

WHAT

- **Participatory meetings with local authorities**, aimed at identifying and testing **innovative procedures and practices** to inform about and promote voting rights of EU mobile citizens.
- **A social media campaign and videos**, to add value to the personal stories of political engagement and civic participation.
- **Awareness raising events and initiatives** organized with EU mobile citizens' organizations.
- **Training courses on 'education in political participation'** for EU mobile citizens who have strong interest in direct political participation.
- **Guidelines for local authorities** that will illustrate the most effective procedures aimed at providing a comprehensive information on electoral rights and **handbooks for EU mobile citizens**, with practical information on how to register and vote in elections.
- **European Handbook on best practices** by municipalities and EU mobile citizens' associations and a final **European exchange meeting**.
- **Awareness raising and advocacy meetings** with political parties and national authorities, in order to promote changes aimed at facilitating the exercise of voting rights.

Partnership



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PARTICIPATION MATTERS

Fostering civic and political engagement of mobile EU citizens



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OVERVIEW

In recent years, the presence of non-national EU citizens in most Member states has risen significantly, moving from 4.7 million in 2005 to 13.6 million in 2012. This growth has led to a **significant increase in the number of non-national EU citizens of voting age**, while latest figures on voter turnout show that **the percentage of voters among them is very low**, both in European and local elections.

There are many obstacles to participation:

- lack of or limited information available
- low interest due to the feeling that political participation has no impact on daily life
- procedural obstacles to registration in the electoral rolls
- lack of interest on the part of political parties in engaging non-nationals as active members

'Participation matters' works on the most relevant factors that limit participation, in order to build a **solid awareness in EU citizens** that political participation is a crucial aspect of inclusion in the host society and a **lasting commitment by public institutions** to promote it.

OBJECTIVES

The general objective of this project is **to foster the successful inclusion and participation of mobile EU citizens in the host EU country's civic and political life**. To attain this objective, the project will improve knowledge and expertise of local authorities on this topic and increase awareness and **promote active engagement of European mobile citizens** and their associations, in order to enhance their contribution to a greater political inclusion of EU mobile citizens. Other important goals will be to **boost the role of political parties and national authorities** in removing the obstacles to political participation and to **raise awareness of the general public** on the political rights deriving from European citizenship.

WHO

European Union citizens living in European countries of which they are not nationals and their associations will be directly involved in the project and will benefit from the results. Other beneficiaries will be local authorities and other stakeholders that have an interest in higher levels of political participation by EU movers.

**From January 2016
to December 2017**

**In Austria,
Italy and Spain**

