Europe’s Disconnections

Reforming the European Citizens’ Initiative
Our starting point

A broken connection between citizens and decision-makers
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Our Project

16 semi-structured interviews
One book/8 essays
One policy proposal
An exhibition project

Dialogue
Europe's Disconnections

Please tell me to what extent you agree or disagree with each of the following statements: My voice counts in the EU (%-EU)

Source: 2019 Eurobarometer First Results, p.13
“We are a small country with little impact, right? It's like: do we have to scream in order to be heard?”

(Teresa, Portugal)

“I don't even see it [the EU]. Not like something close, it's a distant thing.”

(Joaquin, Spain)

“I feel like the EU is not designed towards the people. It's for big businesses.”

(Rosa, Scotland)
The ECI 2020 - How it works

1. Group of organisers
   > 7 natural persons from 7 different Member States

2. Registration
   By the Commission, within 2 months

3. Collection of support
   12 months / Online collection system

4. Verification by the MS
   A quarter of Member States / > 1 million supporters

5. Submission of the ECI to the Commission


7. Examination by the Commission
   < 6 months

8. Follow-up by the European Parliament
The ECI – a bicycle with two flat tyres

Phase before the Commission considers an initiative

Phase after the Commission considers an initiative
The ECI – a bicycle with two flat tyres

Phase before the Commission considers an initiative

Phase after the Commission considers an initiative

Current ECI Reform (Jan 2020)
The ECI – a bicycle with two flat tyres

Current ECI Reform (Jan 2020)

Phase before the Commission considers an initiative

Phase after the Commission considers an initiative

Our proposed reform
Our proposed reform to the ECI

1. The European Parliament should follow the resolution procedure after each public hearing of a citizens’ initiative.

2. The European Commission should make a legislative proposal based on the initiative if there is a resolution that passed with a majority of MEPs.

3. The European Parliament should publicly evaluate the Commission’s proposal.
Assessment of our proposed reform

- Fits with current political will
- Cost-effective and easy to implement
- Joins participatory and representative democracy together
The ECI and Europe's Disconnections

"We cannot be partakers unless we participate"
(Veera, Finland)

"Anything that helps you feel like you are not left out by the European Union is a good thing (...).
You should be able to say:
"Yes, the European Union did this for me!"
(Valeriu, Romania)
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Reforming the European Citizens’ Initiative