



# FAIR EU

A look into the obstacles faced by EU mobile citizens and the solutions to overcoming them



The right to political participation lies at the heart of democratic citizenship. However, due to legal and administrative hurdles and lack of clear information and instructions, political participation of EU mobile citizens is **still very limited**.

**FAIR EU** (Fostering Awareness, Inclusion and Recognition of EU mobile citizens) aims to encourage the successful inclusion of the more than 17 million EU mobile citizens in their host EU country's civic and political life.

The project stems from the ongoing need to counter negative trends against mobile citizens' rights.



# VoteBrussels

The **VoteBrussels** campaign targeted EU mobile citizens living in Brussels and encouraged them to vote in the local elections in October 2018.

The campaign contributed to an impressive increase in the voter registration rate, which doubled in just five months, and **25 000 new voters were registered.**



# Crowdsourcing

Within the framework of FAIR EU, we launched a crowdsourcing platform aimed at **identifying obstacles to free movement and political participation** for EU mobile citizens in order to understand why voter turnout remains so low.

More than 350 EU mobile citizens shared their stories and ideas, illustrating that **lack of political engagement** is not the cause of low voter turn-out, but rather a number of identified obstacles.

You can still share your opinion on how to break the barriers to political participation, just scan the QR code



# Country Reports

The number of EU citizens of voting age has been steadily increasing in the EU but many of them are **unaware of their electoral rights** and **experience challenges** when trying to get involved. As a result, political participation of mobile EU citizens in local and EU elections in their host Member State remains limited.

**To better understand this trend**, a series of **country-by-country reports** were developed that provide an analysis of the obstacles EU mobile citizens experience when moving to or living in another Member State, and when trying to be politically active.



28 Country reports



In 9 different  
languages



6 Focus groups



# Challenges

to political participation faced by EU mobile citizens



Eligibility requirements



Voter registration



Voting methods



Limited outreach and information



Non-inclusive political environment

# Recommendations

## Electoral registration

- Introduce automatic or quasi-automatic voter registration for local elections
- Introduce the possibility to register online for elections
- Inform citizens about the possibility to register on the electoral roll at the time of residence registration

## Outreach and communication

- Public authorities should provide more information on electoral rights and voter registration, in several languages
- Outreach campaigns should be done regularly and should target various socio-economic and age groups
- Public authorities should use different methods of communication to engage citizens (social media, online campaigns)

## Voting methods

- Expand the number of available voting methods, especially postal & e-voting

## Political environment

- Implement transnational lists of candidates for seats in the EP
- EP should host and fund an online platform where political parties can post their agenda in all EU languages



# FAIR EU

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Only the people can change and enrich things in the institutions and transmit them to future generations.

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Jean Monnet



Maastricht University



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