

# IMPEU

## Good Practice Guide on Political Inclusion Policies



*Improving Inclusion of EU Mobile Citizens*



# IMPEU

## Improving Inclusion of EU Mobile Citizens

### Good Practice Guide on political inclusion policies

Work package	Title
2	Political inclusion policies for EU mobile citizens and civil servants' training needs
Activity	Title
2.1	Analysing existing best practices/political inclusion policies across EU 28 in facilitating access to EU citizens' rights and transferability assessment
Deliverable	Title
D2.3	Good Practice Guide on political inclusion policies

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## Introduction

The aim of the project Improving Inclusion of EU Mobile Citizens (IMPEU) is to foster political participation of EU mobile citizens and enhance capacity and knowledge of civil servants and relevant national, regional and local experts on EU citizenship and related political rights.

The first phase of the project will focus on the research into best practices on political inclusion policies across the European Union. The project partners will identify obstacles faced by EU mobile citizens when claiming their EU citizenship rights. Finally, they will also analyse civil servants' training needs related to political participation of EU mobile citizens. This will be done through desk research, online surveys, citizens' dialogues and roundtables gathering representatives of policy-makers.

Based on that, in the second phase, a needs-based training course will be developed for civil servants and relevant national, regional and local experts. The course will be available on an online training platform, while additional material will be also developed for the trainers to administer and facilitate the delivery of the program. Relevant and tailored information on EU citizenship will be also available for citizens, public officials, civil servants and experts through provision of online information toolkits and establishment of Info Kiosks.

The project is funded by Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme of the European Commission and is implemented by:

- Agenzia per lo Sviluppo dell'Empolese Valdelsa (ASEV) - Italy
- Institut za Podgotovka na Slujiteliv Mejdunarodni Organizacii Zdruzenie (ITPIO) - Bulgaria
- European Citizen Action Service (ECAS) - Belgium
- Astiki Mh Kersoskopiki Etareia Helping Hand (HELPING HAND) - Greece
- Dimos Vrillission (MUVRI) - Greece
- Magenta Consultoria Projects SI (MAGENTA) – Spain

The project started in December 2018 and will finish in November 2020.

## Good Practice Guide

In the framework of the IMPEU project, best practices regarding political inclusion policies were selected from all Member States of the European Union<sup>1</sup>. In total, over eighty practices were identified, which were then assessed by the project partners in terms of transferability, effectiveness and efficiency. Each partner evaluated whether the practices would be feasible and necessary in their countries. Some of their comments are included in the analysis below. Based on this, 20 best practices were selected and included in this *Good Practice Guide on political inclusion policies*.

The guide provides a short description of each selected initiative, the reasons for the selection and transferability assessment, based on transferability and applicability framework prepared by ECAS and presented below. The best practices were put in alphabetical order and are not ranked in terms of importance.

<sup>1</sup> Except Croatia, as no best practices were found there.



### Transferability and applicability framework

Category	Factors/Criteria	Questions to Ask
<p><b>Transferability</b></p> <p>Can we expect similar results?</p>	<p><b>Magnitude of issue in target context</b></p> <p><b>Objective of the intervention</b></p> <p><b>Magnitude of “reach” vs. cost effectiveness of the measure</b></p> <p><b>Target group characteristics</b></p> <p><b>Availability of all necessary records and supporting documents to be able transfer a GP to other contexts/countries or to scale it up to a broader target population/geographic context</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does the need exist?</li> <li>• Is it already addressed by other policies/practices? What is the prevalence of the issue in the local context?</li> <li>• Is the measure targeting the same priority objective in the giving and transferring MS?</li> <li>• Will the policy/practice “cover” the target group (mobile EU citizens)?</li> <li>• Is it proportionate to the costs involved?</li> <li>• Are they comparable to the country of origin?</li> <li>• Will any differences in characteristic affect implementation of the practice/policy?</li> <li>• To which extent the implementation results are systematized and documented?</li> </ul>
<p><b>Applicability</b></p> <p>Can it work for us?</p>	<p><b>Political acceptability</b></p> <p><b>Social acceptability</b></p> <p><b>Impact on other stakeholders</b></p> <p><b>Existing institutional/policy</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does the objective of the measure match with political priorities?</li> <li>• Will the target population be interested in the intervention?</li> <li>• Does the measure contradict the interests of any important stakeholders/interest groups?</li> </ul>



**infrastructure**

**Available resources**

**Other local barriers and  
implementation risks**

- Is the measure's potential impact contradicting/ cancelling out/overlapping with existing policies/activities?
- Financial, human resources, training required? Administrative capacity?
- Any factors that can put at risk the implementation, e.g. structural/cultural differences, inefficient institutions, political volatility, social differences?



## Twenty best practices of political inclusion in the EU

### Example 1 – ACM (Portugal)

#### 1.1 Short description

The website of ACM, the High Commission for Migration in Portugal, provides information on a wide range of topics related to living and working in Portugal, including on voting procedures. Citizens can download a welcome kit from the website with the information on the rights and obligations, and answers to the frequently asked questions. In addition, a dictionary, information about music, culture and history of Portugal, as well as resources and programmes for learning and speaking Portuguese are available. All these documents are available in five languages (Portuguese, English, French, Arabic and Tigrinya), while the website itself is available in English and Portuguese.

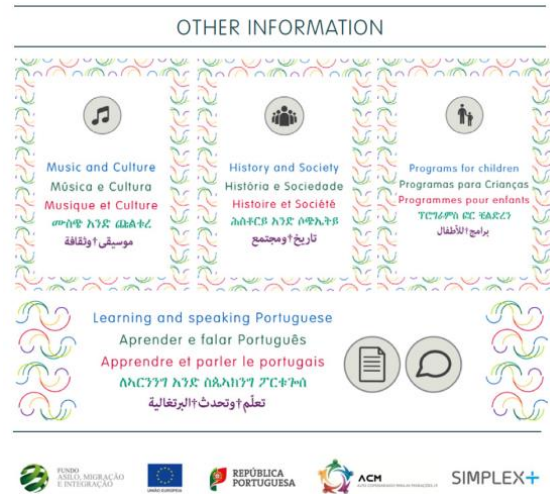


Figure 1 The ACM website

There is no information available on the number of visitors and therefore it may be difficult to assess the efficiency of the website. However, given it is available in five languages and provides information in an interactive manner, we can assume it will reach and provide information to a large group of foreigners (not only mobile EU citizens).

More information: <https://www.acm.gov.pt>

#### I am a foreigner citizen and live in Portugal. May I vote in the Portuguese elections?

You may vote in the elections for local authority bodies, as long as they are registered in the census of the national territory, all Portuguese citizens (and Brazilian citizens with citizen card or ID card) and also citizens of the following countries:

- Member States of the European Union (Germany, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Denmark, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Estonia, Finland, France, Greece, Holland, Hungary, Italy, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Poland, United Kingdom, Czech Republic, Romania and Sweden);
- Brazil and Cape Verde;
- Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Iceland, Norway, New Zealand, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela.

(Declaration nr. 4/2015, of 24th of June)

The vote registration (RE) is mandatory?

How can I register in the voter registration?

Where may I register?

How is it made the identification and proof of residence?

**Lista de Apoio a Migrantes**  
808 251 257 (a partir do rede fixa)  
21 810 61 91 (a partir de rede móvel e para quem esteja a ligação do estrangeiro)

**CIAMM - Centro Nacional de Apoio à Imigração de Migrantes**

**CIAMM Lisboa**  
Rua Álvaro Coutinho, 14  
1550 - 025 Lisboa  
Fax: 21 810 61 17  
WebSite: <http://www.acm.gov.pt>  
E-mail: [informacao@acm.gov.pt](mailto:informacao@acm.gov.pt)

**Horários:**  
De 2<sup>a</sup> a 6<sup>a</sup> das 9h00 às 17h00  
Nota: Devido ao número de utentes do Centro pode haver limitações de sessões para determinados serviços.

**Transportes**  
Metro: Linha verde, estação "Anjos" ou "Saldanha"  
Autocarros Camis: 712, 730, 726, 708

Latitude: 38.72492748292966 ou 38° 43' 30" N  
Longitude: 9.134284257888794 ou 91° 8' 3" W

**CIAMM Norte**  
Av. de França, 376  
Edifício Castêlo  
4050-276 Porto  
Tel: 22 207 38 10  
Fax: 22 207 38 17  
Endereço eletrónico: [informacao@acm.gov.pt](mailto:informacao@acm.gov.pt)

Figure 2 The ACM website, FAQ

#### 1.2 Reasons for selection

As the results of our surveys and meetings with citizens confirm, mobile EU citizens usually look online for the information when they first move to a new host country. Therefore, a single website providing this type of information in multiple languages is a good starting point. It covers a wide range of topics, which are explained in a simple and interesting manner.

The costs of developing websites are relatively low and the content can be easily updated and enriched. The more languages are added, the biggest the potential to reach mobile EU citizens.

The partners in Spain, Greece and Italy stated that there are similar websites available in their country offering this type of information. However, given the comprehensiveness and simplicity of the ACM's website, it should be seen as a framework and a best practice for the countries/governments that are planning to develop similar tools.

#### 1.3 Transferability

Our analysis confirms that mobile EU citizens lack easily accessible information on their rights when travelling or living in another Member State. In this regard, a single website including information on living, working and political participation in the host Member State can be particularly useful.





Several Member States have similar tools but the information provided is usually fragmented and incomplete. Therefore, it is recommendable to create comprehensive websites with all the information on EU and non-EU citizens' rights (many of them are family members of mobile EU citizens).

The website development is usually a one-time investment for the authorities. The costs are reasonable, particularly if we consider how many mobile EU citizens can be reached, and the human resources involvement is limited.

An additional advantage of such websites is that they provide an opportunity to target citizens with certain type of information. Prior to the elections, for instance, the authorities can make the information on political rights more visible (e.g. additional banners, etc.), so that citizens will be informed even if they were not looking for this information in the first place.



Figure 3 The ACM website, banner





## Example 2 – APProach (Paris (France), Milan (Italy), Nea Smyrni (Greece), Etterbeek (Belgium), Vejle (Denmark), Lisbon (Portugal) Warsaw (Poland), Amsterdam (the Netherlands)).

### 2.1 Short description

The project APProach is a pilot project carried out in several Member States under the auspices of the European Association for Local Democracy (ALDA), aimed at EU citizens who are living in another EU country. Citizens can find information on three topics: the right to vote, enrolling children in education and participating in the local life of the city.

One of the aims of the project is to train civil servants of the participating municipalities. The training consists of two parts: English lessons and awareness rising regarding the rights of mobile EU citizens. In addition, mobile EU citizens will also be informed about their rights when they move to another country within the EU.

The website of APProach redirects citizens to the webpages of the participating municipalities, where they can find information about the registration deadlines for the European elections.

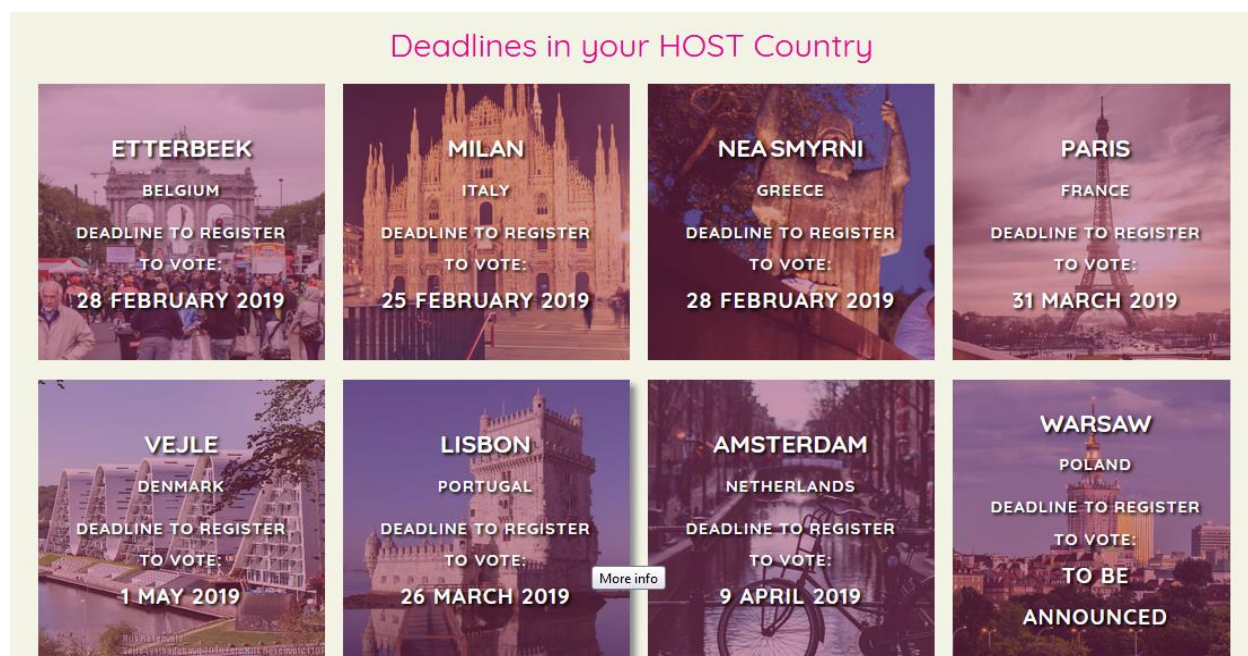


Figure 4 The APProach website

The project runs from 2018 until 2020. More information: <https://www.project-approach.eu/#movement>

### 2.2 Reasons for selection

The project addresses practical issues that mobile EU citizens may face when they move to another Member State. Three topics have been singled out so that an in-depth focus is possible, and it allows for cooperation between several countries. The number of participating authorities shows that the practice can be easily replicated in more Member States.

The project will improve the knowledge of EU rights among local authorities. In turn, they, being the closest to citizens, will be able to raise awareness of voting rights among mobile EU citizens. Also, having a website, where mobile EU citizens can find all the information regarding living in the



municipality (voting, housing, schooling, etc.), can increase their involvement in the local community life and ease the obstacles that they may face.

During the citizens' dialogues and IMPEU roundtables, participants mentioned several times that civil servants sometimes lack sufficient knowledge on EU right. Therefore, the training provided during this project can contribute to filling the knowledge gaps.

MAGENTA is of opinion that a 'great deal of effort' is needed to implement the practice in Spain, but thinks that it would be helpful for civil servants working with mobile EU citizens to be trained. ASEV stated that the project provided 'good results' in Milan, as "it developed a digital ecosystem which gathers step-by-step guidelines to facilitate EU mobile citizens' involvement in community decision-making."

### 2.3 Transferability

The project responds to existing needs of mobile EU citizens to receive specific information about voting, schooling and civic life in another Member States. It also focuses on the language and knowledge gaps of civil servants who are working with this target group. As it also envisages cross-border cooperation, it shows that it can be replicated in different countries.

The costs of the project development are unknown and it is too early to assess the success rate, as the project is still running. The information that is provided to mobile EU citizens might only need to be translated once and then it can be easily re-used. The training can remain available after the end of the project in a form of videos or an online course, thus extending the sustainability and durability of the project. The trained civil servants can also work as trainers and share the knowledge with their colleagues.

The implementation of this project might require some effort as multiple municipalities are involved. This might be an obstacle in some Member States, for example in Bulgaria, where ITPIO states that 'such decisions are taken at a high level'. However, as there are multiple benefits to cross border cooperation, this might outweigh potential negative sides that are associated with it. The replication can also occur on a smaller scale, e.g. starting with two municipalities in two different countries.



Figure 5 Project APPROACH



### Example 3 – Citoyens Actif (France)

#### 3.1 Short description

In this project, Spanish, Italian, Polish and Portuguese organisations active in the Paris region were involved with the aim of encouraging EU citizens living in this area to register for the municipal and European elections in 2014. Therefore, they launched an awareness campaign and created an awareness kit, including various infographic and audio-visual material that could be downloaded from the website. The website also provided information on the registration procedures. The project ran a round table, discussions and debates for mobile European citizens.



Figure 6 Poster of the awareness campaign of Citoyens Actif

More information:

[http://www.citoyensactifs.eu/citoyensactifs.eu\\_2014\\_archives/projet\\_archives.html](http://www.citoyensactifs.eu/citoyensactifs.eu_2014_archives/projet_archives.html)

#### 3.2 Reasons for selection

The awareness campaign is a good way to make mobile EU citizens informed about their voting

rights in the host countries. The campaign consisted of several tools (a website, posters, round tables, discussions, debates), and each tool could be used separately. Creating a website and infographic material is a one-time investment, after that the material can be re-used (only dates should be updated). Therefore, the practice is relatively easy to carry out. Organising interactive events such as round tables and discussions can engage more actively mobile EU citizens and, in turn, encourage them to participate in the elections in their host country. While the financial aspects of the

##### « Les associations partenaires »

Le réseau compte déjà actuellement parmi ses adhérents :



Figure 7 The website of Citoyens Actifs, partners of the project

project are unknown, according to MAGENTA, the costs of the initiative should be relatively low. ITPIO believes that it should be easy to find financial resources in Bulgaria for this project.

As this campaign was carried out in cooperation with Spanish, Italian, Polish and Portuguese organisations, mobile EU citizens could probably easily be targeted, as these partners know where, when and how to address citizens that come from their countries. Therefore, carrying out such an awareness campaign with the help of organisations that speak the language of mobile EU citizens and have a link with them will increase the impact and the success rate. Helping Hand also thinks that involvement of such organisations is important, because in Greece “it is extremely difficult to trace EU mobile citizens”. ASEV also sees a role for the municipalities. “It is a well-designed information campaign, which is easily replicable in Italy with the collaboration of local authorities and foreign citizen’s associations.”

#### 3.3 Transferability

From focus groups, it has become clear that mobile EU citizens would like to be more involved in the elections in their host country. An awareness campaign could help achieve this goal. ECAS does point out, however, that it would be good to replicate such a campaign in English in addition to the native language, French in this case, as not all mobile EU citizens might have mastered the official language(s) to the extent to be able to understand the information provided.



It is unknown whether the number of registrations for the elections increased as a result of the project, but it is likely that a big part of mobile EU citizens were reached and informed about the registration process and the European and municipal elections.

The exact costs of the campaign are not known. However, certain tools developed for the campaign can be re-used beyond the timeframe of the project, e.g. the website, posters, infographics, thus increasing the sustainability of the project and the return on investment.

The effect of this type of initiative can easily be measured in countries where the registration is mandatory, as the municipalities should report an increase in the voter registration rates among mobile EU citizens. It is expected that those states will see a difference between the last and the most recent elections in terms of the registration rates.



Figure 8 Website of Citoyens Actifs





## Example 4 – City is Ours (Warsaw, Poland)

### 4.1 Short description

The political platform „City is Ours – City Movements electoral list” (KWW Miasto Jest Nasze – Ruchy Miejskie) ran for the municipal elections of Warsaw on 21 October 2018. The website and the political programme of the party are available in English and Polish. More information on the voting and registration procedures and the reasons why one should vote are available on a separate website, also owned by the platform. [voteinwarsaw.eu](http://voteinwarsaw.eu). “City is Ours” considers itself as an independent, progressive citizen platform and consists of a coalition of 12 local grass-root movements representing 16 districts of Warsaw.

### Vote in Warsaw for local city activists!



#### WHO WE ARE

„City is Ours – City Movements electoral list” (KWW Miasto Jest Nasze – Ruchy Miejskie) is an independent, progressive citizen platform and a coalition of 12 local grass-root movements representing 16 districts of Warsaw. We are not affiliated with any political party.

#### WHAT WE STAND FOR

We want to live in a walkable, green, friendly, clean, tolerant, healthy and people-oriented city of Warsaw. We are progressive activists who share a „cityology” not an ideology. We run in the municipal elections to overthrow the corrupted political parties which do not care for Warsaw, but follow their political agenda.

#### OUR PROGRAMME

1. Open, tolerant and friendly European city attracting talented people from the whole world.
2. More greenery! Less concrete and asphalt!
  - We will protect green spaces
  - We will not allow cutting down trees
  - We will map all trees in Warsaw

Figure 9 Website of City is Ours

More information: <https://ruchymiejskie.waw.pl/english/>

### 4.2 Reasons for selection

From the meetings organized with citizens in the framework of the IMPEU and the results of the ECAS’ crowdsourcing exercise, in the framework of the FAIR EU project<sup>2</sup>, it has become clear that mobile EU citizens would like local political parties to include in their campaigns, so that they can make an informed choice. City is Ours not only provided bilingual information on their political programme, they also informed mobile EU citizens on how to register for the elections. In this way, City is Ours facilitated the information gaining process of mobile EU citizens.

All IMPEU partners believe that such an initiative would be useful in their respective Member States. Helping Hand states that the information is already available on many websites and it only needs to be translated. Many parties which already provide a multilingual website could complement it by explaining the registration (if applicable), the elections procedures (when voting cards will be sent, where to vote, how to vote, etc.), the role of the municipality and thus the importance of voting.



Figure 10 Website [voteinwarsaw.eu](http://voteinwarsaw.eu), reasons to vote

<sup>2</sup> <https://crowdsourcing.ecas.org/fair-eu>



### 4.3 Transferability

As stated above, mobile EU citizens have expressed their need for a bilingual election campaign run by political parties in order to feel more included. It is also a good practice to provide information about the political programme of a party and the registration process/ elections in English on the same website, as this facilitates mobile EU citizens' information-gaining process.

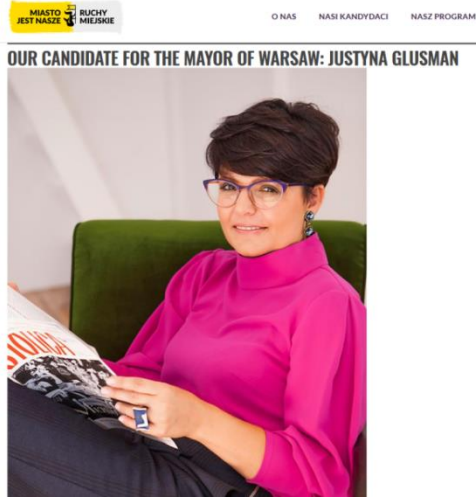


Figure 11 The candidate for Mayor from the platform City is Ours

The costs of translating websites are usually low, and the return on the investment can be high for the political parties. During the citizens' dialogue in Brussels, the participants explained that often they do not have strong political preferences in their host Member States and thus vote less strategically. Therefore, such an investment can be beneficial for the political parties if they manage to convince mobile EU citizens to vote for them.

The practice does not require additional staff to be trained or hired unless a party wants to extend the campaign by e.g. organising events in English.



## Example 5 – I can vote (Luxembourg)

### 5.1 Short description

In 2014, an awareness campaign was launched for mobile EU citizens living in Luxembourg to encourage them to participate in the elections of the European Parliament. The same campaign was launched for the elections in May 2019. In 2014, the campaign consisted of a website (the same that is now being used for the 2019 elections), ads, stands, leaflets and a registration day in different municipalities in the country.

Flyers for the 2019 campaign were published in ten languages and the posters in five. The website provides information on how many days are left for registering, who can vote, why one should vote and how to vote, and it is available in five languages (French, German, English, Portuguese and Luxembourgish). A link can be found on the website redirecting citizens to an interactive quiz on the different elections that take place in the country. Visitors have to drag and click on the right answers and by doing so they receive all the necessary information on the elections.

More information: <https://jepeuxvoter.public.lu/en.html>



Figure 12 Quiz on the website Jepeuxvoter

### 5.2 Reasons for selection

The aim of the initiative is to make mobile EU citizens aware of their voting rights in Luxembourg and to encourage them to register for the European elections and thus also to vote. The government of the country is actively approaching EU citizens and hopes to increase the political participation of this target group. The initiative uses different elements (e.g. a website, leaflets, stands, a registration day) that can attract those actively looking for information as well as those that are not. ECAS thinks that the combination of all the materials is a strong point of the practice as it is very visible and reaches mobile EU citizens in several ways.

Magenta and Helping Hand state that providing interactive tools to mobile EU citizens is an interesting idea due to the innovative character, as they raise the interests of people and engage them, while at the same time it is informative. For ASEV, it is an advantage that the initiative is conducted at the national instead of the municipal level. This way there are more means (financially and otherwise) available and a better coordination is possible between the different governmental levels (national, regional and local).





### 5.3 Transferability

The lack of information among mobile EU citizens regarding their voting rights in their host country is an obstacle to their political participation, as it was pointed out by citizens and organisations during the IMPEU citizens' dialogues. To illustrate this, ITPIO states that in 2014 only 55 of the 414 UK citizens in Bulgaria voted. This low turnout was caused by either insufficient knowledge about voting rights or the deliberate choice not to participate.

It is unknown how many mobile EU citizens participated in the 2014 European elections thanks to the awareness campaign. However, as the government of Luxembourg decided to repeat the campaign for the 2019 parliamentary elections of the EU, it can be assumed it was perceived positively the first time.

In order to set up such a nationwide campaign it is necessary to have enough financial resources. Although this initiative can be realised on the local level, the impact will be bigger when the information reaches mobile EU citizens in the whole country. Translation costs are a one-time investment, as the key information will remain the same (how to vote, who can vote, etc.) apart from the dates and candidates, while printing leaflets and running ads are a recurring expense.

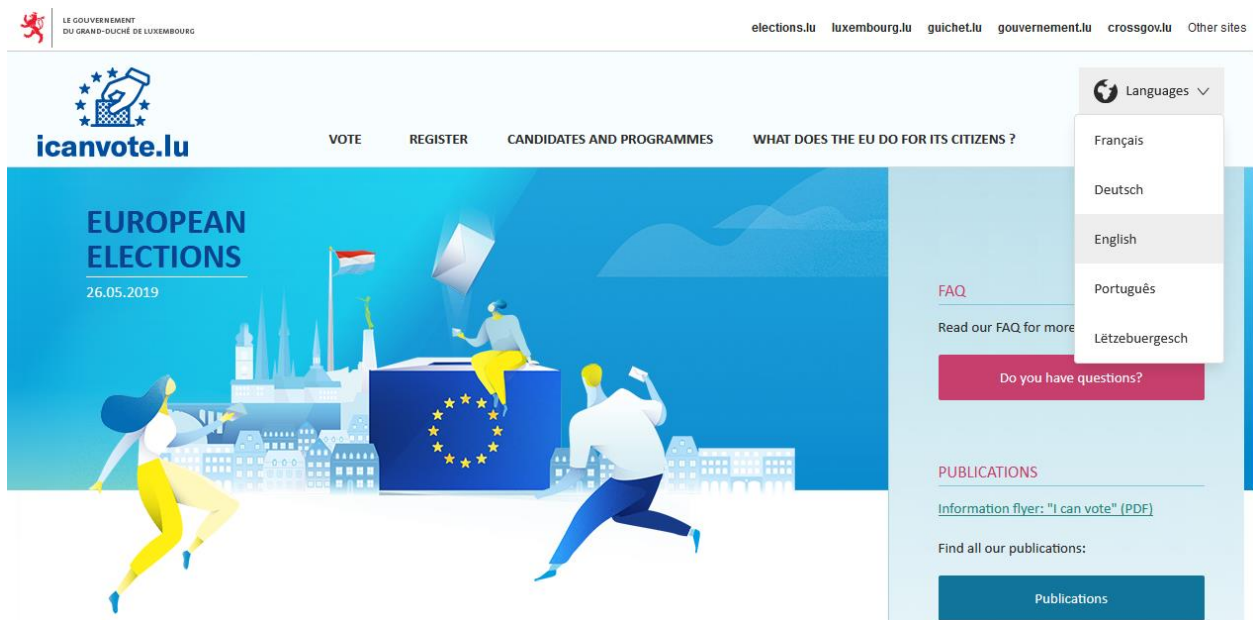


Figure 13 Website of I can vote, available languages



## Example 6 – INCLUDE project (Paris, France)

### 6.1 Short description



Figure 14 The logo of INCLUDE

In 2018, the Paris City Hall launched a project “INCLUDE”, in cooperation with the European Civic Forum and the Young Europeans-France, which aims at promoting the rights of EU citizens and enhancing inclusion of non-national EU citizens in the “Parisian civic life”. During the project, 24 workshops for citizens will be organised and an information van will travel around the city to inform people about their voting rights and the European citizenship. Also, a survey will be disseminated to identify the obstacles to European citizenship. In addition, in December 2018, a European Consultative Council was created. It is composed of 61 mobile EU citizens and works in close cooperation with the elected officials of the City of Paris, to whom it can propose opinions and recommendations.

More information: <https://www.paris.fr/projetinclude>

### 6.2 Reasons for selection

The initiators try to actively involve mobile EU citizens by organising different events, such as debates, a simulation of the European Parliament and a pub quiz on the European Union. The result of the ECAS’ crowdsourcing exercise point<sup>3</sup> out that mobile EU citizens tend to get involved more



Figure 15 INCLUDE project

frequently in non-electoral political and/or civic activities than in the traditional political activities, such as elections. Therefore, it can be assumed that mobile EU citizens are interested in this kind of events that the project INCLUDE proposes. Therefore, the initiative was assessed positively by all the partners.

Mobile EU citizens have also a direct link with the elected officials of the city through the creation of the European Consultative Council, which helps to reduce the administrative distance. Both the citizens and the officials can cooperate and learn from each other. ASEV mentions that the biggest cities in Italy already have a council that is made up of citizens with different nationalities, which is representing the interest of foreign communities.

By disseminating a survey among mobile EU citizens, the municipality will receive first-hand knowledge regarding the obstacles those citizens face in their host country. In combination with the council, this is a good way to identify and address the most persistent issues.

<sup>3</sup> <https://crowdsourcing.ecas.org/fair-eu>



### 6.3 Transferability

As stated above, mobile EU citizens are more inclined to participate in non-electoral political and/or civic activities than in the elections. Thus, providing them with an opportunity to become involved in these types of activities, where they can have a say on the local decisions, might help to decrease the obstacles they face in exercising their rights as EU citizens and, in turn, might influence positively the political participation of this group.

It is unknown in which languages all the activities were carried out. The website is in French as are the titles of the events listed on Facebook. It is necessary to take into account that not all mobile EU citizens are able to speak the foreign language fluently and that this might impact the number of participants. Using English in future replications of the project would be therefore recommended.

As the project is still running, it is difficult to assess the efficiency and the cost effectiveness. However, bringing together mobile EU citizens and elected officials can help diminish the obstacles and the barriers, and increase the political participation of foreigners.



Figure 16 Project INCLUDE, partners of the project



## Example 7 – Kieskompas (Wageningen, the Netherlands)

### 7.1 Short description

Many international citizens live in the municipality of Wageningen. This is, among others, due to the Wageningen University. In 2015/2016, the University counted almost 2400 students from other EU countries. A big part of them were eligible to vote in the municipal elections of 2018, but the political programmes of political parties were mostly in Dutch, just as was the Kieskompas tool.

Kieskompas is an online election calculator which presents people with different statements to which they have to indicate whether they strongly agree with it, agree, neither agree nor disagree, disagree or strongly disagree. Based on their replies, the tool will analyse their political affiliation and propose a political party which is closest to their choices. Several stakeholders asked Kieskompas to translate their tool in English for the non-Dutch speakers in Wageningen in order to help them make an informed decision in the voting booth, and Kieskompas agreed.

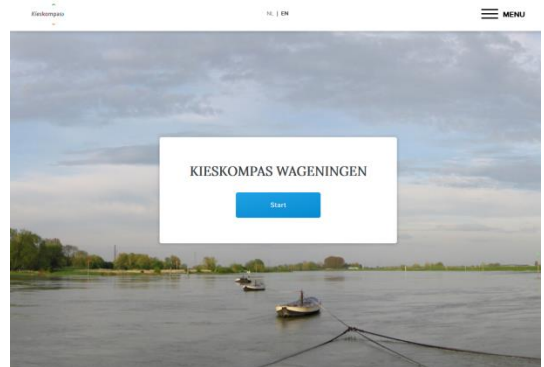


Figure 17 The start page of Kieskompas

More information: <https://wageningen.kieskompas.nl/en/#/>

### 7.2 Reasons for selection

Political campaigns in English, in addition to the national language(s), are still rare within the European Union. Therefore, mobile EU citizens who do not speak the official language(s) of their host countries will have difficulties in understanding the political programmes of the parties participating in the elections.



Instead of punishing loitering youth, the municipality should increase financing for youth activities

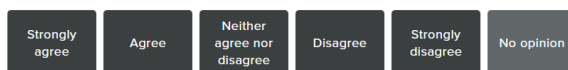


Figure 18 One of the questions in Kieskompas

Therefore, an online tool in English that will provide EU citizens with an idea of their position in the political landscape in the host country and give an overview of active political parties might be offer useful support.

Helping Hand, MAGENTA and ITPIO all agree that a similar tool could help students and other mobile EU citizens to understand better the foreign political landscape. This, in turn, can

lead to an increase in the political participation. ASEV thinks it might be useful to make the tool available also in the languages of other communities living in the country, as not all of them might be fluent in English.

Another reason why this practice was selected is that it can be rather easily implemented in other Member States, as only the tool itself needs to be developed and the questions translated. Since the initiative is politically independent, it is an objective and trustworthy way for citizens to find out which political party is closest to their views and opinions.

### 7.3 Transferability

As indicated by the different partners, there is a need for such online election tool in order to provide mobile EU citizens with an independent and objective way to become involved in the elections in their host country. In some Member States this type of tool already exists, but it is only

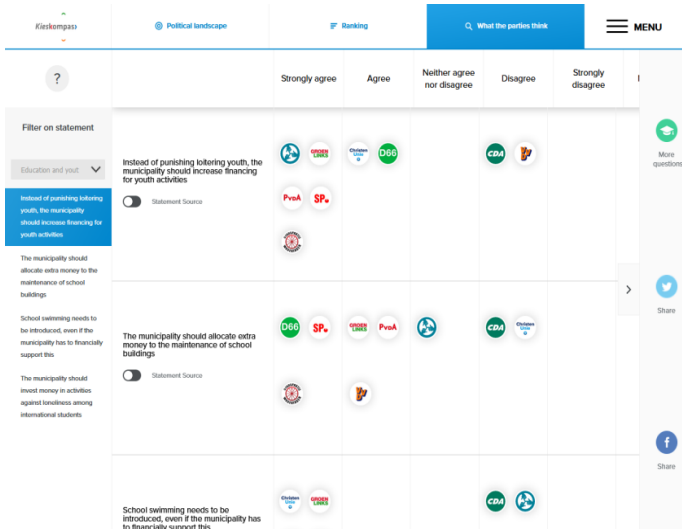


Figure 19 Kieskompas: the position of the political parties on different topics

available in the official language(s) of the country. If a tool is already available, then it would be relatively easy to translate it to English.

Member States or municipalities which do not have an online election tool yet will have to envisage a bigger investment. However, as all citizens, both local and mobile, living in the country will benefit from this and the overall political participation might increase, the development of the tool might be worth the costs. Due to its apolitical and independent character, it can complement the campaigns and programmes of political parties.





## Example 8 – KohoVolit (Czech Republic and Slovakia)

### 8.1 Short description

KohoVolit.eu is a Czech and Slovak project run by civic association aimed at promoting political transparency. It is composed of different elements, one of them being an online election calculator (people respond to the statements and the political party that closest matches their opinion will appear on top of the list). The tool is available in Czech, Slovak and English. The election calculator provides an opportunity for non-Czech and non-Slovak speakers to get an idea which party is closest to their beliefs and opinions.



Figure 20 The start page of the election calculator

More information: <http://kohovolit.eu/en>

### 8.2 Reasons for selection

This practice was chosen for the same reasons as Kieskompas (example 7), although KohoVolit is nationwide available and the calculator can be filled in in English in case of different elections, with the latest one being the European elections (May 2019). This example shows the possibilities to politically involve mobile EU citizens on a larger scale.

The initiative shows to mobile EU citizens that they are not being overlooked as a group and that their political participation is important. MAGENTA explained that in Spain, a similar initiative exists (aquienvoto.org), but it is only available in Spanish. Translating the platform would facilitate the use of it for foreigners.

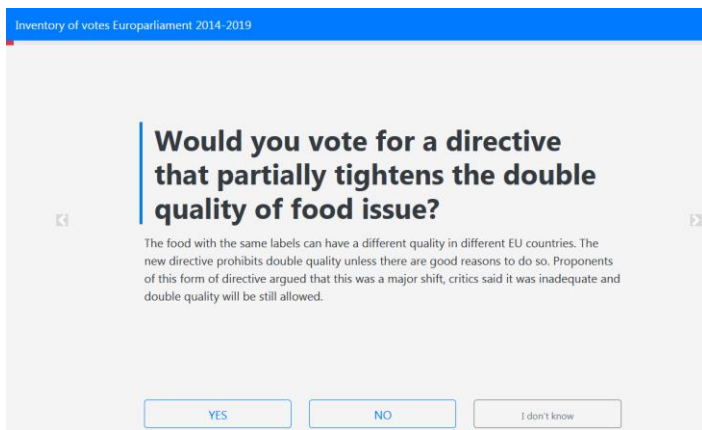


Figure 21 A question from the election calculator

KohoVolit is a non-partisan initiative that can serve as a complementary element to the campaigns of political parties.

### 8.3 Transferability

As stated in example 7, there is a need for an online election calculator in English. In addition, KohoVolit does not restrict itself to the election calculator, but tries to broaden its scope by also focusing on political transparency. ASEV thinks that this might be a problem for some political parties and could therefore be opposed by certain

stakeholders. On the other hand, the information provided to mobile EU citizens should be clear and fully transparent.

It is unknown how many people used this election calculator and therefore, it is difficult to say something about the cost effectiveness. KohoVolit provides, however, the calculator already for some years in three languages and thus, it can be assumed that the financial investment is proportionate to the results. The tool only needs to be translated and updated during the period preceding the elections and no additional costs should be necessary (like providing training).



OUR PROJECTS









 <p><b>VOLEBNÍKALKULAČKA.CZ</b></p> <p>Thanks to the Election Calculator, you can find how closely opinions of political parties and candidates match your political views</p>	 <p><b>NAPIŠTEJIM.CZ</b></p> <p>Thanks to the Write to Them, you can easily find your elected representative in Czech republic and send him or her an e-mail</p>	 <p><b>BUDOVÁNÍSTÁTU.CZ</b></p> <p>The Open Spending opens up and visualizes the Czech state budget. You can easily find out how your taxes are being spent</p>	 <p><b>OTEVŘENÉVOLBY.CZ</b></p> <p>The Open Elections provides downloadable electoral results from Czech republic machine-readable formats. Free for all!</p>
 <p><b>VOLEBNÁKALKULAČKA.SK</b></p> <p>A Slovak version of the Election Calculator. What parties or candidates are your best political match? Find out in quick test!</p>	 <p><b>NAPIŠTEIM.SK</b></p> <p>Thanks to the Write to Them application, you can easily contact your elected representative in Slovakia. Fast and easy as email</p>	 <p><b>STUDENT INTERNSHIP</b></p> <p>University students from CZ and SK gain new skills, knowledge and experience through our online internship programme</p>	 <p><b>ANALYSES</b></p> <p>Look through our nicely visualised analyses of parliamentary, electoral and other politics-related data. Advanced methods!</p>

Figure 22 An overview of the projects of KohoVolit





## Example 9 – Lasse Frimand Jensen and Narcis George Matache (political campaign manager from Romania) (Aalborg, Denmark)

### 9.1 Short description

Lasse Frimand Jensen is a Danish citizen who ran in 2012 for the first time for the city council of Aalborg. He not only focused on the Danish citizens, but also on the foreigners living in the municipality, by running a bilingual campaign (English and Danish). It focused on solutions to the issues that were faced by the international community living in Aalborg. In addition, the campaign encouraged international students to vote in the elections and to become politically active. ‘Hundreds of people’ voted for the first time thanks to the campaign. Lasse Frimand Jensen ended up third, and it was the first time that a first-time candidate received so many votes. His political campaign manager was Narcis George Matache from Romania, who later became the first non-Danish citizen candidate in the regional elections in Denmark.



Figure 23 Lasse Frimand Jensen

More information: <https://www.facebook.com/lassefrimandjensen/>

### 9.2 Reasons for selection

The campaign of Lasse Frimand Jensen is a good example of including mobile EU citizens in the elections. His campaign manager came from Romania and Jensen addressed voters in English and Danish, and also looked specifically at the issues that the international community was facing. Mobile EU citizens were not being overlooked but rather actively involved in the campaign. ASEV believes that “such a campaign can be useful in the fight against the lack of interests of political parties in engaging non-nationals as active members”.

Jensen also looked beyond his own campaign by encouraging international students to vote and become politically active. This is important as many students are not aware of their political rights or do not feel included.

### 9.3 Transferability

Mobile EU citizens are not always included in the political campaign during elections in their host country and this affects their feeling of belonging and their intention to vote. Also, not all citizens are aware of their voting rights. There is a general need for a campaign that addresses mobile EU citizens in English and/or focuses on problems they encounter, e.g. language or administrative problems. Some political parties, predominately the populist ones, may not be inclined to conduct a bilingual campaign as this won’t fit within their ideology.

The campaign of Jensen was successful and he was elected to the Council. It is unknown to what extent this was influenced by EU citizens who casted their vote, but since he campaigned actively to involve them, this might have been an important factor.

A political campaign that addresses problems that are being experienced by EU citizens might give them a feeling of being heard and, as a result, increase their political participation. As campaigns are run by the parties on a regular basis, the main costs will be related translating and printing the materials in English or other foreign languages.



Figure 24 Lasse Frimand Jensen during the campaign



## Example 10 – Let’s catch up to vote (Maastricht, the Netherlands)

### 10.1 Short description

The Netherlands held the last municipal elections on 21 March 2018. Therefore, on 3 March, the governmental agency Holland Expat Center organised an election event in English for all eligible voters in the city of Maastricht. The aim was to inform foreigners about the municipal elections and to introduce them to different political parties.

The event lasted two and half hours and participants were given a short explanation about the municipal elections, after which there was an opportunity to talk to the candidates. The mayor of the city closed the event. On Facebook, 42 people said they attended the event and 144 people were interested.

More information: <https://www.hollandexpatcenter.com/letscatchup/Let-s-Catch-Up-to-vote.html?id=6365>

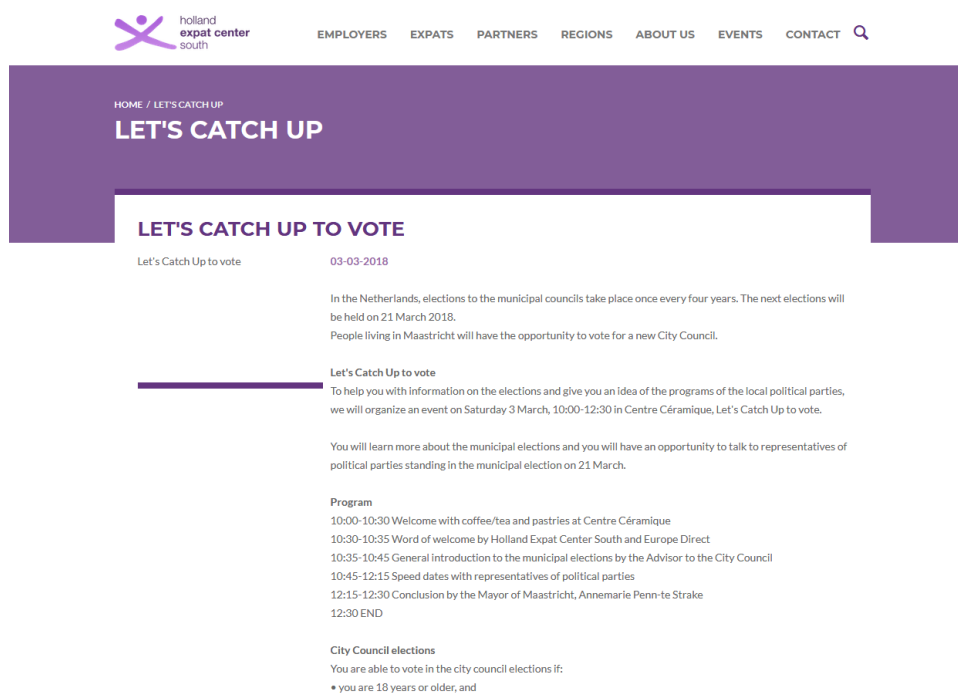


Figure 25 The online invitation for the election event

### 10.2 Reasons for selection

During the election time, Dutch speakers have a lot of opportunities to get familiar with the candidates and their programmes. There are interviews in the media, debates they can attend, and the candidates hand out flyers on the street.

Non-Dutch speakers find it more difficult to familiarize themselves with different political parties due to the language barrier. Therefore, it is a good practice to create an event for them in English, during which they can meet the candidates and talk to them. Magenta believes that “this practice makes foreigners feel included”. In addition, the format of the event (a small gathering, where everyone can ask questions) can really help mobile EU citizens to understand different political parties and choose the one that is closest to their beliefs. Such events facilitate also the knowledge-gaining process of mobile EU citizens. In Bulgaria, similar practices have been conducted and received positive feedback from mobile EU citizens.



### 10.3 Transferability

This practice responds to the need of mobile EU citizens to have bilingual campaigns. EU mobile citizens who do not speak the language of the host country may feel excluded and find it difficult to understand the political spectrum. As a result, they may be less likely to participate in the elections.

While organisation of such events is recommendable, it may be more difficult to transfer the practice to bigger countries or cities. Therefore, the format should be reconsidered and perhaps online participation could be added, as to allow the attendance of bigger groups of people. Second, not all political candidates might speak sufficient English, as ASEV pointed out. Translators would be thus needed, adding to already high costs of such meetings (room rental, catering, etc.).

Member States should therefore carefully analyse the feasibility of such meetings and take the financial aspect into consideration.



## Example 11 – Local Welcome Policies EU Mobile Citizens (Amsterdam (the Netherlands), Brussels (Belgium), Copenhagen (Denmark), Dublin (Ireland), Gothenburg (Sweden) and Hamburg (Germany))

### 11.1 Short description

The project ran from January 2015 until December 2016 in six European cities. Mobile EU citizens may face obstacles when they move to another Member State, for example when it comes to registering or finding a job. Therefore, the project partners created a toolkit with information on housing, health care and social inclusion. Recommendations were also made for the decision-makers at the local, national and European level. The different cities looked into their welcome and integration policies and searched for best practices that focused on mobile EU citizens.

The aim of the project was:

- to remove barriers linked to mobility,
- to increase the political and civil participation of mobile EU citizens,
- to promote an intercultural dialogue between people,
- to implement monitoring and evaluating policies.

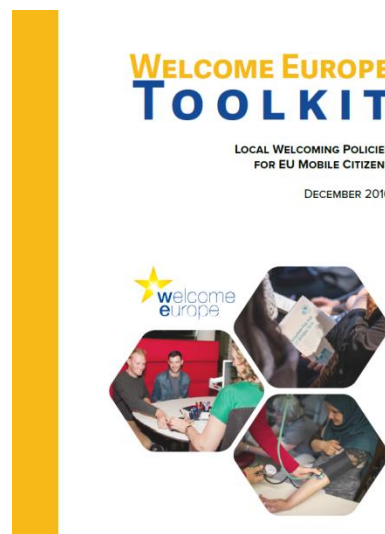


Figure 26 Welcome Europe toolkit

More information: <https://www.amsterdam.nl/bestuur-organisatie/organisatie/ruimte-economie/europa/europees-project/>

### 11.2 Reasons for selection

The toolkit focuses on municipalities and on what they can do for mobile EU citizens to lower the obstacles they face when they move from one EU country to another. The guide is based on the experiences of the cities that were involved in the project, but the recommendations can be extended to other cities. The toolkit can help to facilitate the first encounters between the citizens

and authorities, and it can be easily adapted to local needs and re-used by other municipalities.

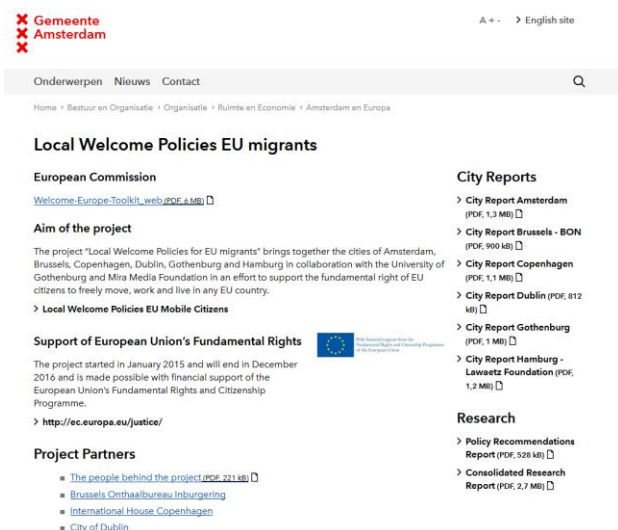


Figure 27 Website of the municipality of Amsterdam

ASEV and MAGENTA state that there are similar toolkits available in their countries. In Spain, this guide could be updated and complemented with the recommendations.

### 11.3 Transferability

During the IMPEU meetings with mobile EU citizens and civil servants, both groups indicated that there was a need for increasing the knowledge within the municipalities. The toolkit could help to fulfil this aim.

In order to prepare similar toolkits and recommendations, an in-depth research and analysis of the main obstacles and problems must be undertaken. Therefore, the practice includes a significant amount of work and resources, both human and financial, in the preparatory phase, but the results and the outcomes (toolkit, recommendation) can be used by the municipalities for multiple years.





The toolkit can improve the inclusion process of mobile EU citizens and enhance their civic and political participation. Similarly, if the key information on the rules and procedures (e.g. for residence or elections) is easily accessible in the toolkit, then the citizens can inform themselves without necessarily addressing civil servants, thus lowering their work burden.

**WELCOME INFORMATION RECOMMENDATIONS**

**LOCAL RECOMMENDATIONS**

- ▶ A physical information point remains an effective method of disseminating welcome information (eg. 'one stop shop', library). This should be used in conjunction with other dissemination methods, such as the provision of information online;
- ▶ City staff working in frontline interface offices that provide assistance and guidance to mobile citizens should receive specialised training in the delivery of cultural appropriate services. Staff members should also be trained in the rules and regulations pertaining to intra-EU mobile citizens in their areas of operations. Staff should ensure that they apply rules correctly and comply with the fundamental rights of European citizens;
- ▶ Practical inputs are needed at local level and welcome services for newcomers should be systematised. Examples of practical local inputs are practical language courses, welcome events, and accessible and informative leaflets;

**NATIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS**

- ▶ The needs of intra-EU mobile citizens should be incorporated into any national welcome/ integration strategy;
- ▶ Promote stability in national legislation so that rules and regulations can be applied transparently at local level.

**EUROPEAN RECOMMENDATIONS**

- ▶ Information of relevance to intra-EU mobile citizens is disseminated at European level. The European Union does act on its obligation to provide information to citizens. The Union has a significant digital footprint and many good and usable webpages are easily accessible to mobile citizens. For example, ['life and business in the EU'](http://europa.eu/european-union/life-business_en) ([http://europa.eu/european-union/life-business\\_en](http://europa.eu/european-union/life-business_en)) and ['Presenting a prescription abroad \(Health\)](http://europa.eu/youreurope/citizens/health/help-from-the-pharmacy/prescription/index_en.htm#lightbox-uld-0)' ([http://europa.eu/youreurope/citizens/health/help-from-the-pharmacy/prescription/index\\_en.htm#lightbox-uld-0](http://europa.eu/youreurope/citizens/health/help-from-the-pharmacy/prescription/index_en.htm#lightbox-uld-0)) sections of Europa.eu website.
- Unfortunately, many pages do not function effectively in all the languages of the union, especially the linked country websites are often not in the native languages. Intra-EU mobile citizens should be able to access 'official information' in their native language, irrespective of where they are resident, in the Union. The Union should therefore upgrade their native language information regularly and monitor more frequently the linked country websites on available information in all native languages.

Figure 28 Welcome information recommendations

**10  
MEDIA AND MOBILE EU CITIZENS  
WHAT CAN CITIES DO?**



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Figure 29 Chapter 10 of the Welcome Europe Toolkit



## Example 12 – Participation Matters (Austria, Italy, Spain)

### 12.1 Short description

The general objective of this project was to foster the successful inclusion and participation of mobile EU citizens in the host EU country’s civic and political life, improving knowledge and raise awareness on political rights deriving from European citizenship.



Figure 30 The logo of the Participation Matters

Its specific objectives were to: improve the knowledge and expertise of local authorities on this topic and enhance their contribution to a greater political inclusion of EU mobile citizens; to improve knowledge, increase awareness and promote active engagement of European mobile citizens and their associations on the political rights linked to the status of European citizen; to boost the role of political parties and national authorities in removing the obstacles to political participation of European mobile citizens; to raise awareness of the general public on the political rights deriving from European citizenship. The project run between 2016 and 2017 and was co-funded by the Rights, Equality and Citizenship (REC) Programme of the European Union.

More information: <http://participationmatters.eu/about-the-project/>

### 12.2 Reasons for selection

This project aimed at improving the knowledge of civil servants and mobile EU citizens and tried to diminish the obstacles mobile EU citizens experience.

Different activities were organised, such as a social media campaign, a handbook for mobile EU citizens and meetings with local authorities. These suggested activities inspire local authorities to identify new ways of involving non-national EU citizens in the political life of their territories. Some of the information developed can also be used in the future, e.g. the handbook, as the content will not be subject to much change.

ECAS believes it would be beneficial to have a project like Participation Matters run on a long-term to guarantee regular outreach and provision of information to EU mobile citizens. In Bulgaria, similar practices have been developed with positive results. However, as ITPIO explains, such practices work best in smaller municipalities, as “there, people know each other well and the citizens communicate with foreigners in a friendly manner.”

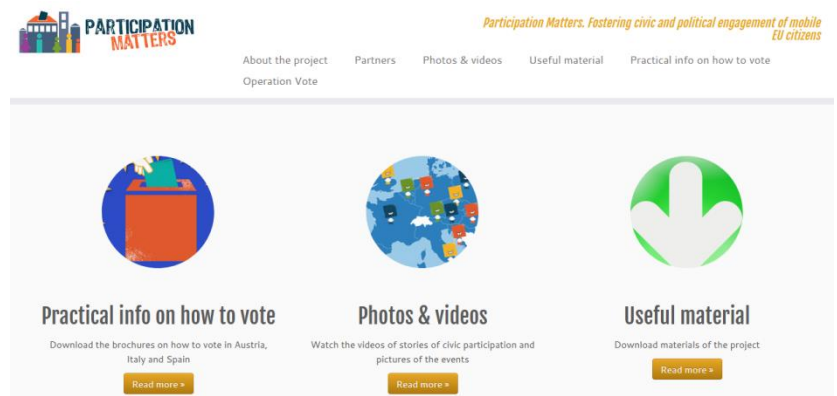


Figure 31 Website of the project Participation Matters

### 12.3 Transferability

This practice requires cooperation between partners in different Member States, but the practice can also be replicated by one organisation in a single Member State.

Civil servants as well as mobile EU citizens are in need of receiving information about voting rights. However, in order to organise a wide range of activities, a significant financial cost should be envisaged. At the same time, the information once developed can be then used in the future.





Figure 32 Guides available on the website of Participation Matter



## Example 13 – Political Internship Scheme (Wicklow, Dundalk, Cork, Longford and Swords, Ireland)

### 13.1 Short description

The Immigration Council of Ireland says that voter registration of non-Irish citizens for the municipal elections is below average. Also, the number of migrant councillors is low. The Immigration Council of Ireland wants to restore this imbalance. Therefore, they organised an internship in the local municipalities for members of the migrant community. The members were paired with a local councillor and worked on local issues and also attended Council and community meetings.



Figure 33 Fahmeda Naheed was one of the interns

The internship project was launched in March 2018 with the aim of promoting migrant participation in local politics. The project also wanted to encourage migrants to run in the upcoming local elections of May 2019. The interns had to write a journal on a weekly basis in which they told about their experience. They also participated in review exercises. Five [videos](#) were created and short testimonies of the interns and councillors were published on the website of the Immigration Council of Ireland.

More information: <https://www.immigrantcouncil.ie/news/political-internship-scheme-great-opportunity-migrants-local-political-participation>

### 13.2 Reasons for selection

A political internship is an innovative way of involving mobile EU citizens in the political life of their host country. It educates youngsters about the daily work routine of a councillor and the impact and importance of this job. It also raises the awareness about the possibilities of running for office and can improve the social inclusion of migrants.

### 13.3 Transferability

An internship is an interesting and a creative way to attract attention and to inform mobile EU citizens about the role of municipalities and encourage them to become politically active. The interns can then disseminate their experiences to a larger audience.



Figure 34 Joe Behan was one of councillors who participated in the scheme

Organising such internships requires a lot of time and the scale of the project is rather limited, as councillors cannot take multiple interns at the same time. The costs of these internships will depend on the conditions, e.g. paid or unpaid.

The long-term effects of the project are not (yet) known, but if the internships are organised on a regular basis, coupled with other awareness-raising events, they can have an important impact on political inclusion of mobile EU citizens.



## Example 14 – Register, vote, run (Ireland)

### 14.1 Short description

In order to tackle the low registration rates of mobile EU citizens, Immigrant Council of Ireland launched ten videos in different languages to encourage non-Irish citizens to vote in the upcoming municipal elections of 24 May 2019.

They want to promote the message ‘register, vote, run’. Ten videos in ten different languages (e.g. Polish, Romanian and Spanish) of around one minute were created to inform mobile EU citizens about their voting rights and to provide step-by-step information on how to use this right. The registration forms are also available on the website.

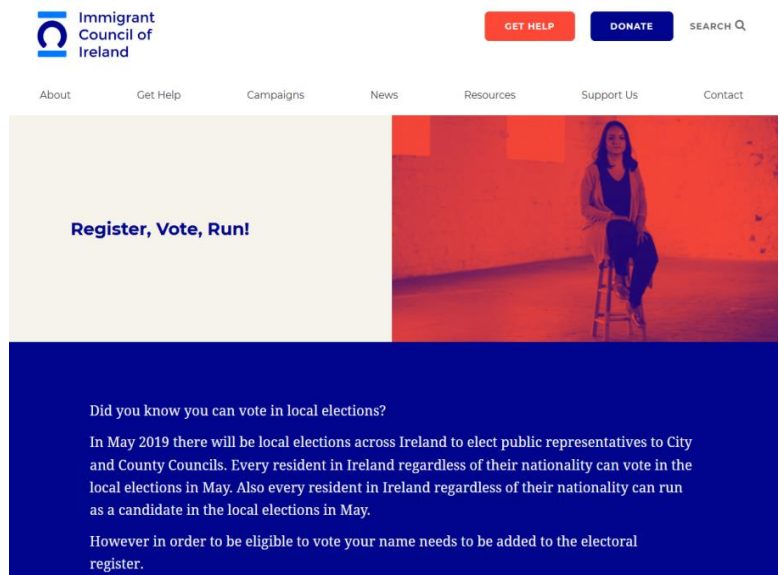


Figure 35 The website of Register, Vote, Run!

More information: <https://www.immigrantcouncil.ie/vote>

### 14.2 Reasons for selection

The aim of the practice is to inform non-Irish citizens in an easily accessible way about the registration process and their voting rights. The objective is to encourage people to register and participate in the elections. The audio material can be used also for the future elections.



Figure 36 Four videos of Register, Vote, Run!

It is also easy to spread these videos online and share them, so that they can reach a bigger audience. In addition, information provided in this form, rather than on a plain paper, and advertised on social media channels can have a bigger impact and reach more citizens.

ASEV and MAGENTA indicate that similar videos were created by stakeholders in Italy and Spain. Other partners believe that preparing the videos can be an efficient way to reach mobile EU citizens and inform them on their rights.

### 14.3 Transferability

As already indicated, there is a need to inform mobile EU citizens about their voting rights on a regular basis and to encourage them to run for office.



Therefore, sending out videos in which other EU citizens provide information might be a good first step to achieve this goal. The effect of these short movies is unknown, each video was viewed between 5 and 11 thousand times (May 2019), thus reaching a significant number of people.

The main cost to be considered in case of this practice is related to the production of the videos. Additional time effort will be necessary to select participants to feature in the video and ensure high promotion and outreach. However, once produced, the audio-visual material can be also used in the future.



## Example 15 – Rock the Vote! (Amsterdam, the Netherlands)

### 15.1 Short description

Almost 80.000 expats and international students live in Amsterdam. According to the Green party, GroenLinks, a lot of them are not aware of their right to vote. The municipal elections in the Netherlands took place on 21 March 2018 and GroenLinks organised a pre-election party on 19 March 2018. Interested citizens could attend for free and receive information about the elections, listen to short interviews with five parties (GroenLinks, D66, PvdA, VVD and SP) and to a one-minute pitch by the party leaders. The event ended with a party and a concert. 122 persons said on Facebook they would attend the event and 351 people were interested. The Dutch newspaper NRC counted around 200 attendees.

More information:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1838094776224557/>



Figure 37 Invitation for Rock the Vote!

### 15.2 Reasons for selection

Political participation is not perceived as urgent or necessary by mobile EU students, as they often intend to return to their own country immediately after the end of their exchange. Most students are often not aware of their political rights or do not feel included in the political process. This practice tries to address these issues by providing mobile EU citizens with key information on the rights and elections procedures.

The event is not organised as a typical political meeting, i.e. in the form of a debate, but proposes a different approach, which may be attractive for youngsters. Indeed, the event managed to gather around 200 participants.

### 15.3 Transferability

Encouraging mobile EU citizens to vote is important as the voter registration rates of this group remain low in all EU Member States. Mobile EU students are even less inclined to become politically involved, thus an election event in a form of party may be particularly appealing to them.

Considering that the event was co-organised and thus co-financed by various political parties, the financial burden for an individual party was not probably high. In addition, similar events can be organised in cooperation with students' associations, which can ensure appropriate outreach and follow-up.

It is unknown whether the event in Amsterdam led to increased political participation among mobile EU citizens, but the fact that around 200 people participated indicates that there is an interest among EU mobile citizens to get more involved.

#### Details

~FREE ENTRANCE!~

#### PROGRAM

20.30 Welcome speech by [Greg Scott Shapiro](#)  
20.45 Why vote in Amsterdam?  
21.00 Short interviews of party leaders  
21.15 One-minute pitches by party leaders  
--Party afterwards! With DJs:  
[Venz](#), founder of 22tracks  
[Beraber](#), resident at Disco Dolly

Thousands of internationals live in Amsterdam but have little part in the city's politics. We want to give you a chance to change that. [GroenLinks Amsterdam](#) invites you to a very informal Monday drink on 19 March at the [Marktkantine](#).

A chance to meet local politicians from a wide range of parties: [GroenLinks Amsterdam](#) invites [PvdA Amsterdam](#), [De Amsterdamse VVD](#), [D66 Amsterdam](#), and [SP Amsterdam](#) to discuss what's on your mind as a local, and hear what the key issues are as Amsterdam prepares for the local council elections on the 21st March - something which you as an international living here probably can vote in. (If this is news to you, you're not alone - most internationals we've spoken to have no ideal)

Some drinks 🍹 and great DJs 🎧 will keep the vibe relaxed, after all it's a Monday - and feel free to bring a few friends down. For any expat living in the city, this is a great way of getting some political perspective - hope to see you there.

#### IF YOU COME BY CAR:

You can park your car in the Tetterode Parking garage, 5 minutes from De Marktkantine. (see: <https://www.parkeren-amsterdam.com/parkeergarage-tetterode>)

Figure 38 The programme of Rock the Vote!





## Example 16 – Shape your city: use your vote (Cork City, Ireland)

### 16.1 Short description

There is a lack of knowledge among mobile EU citizens living in Cork on the electoral rights and procedures. In order to increase political participation of mobile EU citizens, the municipality of Cork organized a series of events and initiatives. For instance, a kick-off event of the voter registration campaign named ‘Shape your city: use your vote’ was organised on 27 August 2018. Various voter engagement events were organised and photos of these events were posted on social media with the hashtag ‘shape your city’. To increase the outreach, the campaigners joined events organized by other organisations, e.g. the Cork Chinese New Year Festival. The campaign was active until the municipal elections in May 2019.

More information: <https://www.corkcity.ie/en/council-services/services/community/community-initiatives/voter-initiative-shape-your-city.html>

### 16.2 Reasons for selection



Figure 39 Registration day at the University College Cork

The municipality of Cork actively targets mobile EU citizens by going to existing events and providing people with the opportunity to register on the electoral roll. Cork City is also active on social media and this helps to generate extra interest, as people can share and spread photos and message related to the registration campaign. In this way the campaign can make mobile EU citizens feel included in the community.

### 16.3 Transferability

Going to places which mobile EU citizens attend, e.g. expat events, international clubs, instead of expecting them to come to the municipality, has been proven cost-efficient and effective in reaching large groups of mobile EU citizens.

The campaign of Cork City is still running at the moment, so the exact results are not known.

However, it is likely that the campaign will have a positive impact on number of registrations of mobile EU citizens. Material that has been produced such as banners and flyers can be used again for the next elections.



## Example 17 – The #useyourvote local election debate (Helsinki, Finland)

### 17.1 Short description

On 9 April 2017, municipal elections were held in Finland. Not all EU and non-EU citizens speak Finnish and therefore they often miss the political messages of political parties. Therefore, on 22 March an election debate in English was organised by Yle news, a Finnish broadcasting company. The debate was broadcasted live on Facebook and on Yle Areena. The event lasted from 14:00 until 15:15. 102 people indicated on Facebook they participated in the event and 292 said they were interested.

More information: <https://www.facebook.com/events/yle-news/the-useyourvote-local-election-debate/164172227434327/>

### 17.2 Reasons for selection

Political parties were given a platform to address EU and non-EU voters in English and inform them about their ideas and plans. By streaming via social media, a younger audience could be also attracted.

All partners believe this practice is a good way to include mobile EU citizens in the political life of their host countries and to introduce them to different political parties and candidates. By watching the debate, citizens could gain a better understanding of the political landscape in Finland and their own position in it. This can help the target group to make an informed decision prior to the elections.

Given that the debate was broadcasted, it was easily accessible for people to tune in as they could watch it from their own homes. This lowers the barrier for attending and might also attract people who would otherwise not have been interested to personally join the event.



The Yle News #useyourvote election debate is streamed live online via Yle Areena, yle.fi/news and on Facebook. Video: Yle

Figure 40 Local election debate





### **17.3 Transferability**

Mobile EU citizens who do not speak Finnish may find it very difficult to orientate themselves in the Finnish political landscape. Such debates in English can help them to make informed decisions when voting. This is applicable to all the other Member States with large foreign communities.

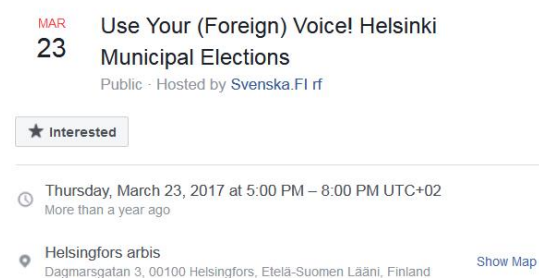
However, the partners pointed out that not all the candidates may be sufficiently fluent in English, thus additional translations would be necessary. This issue was already discussed when Good Practice no. 10 was presented.

Some partners pointed out that English is not necessarily the first spoken language of their migrant communities. In Italy, for instance, Romanian and Bulgarian languages are more common. Therefore, the stakeholders who would like to organise an election debate for mobile EU citizens should decide, based on the analysis of the migrant population, which language(s) should be used and whether additional translation would be necessary.



## Example 18 – Use your (foreign) voice! Helsinki Municipal Elections (Helsinki, Finland)

### 18.1 Short description



Helsingfors Arbis (Arbis is an adult education centre), in cooperation with Svenska.FI rf (an association of those people who choose Swedish as the integration language in Finland) organised a meeting with the local municipal candidates of Helsinki. All candidates spoke Finnish, Swedish and English. Interpreters for other languages were available.

The event started with a short presentation on how the Helsinki municipality works, after which each candidate presented himself/herself. Then, the public could freely speak with all candidates and ask questions. On Facebook, 65 people said they went and met the municipal candidates. 210 persons had expressed their interest.

Figure 41 Facebook invitation for the meeting

#### More information:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1137229686386810/>

### 18.2 Reasons for selection

This practice was particularly inclusive of the needs of foreign EU and non-EU citizens. The debate was run in English, Finnish or Swedish, and the interpreters for other languages were also available.

Such meetings provide mobile EU citizens with an opportunity to communicate directly with the candidates, and they can increase political interest and involvement of citizens. The format of the event is very interactive and requires a proactive attitude of both the participants and the candidates.

### 18.3 Transferability

Mobile EU citizens who participated in the IMPEU dialogues expressed their disappointment in the lack of information in English regarding the election procedures and political parties in their host MS.

Therefore, the availability of multiple languages and translators during the elections event in Helsinki made it particularly valuable, as no voters were excluded.

The organisation of similar events in other countries does not seem complicated, but will depend on the willingness and openness of local municipalities and political parties. Similarly, if more languages and interpreters are included, the overall cost will increase significantly.

På engelska:

USE YOUR (FOREIGN) VOICE  
HELSINKI MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

Did you know you're eligible\* to vote in the elections on 9.4.2017!

Come meet municipal level candidates from all of the parties to learn about their platforms and find the person most deserving of your vote. Candidates speak Swedish, Finnish and English. Translators for other languages will be available.

\*EU, Icelandic and Norwegian citizens who have lived in Finland for at least 51 days prior to the election are eligible to vote. Non-EU citizens only have to have lived here for two years continuously to be eligible.

Where: Arbis, Sturegatan 2, Helsinki  
When: March 23, 2017 17:00 - 20:00

All are welcome!

Organizer: Helsingfors Arbis  
Contact person : Alexandra Ramsay  
Alexandra.Ramsay@arbis.hel.fi

In cooperation with: Svenska.FI rf

Figure 42 The programme of the event



## Example 19 – VoteBrussels (Brussels, Belgium)

### 19.1 Short description

The campaign VoteBrussels focused on the international community in Brussels for the municipal elections of 2018.

The aim was to make people aware of their right to vote, to encourage them to register for the elections and use their voting right. The campaign VoteBrussels used intensively Twitter and other social media channels to spread their messages. They also had a website where information about the registration process and the elections could be found. VoteBrussels claims to have doubled the voter registration for non-Belgians for the municipal elections in five months (25.000 new voters). The campaign was organised in the framework of the FAIR EU project and was co-financed by the Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme of the EU.



Figure 43 Twitter post of VoteBrussels

More information: [https://www.vote.brussels/?fbclid=IwAR3msaphOGVhExIne7uH\\_mWluA9cE\\_3PgWgBrZetZ9\\_sRm8i9jv-4zPYPw](https://www.vote.brussels/?fbclid=IwAR3msaphOGVhExIne7uH_mWluA9cE_3PgWgBrZetZ9_sRm8i9jv-4zPYPw)

### 19.2 Reasons for selection

In order to improve the awareness of political rights, VoteBrussels reached mobile EU citizens during various formal and informal events and gatherings. In this way they could actively approach the target group instead of waiting for citizens to ask and look for the information.

It also used intensively social media to approach mobile EU citizens and to inform them about the registration procedures. The interactive tests were simple but they managed to get attention of EU citizens.

In the opinion of Helping Hand, an advantage of this initiative is that it could complement the existing political campaigns. The practice could be easily replicated, not only by organisations, but also local authorities. Cork City (example 16) has shown that municipalities can do the same.

### 19.3 Transferability

All partners indicate this practice responds to the need of mobile EU citizens to be informed about their right to vote. VoteBrussels can be replicated in other Member States as social media pages and a website can be easily created.

The financial investment does not have to be significant, if the existing events are used as a way to promote the campaign. VoteBrussels relied also on a group of committed volunteers to reach out to mobile EU citizens. In this way, the staff costs can be significantly lowered.

The voter registration in Brussels was doubled in five months and around 300 mobile EU citizens run as candidates thanks to VoteBrussels<sup>4</sup>. Given this result, we can say that the practice was efficient

<sup>4</sup> Thomas Huddleston, *The Citizens of the Capital of Europe Evaluation of Voter Registration in Brussels and the VoteBrussels campaign*, available [here](#) (accessed on 20 June 2019)



and cost-effective. The campaign was non-partisan and managed to get support from official Brussels authorities.



Figure 44 Banner of VoteBrussels on Twitter



## Example 20 – Žít Brno (Brno, Czech Republic)

### 20.1 Short description

Žít Brno is a political party that provides information to foreigners living in the city on how to register and vote in the municipal elections. Their website is in Czech and English. Since their election in 2014, they also focus on other issues that concern internationals. The candidates are internationals themselves and want to make everyone feel at home in the city, regardless of their nationality. Their initiatives led to bilingual tram schedules and announcements, bilingual open-air films and bilingual information at the swimming pool. They were also involved in the start of new local and international festivals in the city. They also ensured that there are bilingual pages and forms on the website of the Brno. English speaking servants are now working at the registry office, thanks to Žít Brno.

More information: <https://www.zitbrno.cz/vote>

### 20.2 Reasons for selection

Making the website of a political party available in English or other languages and providing information about the registration process is helpful for mobile EU citizens. Žít Brno also focuses on issues that were faced by this target group and proposed changes in the city council.

The practice helps to involve mobile EU citizens in the society and makes them feel heard. This in turn may have a positive effect the political participation, as voters understand that their voice can make a difference and that it is worth to register and cast their vote.

### 20.3 Transferability

Mobile EU citizens would like to be included in the political campaigns of the parties in their host countries. The costs of this practice are relatively low as only the website and materials have to be translated. If the campaign is focused on social media, the printing and outreach costs can also be reduced. Candidates do need to speak English however and this might be a problem in some Member States.

When looking at the results Žít Brno achieved, it can be said that the practice was efficient. The party was elected into the city council and has achieved changes that make the life of EU and non-EU citizens living in the city easier. However, the changes are very specific and cannot be implemented everywhere. Magenta, Helping Hand and ITPIO state that in Spain, Greece and Bulgaria, there are no political parties made up entirely out of international candidates. A possible solution they suggest is that parties provide more and better information to mobile EU citizens about the registration process (if applicable) and voting.

ASEV says that foreign candidates in Italy are hardly elected and that parties may need to improve their communication with local immigrant communities. As populism is increasing in some Member States, a political party focusing on mobile EU citizens might get less support.

**Chcu víc.**  
Kandidáti Program Sřídě Chcou nás For foreigners

**Now it's time to make your voice heard**

Any EU citizen with temporary or permanent residence in Brno is entitled to vote in the municipal elections. Here's what Žít Brno does for foreigners and how you can help us make life in Brno a better experience for everyone.

**What we do**

In 2014, when we succeeded in our first elections, we initiated a lot of projects. The most successful ones include beginning the construction of a new concert hall and the social projects "Housing First" and "Rapid Rehousing".

We believe we're achieving our goal of helping Brno to become a friendly and confident city. We're happy that Brno is becoming multilingual and cosmopolitan again, due in part to people like you.

We try to help foreigners coming to Brno, whether as visitors or residents. We want everyone to feel at home in Brno, regardless of where they're from.

We organized bilingual pages and forms at the Brno-city website. We've arranged for the very first English-speaking civil servants at the registry office.

Our initiatives have resulted in bilingual tram schedules, transportation announcements, and other travel information, regularly updated; in bilingual open-air films; and in bilingual information at the swimming pool.

**How to register and vote**

**1 Can you vote?**  
All EU citizens with residency in Brno can vote in the municipal elections. This applies to people with Czech citizenship (*občanství*), people with permanent residence (*trvalý pobyt*) and also people with temporary residence (*přechodný pobyt*).

**2 Got your certificate of residence?**  
If you **have** your certificate of residence for an EU citizen, then you're just one district town hall visit away from becoming a voter.  
If you **don't have** the certificate, then follow the instructions to get one.

**3 Register to vote**  
Make sure to visit your district town hall by October 1<sup>st</sup> and register to vote.

Figure 45 Information available on the Žít Brno website





## Our candidates

Let us introduce a couple of our candidates that have chosen Brno as their place to live.



Anne  
Meredith  
**Johnson**

I think Brno is a beautiful and amazing city. I love that there is history around every corner – from the tall cathedral spires to the small stumbling stones. I also love how very much the city is alive in the 21st century – modernizing public transportation, making bike travel safer and easier, and opening its doors to an increasingly global world. When I moved here in 1994, my favorite food was fried cheese – and it's still a treat to get a fried cheese in a bun while waiting for the midnight bus. It's exciting to me that these beloved things remain, and are joined by wonderful new things. I think that Žit Brno embodies that combination – true love for the city, honest respect for the past, and a fearless focus on openness to new possibilities.



Emanuele  
**Ruggiero**

I came to Žit Brno as an independent candidate.

I am not a politician, I am a conscious European citizen.

Brno It is a city in favor of culture, individuals, families, there is more space for children and their happy growth. Public transport is phenomenal, health is excellent, studies with a good level of school and many possibilities. Not just for work but also for a better future to give to children.

Beyond having an Italian Czech family, Brno has become my second city, and I feel very close to it and to feel like a Moravian.

I've been knowing Brno for 22 years and I've seen his epochal change, thanks also to



António  
Pedro **Nobre**

Moving into Brno as a foreigner: finding a house, a job, paying taxes, social and health insurance, dealing with bureaucracy, building a family, understanding the Czech society and learning the language, history and customs, becoming an active member of the local community, has been part of my life for the past 13 years.

I have been and still go through many of the challenges that other European Union citizens face when they move into this city and my first hand experience can be valuable to help them to not only integrate in their new home town, but also to give their contribution to keep Brno a dynamic, challenging and competitive place both in European and Global level.

Figure 46 Candidates of Žit Brno