Initiative's procedure before the European Commission.

Which subjects does the ECI model address?

- Justice, freedom, and security
- Non-discrimination and citizenship
- Employment and social affairs
- Education, training, youth, and sport
- Public health
- Humanitarian aid, development, and cooperation
- Environment and climate change
- Energy
- Agriculture and fisheries
- Consumer protection, etc.

Where and when do the ECI models take place?

First ECI Model: October 2021. University of Göttingen, Germany.

Second ECI Model: September 2022. University of Vigo, Spain.

How will the students' participation be recognized?

The selected students will have the opportunity to participate in two short term transnational training activities (one initial and one final) and an online course on the European Citizens Initiative. For their participation, they will obtain three certificates – or a joint certificate – of attendance. Further recognition of ECTS credits would also be possible.

Contact

Prof. Dr. Peter-Tobias Stoll
Jean Monnet Chair and Director Department of International Economic and Environmental Law
Email: Peter-Tobias.Stoll@jura.uni-goettingen.de

Yilly Vanessa Pacheco, Mg.
Research Fellow
Department of International Economic and Environmental Law
Email: y.pacheco@jura.uni-goettingen.de