Meeting of the Expert Group on the Citizens' Initiative

Centre Borschette, Brussels
22 November 2016
AGENDA

01 Objectives of the study
02 The Study (design, methods and team)
03 What we need from you
04 Timeline
Objectives of the study

- **Study Objective 1**: to assess the scope and possible approaches for simplifying the data requirements for ECI signatories within the existing legislative framework;
- **Study Objective 2**: to assess the scope for streamlining the related data security requirements for organisers, while ensuring the protection of these data in accordance with the ECI Regulation; and
- **Study Objective 3**: to assess more broadly the proportionality of the provisions of the Regulation as regards data requirements for signatories and the verification of statements of support, also in relation to other instruments of direct and participatory democracy at national/regional level, and put forward possible alternative options in this regard should the Commission decide to propose a revision of the ECI Regulation.
Study design

STUDY DESIGN.

Phase 1. Inception Phase.

Preparatory Tasks.
Preparation of draft questionnaires, preliminary interviews, refinement of the methodological tools and preparation of the Inception Report.

Phase 2. Data Collection Phase.

Overarching Task 1.
Analysis, assessment & comparison at national level.

Overarching Task 2.
Risk assessment.

Phase 3. Analysis & Reporting Phase.

Overarching Task 3.
Analyse existing citizens’ initiatives, assess the proportionality of data requirements & develop possible policy options.
Task 1 - assess the scope and possible approaches for simplifying the data requirements for ECI signatories within the existing legislative framework

• Key issues:
  – Provide a picture of the situation at MS level (background, rules practice) – the baseline
  – From the baseline, identify the shortcomings of the ECI, in particular with regard to (i) Participation by citizens, (ii) Impact of data requirements on citizens’ participation, (iii) Rationale for adoptions of the national rules / law, and (iv) Scope for simplification of the rules

• Data collection methods
  – National data collection (rules implementing Art. 8 of the ECI regulation, processes and practices, information on similar participatory instruments etc.) through interviews, desk research, => Country fiche
  – EU data collection (desk research & interviews)

• Analysis (descriptive, comparative legal & statistical)

• Outputs:
  – country fiches
  – assessment of the sensitivity of various data requirements in the different Member States
  – analysis of the extent to which the requirement to provide certain data impacts the support
  – list of best practices
  – assessment of the scope for the simplification of the rules
Task 2 - Risk assessment and scope for certification

• **Key issues:**
  - Interface between the ECI data and data protection rules, including the overall legislative framework.
  - Assessed from a legal data protection point of view and from a technical one.

• **Data collection methods**
  - National data collection (same as Task 1)
  - EU data collection (desk research & interviews – commission and ECI organisers)
  - Case studies research (3/4 countries)

• **Analysis (Risk assessment, Assessment of scope to simplify and/or streamlining provisions on online collection systems )**

• **Outputs :**
  - Case studies
  - Risk assessment
  - List of proposals for the simplification and streamlining of the technical specifications
Task 3 - Proportionality assessment & development of alternative options

• Key issues:
  – Forward looking element.
  – Provide possible options for the amendment and update of the ECI

• Data collection methods
  – Data collected for Task 1 and Task 2

• Analysis (comparative, Assessments and proportionality assessments, development of options)

• Outputs:
  – Possible solutions
  – Proportionality assessment
Where necessary, EDRi will support us in collecting data and identifying the necessary information and risks they identify.
Where we will need your cooperation

You will be contacted by our partner TIPIK early in 2017 – the type of question we will seek to find answers to include:

- Information on the data requirements and verification (legally and in practice);
- Information on other similar types of initiatives;
- Understanding of the sensitivity of certain types of data;
- Information on other similar initiatives;
- Any relevant documentation / information you can point us to.
## Activity Planning

### Phase 1 - Inception phase
- Contract sign
- Internal start up meeting
- Kick off meeting
- Initial desk research
- Familiarisation interviews
- Refine methodological tools
- Write and submit inception report
- Inception report meeting

### Phase 2: Data Collection Phase
- Desk research
- Interviews
- EU wide data collection on (un-)successful ECI
- Preliminary data analysis
- Write and submit Interim Report
- Interim Report meeting
- Address comments a

### Phase 3: Data Analysis Phase
- Further analysis
- Development of case studies
- Risk- and proportionality assessments
- Identification of the scope for simplification
- Analysis of existing citizens’ initiative
- Assessment of the proportionality of data requirements
- Formulation of possible alternative options
- Write and submit Draft Final Report
- Draft Final Meeting
- Address comments and submit Final Report
- Contract close

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THANK YOU

Thank you for your valuable time. Please ask any questions you might have
For further information, please contact:

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