



## MORE CITIZEN PARTICIPATION THROUGH E-PARTICIPATION

<b>Target group</b>	Adult learner
<b>Setting</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Frontal lecture</li> <li>• Group work</li> <li>• Plenary</li> </ul>
<b>Time</b>	3 units à 50 minutes

E-participation means internet-based procedures that allow the population to participate in political processes and offer the possibility of launching initiatives.

This exercise deals with the topic of e-Participation/online initiatives/online platforms/online petitions.

MATERIALS NEEDED	
MATERIAL	Y/N
Projector	Y
Flipchart	Y
Printed handout	Y
Other (please specify): PC / mobile device, internet	Y

### PREPARATION

All you need to prepare is a PC, smartphone, and an internet connection to look up information from the internet.

- Lecture on the topic of e-participation.

The presentation should explain the following keywords:

- Participation
- Digital participation
- Political participation
- Online initiatives/online platforms/online petitions

The worksheets serve as additional support and inspiration.





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### METHOD / PROCESS DESCRIPTION

The participants are given the task of familiarizing themselves with the possibilities of eParticipation. A short input on the topic of eParticipation is given as an introduction. The focus should be on the different possibilities of eParticipation. Afterward, each participant, alone or in groups, will prepare information on the following topics:

- How can citizens initiate a petition, campaign, or initiative on local, national, and global issues? (Participants can find information on how to do this at [www.change.org](http://www.change.org)).
- How can citizens actively support European citizenship? (Information on this can be found at <https://ecit-foundation.eu>)

This exercise includes the preparation of a handout with clarification of the following questions:

[www.change.org](http://www.change.org):

- What does Change.org stand for?
- How many people use this platform
- Which campaigns have been initiated via change.org?
- How can I start a petition?
- On which topics can I start a petition?

Write a short guide: Important elements of a good campaign (info on this can be found at <https://changeverein.org/kampagnentraining/>)

[www.ecit-foundation.eu](http://www.ecit-foundation.eu):

- What does the ECIT Foundation stand for?
- What initiatives has the ECIT Foundation supported?

Find out how many people in your country have already supported this initiative at <https://ecit-foundation.eu/voters-without-borders>.

At ECI <https://europa.eu/citizens-initiative/select-language?destination=/home> you can find out which initiatives are currently running. Describe three initiatives and find out how you too can participate in such initiatives.





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Afterwards, the participants have the opportunity to deepen their knowledge with the "fish bowl" method and to expand their knowledge in this regard. The participants should first draw their own conclusions from their observations.

For the fish bowl method, 4 - 7 people (depending on the total number of participants in the class) are selected to sit in an armchair circle. All others sit in one or more armchair circles around this circle and are only allowed to follow the discussion of these persons as listeners, but if they want to join in the discussion they can go to the inner circle and join in. This can be arranged as follows:

A: One chair in the inner circle remains unoccupied to allow input from outside.

B: The person who wants to contribute places him/herself behind a person in the inner circle. This person is then allowed to finish what he or she is doing and then has to give way to the new person.

Many variants of the "fish bowl method" can be found on the internet, which can of course also be adapted and implemented. The duration of the implementation can be estimated at around 30 to 60 minutes.

Possible questions for the fish bowl round:

- Why is eParticipation or participation in socially relevant issues in general very important?
- What are the advantages and disadvantages of eParticipation? Which population groups are excluded by it?
- To what extent do social media contribute to accelerating eParticipation?
- E-participation does not depend solely on access to digital media. What other factors influence people's participation behaviour?

### DOWNLOAD MATERIAL

More citizen participation through eParticipation: launching online initiatives yourself & participating in online initiatives.

