

ECAS Activity Report 2015



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Summary	3
EU Rights Focus Area	4
Services to Citizens	4
Your Europe Advice	4
EU Rights Clinic	10
Events	14
Policy Positions	17
Digital Democracy Focus Area	21
Services to Citizens	21
ECI Support Centre	21
Digital Democracy Day	23
Events	24
Policy Positions	27
Beyond the EU Focus Area	30
Projects	30
Events	30
Policy Positions	32
ECAS Services to Members and Civil Society Organisations	33
ECAS Newsletter	33
ECAS Funding Alerts & Online Members' Room	34
ECAS Funding Guide for the non-profit sector	36
Pilot working group on partnership building and fundraising	38
Tailor-made services: Capacity building to CSOs on EU fundraising and Communication	38

SUMMARY

ECAS' mission is to empower citizens to exercise their rights and promote open and inclusive decision-making through provision of high quality advice, research and advocacy, as well as capacity building to civil society organisations.

ECAS aspires to be the EU Resource Centre on citizens' rights, campaigning for an inclusive, transparent and democratic Europe, where the benefits of EU citizenship can be fully tapped.

ECAS work is focused in three main areas: EU Rights, Digital Democracy and Beyond the EU. In addition, ECAS provides services to its network of about 100 members in the EU and beyond.

In 2015, ECAS work in the **EU Rights** focus area has been marked by:

- An increase of **9,3 %** compared to 2014 in the number of enquiries for legal advice from citizens on their rights under EU law covering social security, residence and visas, work issues, taxes under the Your Europe Advice service. ECAS legal experts provided 22 137 replies. Moreover ECAS started implementing a more sophisticated system of quality control involving at least 10% of all the responses on a monthly basis. More than 95% of the controlled cases fulfil all the quality criteria.
- An increase of the cases handled by the EU Rights Clinic which doubled in comparison with 2013. In 2015, the EU Rights Clinic started cooperating with Brussels Helpdesk which is an entity that provides free legal advice and legal action for mobile EU citizens who are exercising their freedom of movement in Belgium, and who are facing the Expulsion order from the Belgian authorities.
- Prominent featuring of ECAS' positions with regard to the deteriorating framework of the enforcement of free movement rights, the populist rhetoric on the issue, the restoration of borders in the EU, and the challenge to the Schengen agreement at relevant conferences, all through increased media presence and by contributing to the consultations on the Labour Mobility Package and the Citizenship Report.

Under the **Digital Democracy** focus area, in addition to its traditionally high expert profile and public recognition regarding the European Citizens Initiative, in 2015 ECAS introduced and developed further the concept of using new Deliberative-Collaborative eDemocracy models that can contribute to a more open and inclusive form of policymaking by involving citizens through the use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and the internet. ECAS published a Study on the subject, organised a very well attended Digital Democracy Day, published articles voicing its opinion, and has been contributing to the consultations on the EU E-Government action plan 2016-2020.

ECAS activities in the **Beyond the EU** focus area has expanded as well. The Triple A project's geographical coverage now includes all Balkan countries and Turkey with the prospect of including CSOs which provide information, advice and free legal aid to citizens in the Triple A network which will be officially launched in 2016. Advocacy Roadmaps are being prepared in each country to define activities aimed at ensuring a more enabling legal framework for assisting vulnerable citizens. Moreover, ECAS has started preparations for setting up a capacity building program for the Southern EU neighbourhood.

In 2015, **ECAS services to members** have been revamped to include more user-friendly features in the Funding Guide and in the monthly funding alerts, as well as the facilitation of a pilot working group on

fundraising and partner-matching, etc. The improved quality of ECAS' monthly newsletter resulted in doubling the number of its subscribers in 2015, reaching 1500. In October 2015 ECAS, launched its training program on fundraising, communication and EU budget cycle which will be further developed in 2016.

EU RIGHTS FOCUS AREA

ECAS empowers citizens to exercise their rights and campaigns for an inclusive, transparent and democratic Europe where the benefits of EU citizenship can be fully tapped.

The right to free movement of persons is one of the four fundamental freedoms underpinning the European project. It is the right that EU citizens consider to be the most notable achievement of European integration.

ECAS has an extensive track record in helping EU citizens in exercising their right of free movement and in-depth knowledge of the problems associated with its implementation.

For the last 19 years, ECAS has been running "Your Europe Advice", an EU advice service provided by ECAS' team of 59 legal experts in all 24 official EU languages and in all 28 EU member states. In 2015, ECAS' legal experts responded to 22 137 enquiries from citizens on their rights under EU law covering social security, residence and visas, work issues, taxes, and more .

In 2015, the EU Rights Clinic (a partnership with the University of Kent in Brussels) which helps EU citizens and their family members who are faced with complex problems when moving around the EU has handled 128 cases – twice as many as in 2013.

Considering the recent deteriorating framework of the enforcement of free movement rights, in addition to the populist rhetoric on the issue in certain member states, the restoration of borders in the EU, and the challenge to the Schengen agreement, ECAS has actively promoted free movement as the most cherished right by the EU citizens at relevant conferences, through publishing six positions and by contributing to the consultations on the Labour Mobility Package and the Citizenship Report.

SERVICES TO CITIZENS

Your Europe Advice

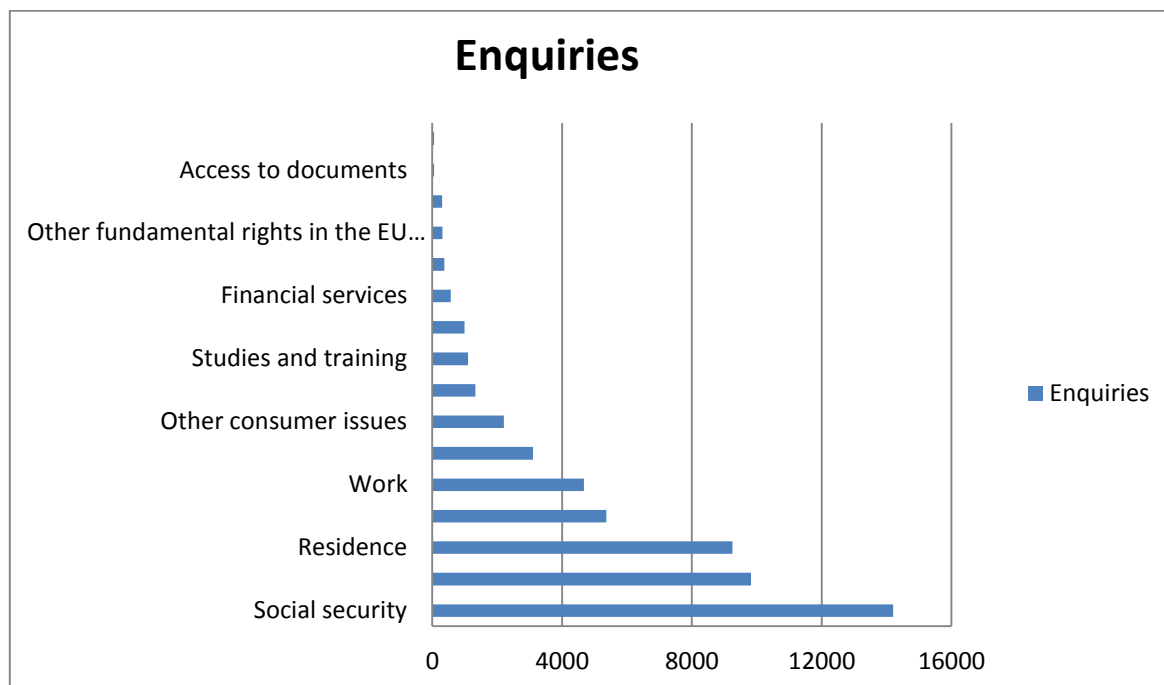
Despite the increase of 9,3 % in the number of enquiries compared to 2014, In 2015 the quality of the service has been maintained at a high level.

Under the new contract, The European Commission requires ECAS to have a higher level of quality insurance, for example to carry out a Quality Control on the basis of a sample which "should be 10% of all cases" and "not less than 150" (in the past it was only 120 cases). This quality assessment allows more precise quality control and more focused management responses. It goes more in-depth, and will help to identify potential weaknesses and where there is room for improvement.

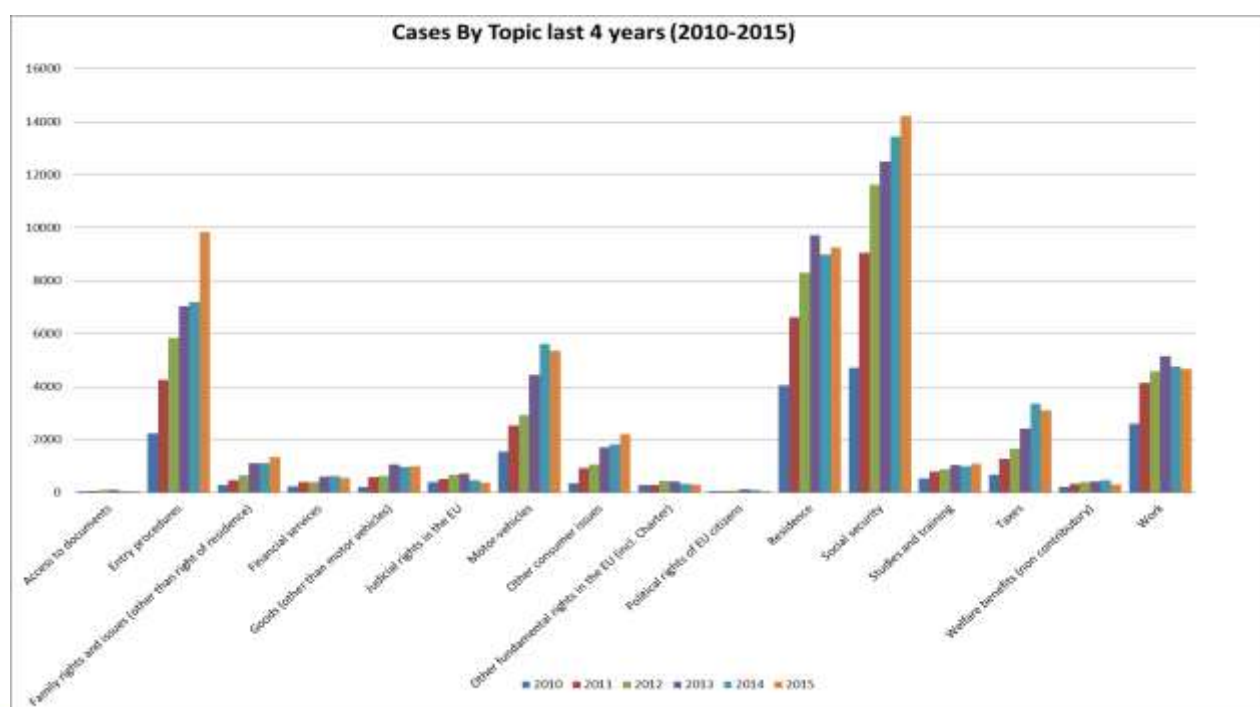
More than 95% of controlled cases fulfil all the quality criteria.

ECAS has succeeded in constantly reducing the response time of replies: in 2015, 95% of all replies were provided within the deadline.

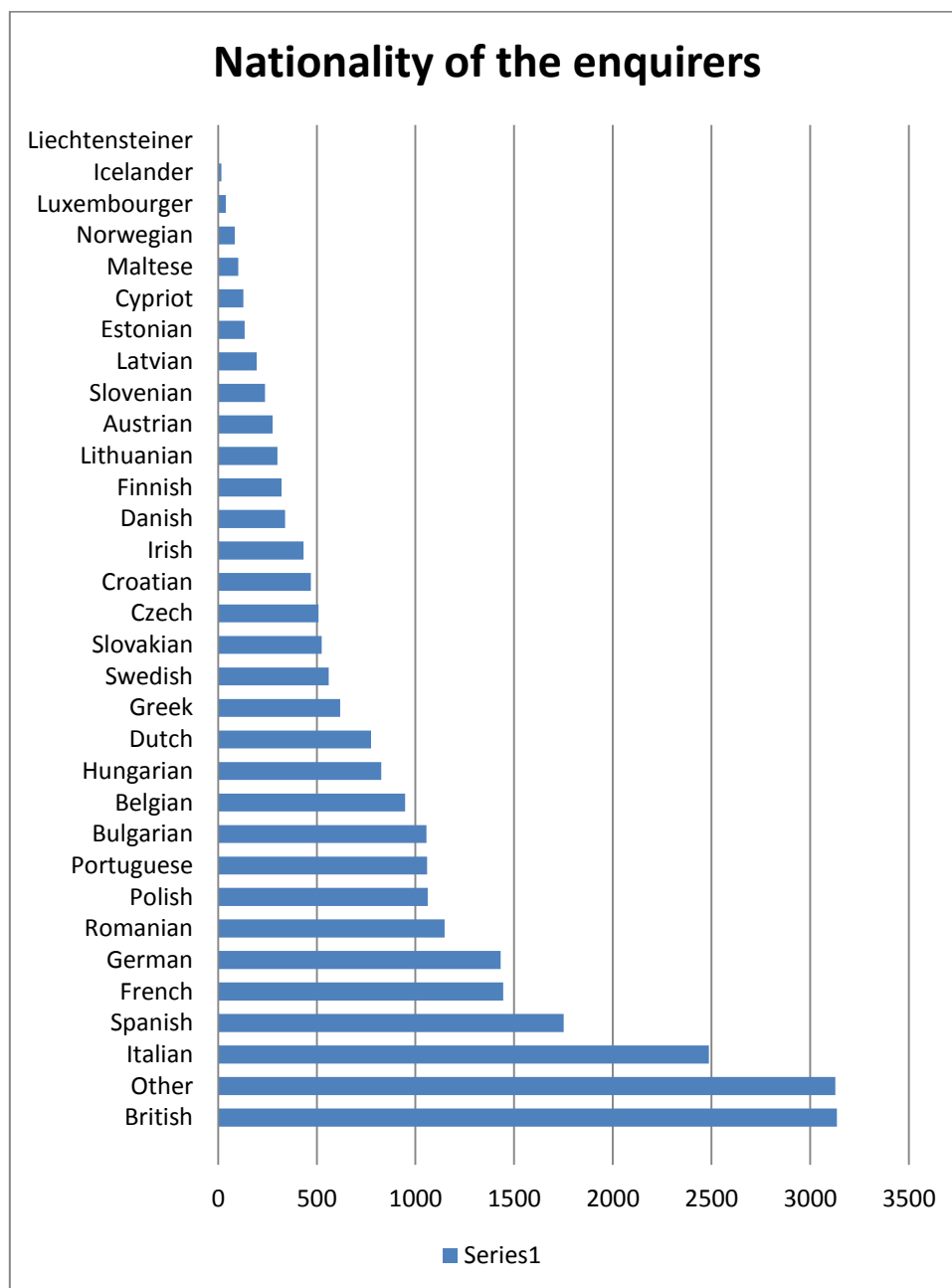
Nature of the Enquiries



Social security is still the largest topic in terms of number of enquiries received and continues to expand. Your Europe Advice (YEA) receives more and more enquiries about entry procedures which tend to be based on family reunification issues. As Directive 2004/38 guarantees rights that are intimately connected to the concept of citizenship of the EU, it raises crucial questions about mobility.



The enquiries received are from all 28 EU countries, as well as from Norwegian, Icelandic, and third country nationals:



Outreach Activities

The majority of the experts have expressed an interest in participating in Outreach activities and in promoting YEA.

Between January and December 2015, 17 YEA experts participated in 37 outreach activities covering the following countries: Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Czech Republic, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and the United Kingdom. The number of participants varied significantly according to the type of the event, but based on the feedback reports the number of persons reached may be over 3500. The events can be divided into 3 categories: network meetings, general public events, and consultation days.

The network meetings were generally organised by the Commission Representations and gathered a large number of representatives from various service networks such as SOLVIT, Europe Direct, Team Europe, Eures, Enterprise Europe Network, consumer organisations, etc. The YEA experts met the two main objectives, namely presenting and explaining the Your Europe website and YEA to potential multipliers and “institutional” users and liaising with representatives from other networks that provide help and advice to citizens and businesses.

Most of the general public events took the form of public fairs where the YEA experts provided information about Your Europe and YEA. They often gave short presentations and sometimes provided face-to-face advice to visitors.

Consultation days took place at the Dublin Commission Representation. During these consultation days, the expert provided face-to-face advice to EU citizens on their free movement rights. Citizens had the opportunity to present documents to the Legal Expert to clarify their case.

EU Legal Updates

The Management Team ensures that the experts are kept up-to-date with new legislation and case-law by providing them with a monthly newsletter entitled “EU Law Update”. This newsletter is tailored to the continuously evolving information needs of the experts. It includes the latest news from the EU, information on recent infringement procedures undertaken by the European Commission and an analysis of the latest Court of Justice cases related to areas dealt with by experts in their enquiries. Each month, by way of example, the newsletter also publishes one or more of the experts’ enquiries judged to be either good or interesting. Outreach activities, interesting websites, developments in individual member states, and references to academic EU articles which may be relevant for the experts are also included in this newsletter.

Feedback Reports

At the request of the European Commission, ECAS provides four feedback reports to the Commission. These reports include details of the cases handled by the experts in YEA and also a policy analysis of the topics covered in the enquiries.

Your Europe Web Portal Assistance

The Your Europe Portal is an EU website designed to provide comprehensive first-stop information and signposting to assist citizens and businesses in understanding, exercising and enforcing their rights and entitlements throughout the European Union under EU law. At the request of the European Commission, or occasionally on its own initiative, but always with the prior approval of the Commission, ECAS submits updates to the Your Europe Portal to ensure the ongoing accuracy, completeness and quality of information on the portal. In 2015, ECAS was asked to undertake an in-depth analysis of cases replied to in February and March. The objective was to find how many answers could be found on the YE website, with the aim of further improving the YE Portal and its signposting to advice services. The study carried out by ECAS showed that an internet Portal alone would not be equipped to satisfy citizens’ expectations. In only 16% of the cases was the enquiry judged to be “fully covered” by the web site content, whereas in 62% of all cases, experts

said the YE Portal content covered the needs of the enquiry “to some extent”, and in another 22% of cases the Portal content did “not at all” cover the subject matter of the enquiry.

YEA training seminars

In cooperation with the European Commission, ECAS organises a training seminar once a year. Training topics are proposed to the Commission by the Management Team after consultation with the experts, taking into account difficult enquiries which have been identified by quality control, by trends and problems presented in the feedback reports, and by issues arising from Outreach activities. In cooperation with the European Commission, the topics are delivered and discussed during the training seminar by specialists in these areas from the European Commission.

In 2015, the Training Seminar took place on 10 and 11 November in Brussels, and 53 legal experts attended.



Your Europe Chats on Passengers Rights and Healthcare

In 2015, the YEA experts had an active role in an online chat hosted on the Your Europe Facebook page. In April, five YEA experts provided online replies to over 80 questions on passengers' rights. November's chat topic was healthcare, and during the chat, five experts answered over 20 questions.



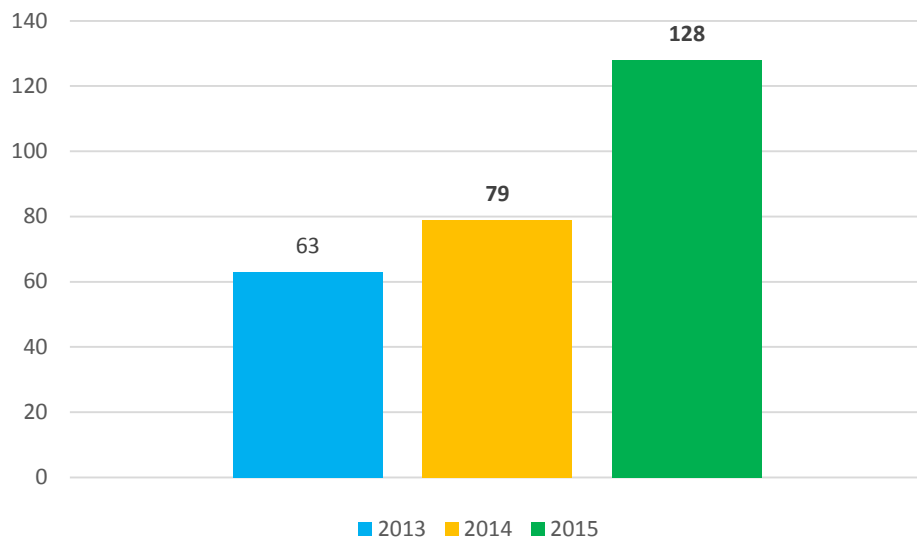


In 2015, the EU Rights Clinic continued its activity of providing problem-solving of difficult cases involving migrants, and of advocating for the implementation of concrete and adequate measures at both the EU level and in member states to overcome the visible and hidden barriers of European citizenship.

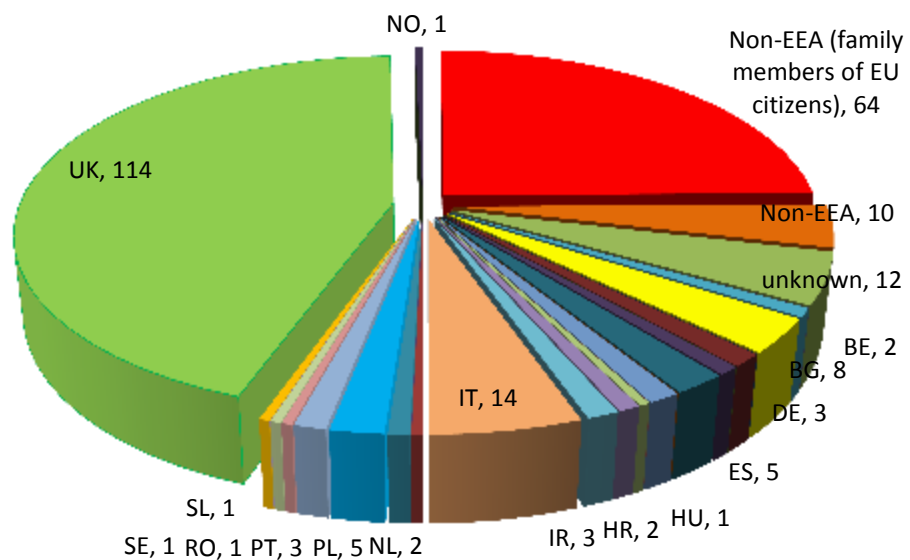
In 2015, the EU Rights Clinic started cooperating with Brussels Helpdesk, an entity that provides free legal advice and legal action for mobile EU citizens who are exercising their freedom of movement in Belgium, and who are facing the Expulsion order from the Belgian authorities.

Between January 2013 and December 2015 the EU Rights Clinic handled over 270 cases that involved 359 individual clients and 4 NGO clients.

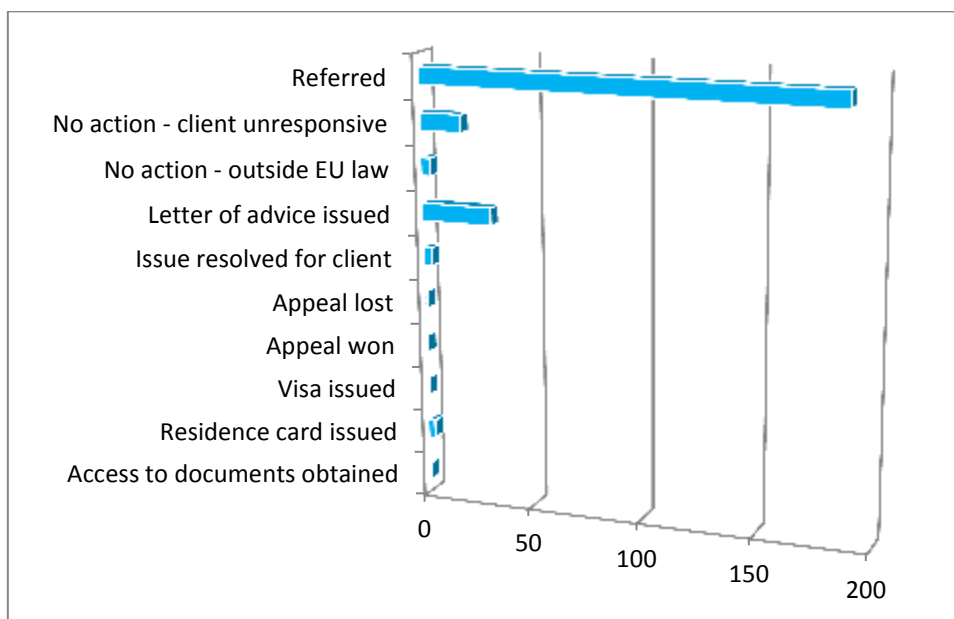
The number of cases handled by year:



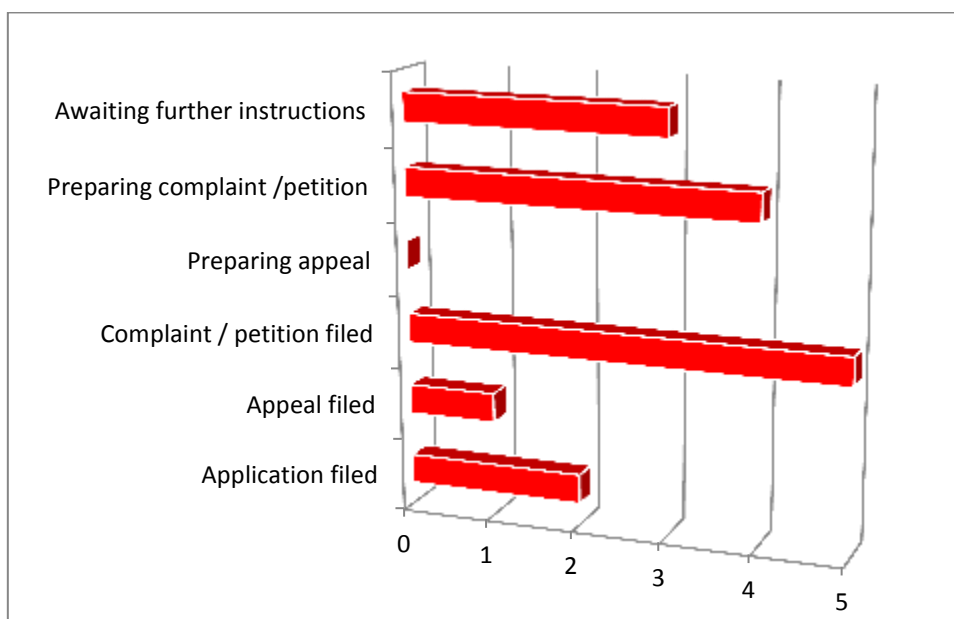
The origins of the clients were following:



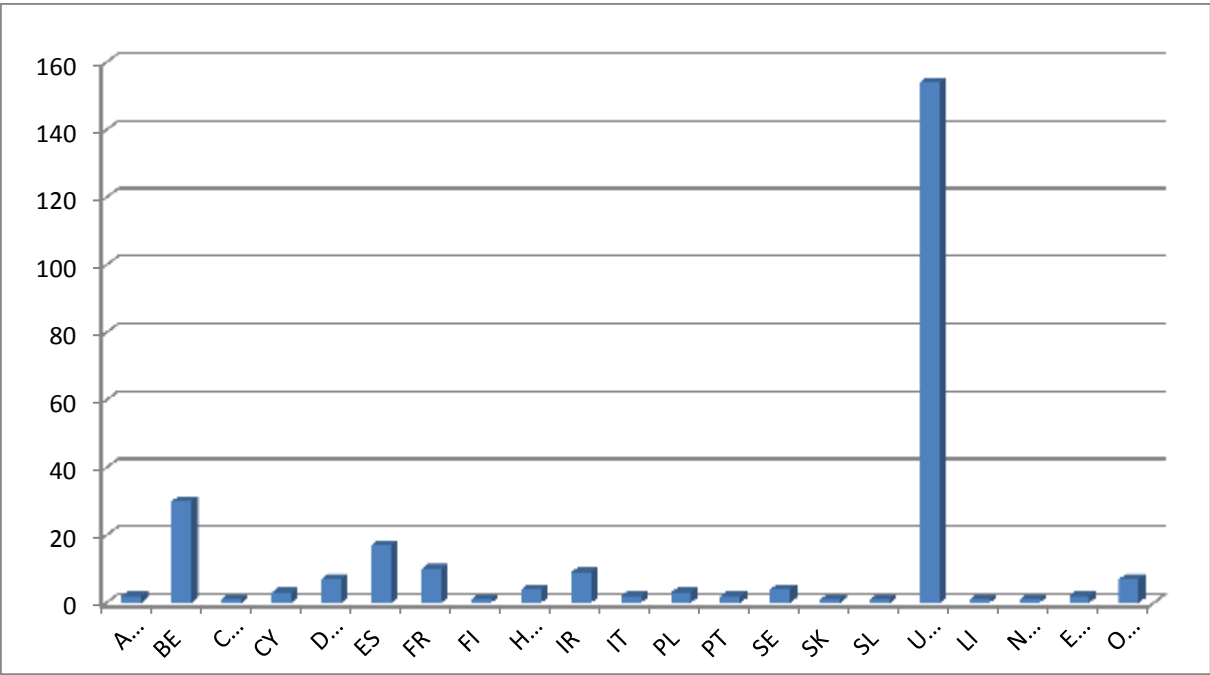
Between January 2013 and December 2015 the EU Rights Clinic closed 253 cases:



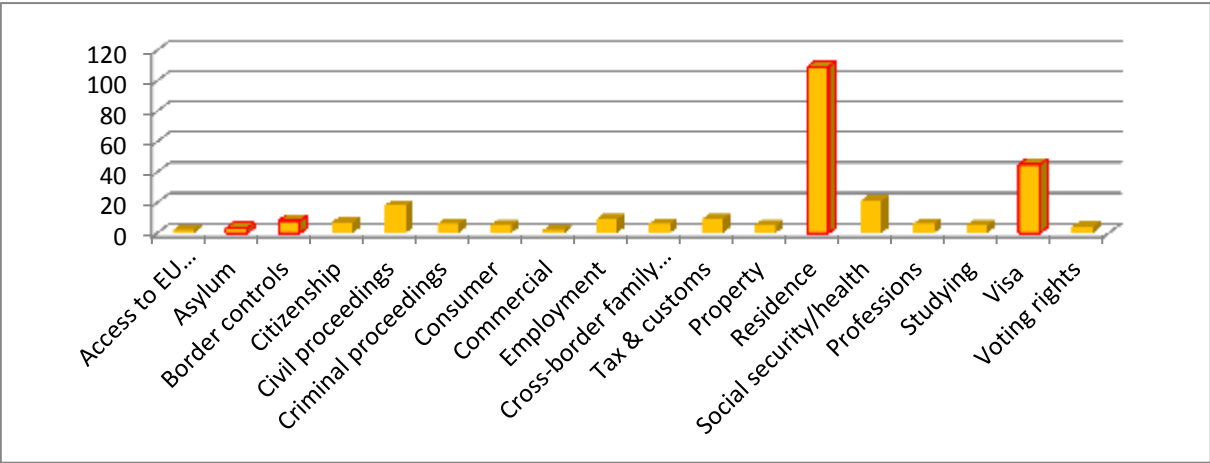
At the end of 2015, there were 17 open cases:



The member states of the origin of the cases are:



The following chart shows the nature of the problem dealt with by the EU Rights Clinic:



EVENTS

Round Table on Quality Standards in the Provision of Information, Advice and Legal Aid to Citizens

On 23 February, ECAS organised a Round Table in order to examine different approaches to ensuring quality standards in delivering information, advice and free legal aid to citizens.

The event, organised under the framework of the EC funded project “Triple A for Citizens”, marked the beginning of the second phase of the project. The new phase will be mainly focused on the creation of a network of organisations engaged in the provision of information, advice and active help to citizens in wider Europe.

During the Round Table the best EU practices for providing support to citizens were identified thanks to the successful examples provided by services such as Europe Direct, Your Europe Advice and the Office for Legal Aid Brussels. Moreover, the current quality standard practices for providing advice and legal representation to citizens in the UK were presented by the Legal Aid Practitioners Group and the Law Centres Network UK. The findings and recommendations that emerged from the discussion will form the basis for the elaboration of quality control mechanisms which will be promoted by the Triple A network over the course of the next two years.

All the presentations and the recording of the conference will be available soon on the website www.tripleacitizens.eu

Gibraltar's International Conference "Pathways to Resolution" on Citizens' Advice Services

ECAS Director, Assya Kavrakova, was a speaker at the International Conference "Pathways to Resolutions", organised by the [Gibraltar Citizens Advice Bureau](#), and held in Gibraltar on 22 June.

The conference discussed ‘**mediation versus litigation**’ in dealings with citizens in family disputes, employment and commercial matters. Due to traditionally long procedures and expensive court battles, many legal and non-legal professionals are increasingly looking at mediation as a way to solve disputes, avoid costs and accelerate conflict resolution. Assya Kavrakova presented ECAS’ free advice services to citizens including the *Your Europe Advice* and the *EU Rights Clinic*. She also gave an interview to the local TV station which you can view at the link below.

[See the TV coverage of the event here](#) (from minute 29:40 onwards)

Invisible EU Migrants: Training on EU advocacy and Rights of Vulnerable EU migrants

On 9-10 June, 2015 ECAS organised a two-day training session for NGOs working with EU migrants in Brussels which was followed by a round table event. The 40 participants received an overview of EU law on residence rights and rights to claim benefits, EU Advocacy Techniques, key issues in Belgium, case studies on strategic litigation and targeting the Commission and infringement proceedings. The events are part of the

project, “The Invisible EU Migrants”, led by the AIRE Centre and funded by the European Program for Integration and Migration, which aims to encourage EU institutions to take action to secure the EU legal rights of vulnerable and marginalized Union citizens.

ECAS Presents the Your Europe Advice Service at the Annual Czech SME Week



On 23 September, ECAS EU Rights Coordinator, Zuzana Pundova participated in the Eighth Annual Czech SME Week – “Conference for support of regional development”.

ECAS had been invited to present the Your Europe Advice service, particularly the rights and possibilities of EU citizens to start a business, to expand a business and to become self-employed in another Member State, as well as the advantages and disadvantages of becoming a cross-border worker.

[More information at the event websiteYour Europe Advice](#)

ACCES campaign targeting MEPs and EU officials on the need to engage citizens in migration talks and strategies

In September 2015, as part of the U-impact project on active citizens’ participation in EU decision-making processes, of which ECAS is a partner, we launched the “Active Citizens for Common European Solutions initiative” (ACCES).

Deeply concerned by the lack of a common European approach to the current migrant crisis in Europe, and by the threat this poses to founding principles of the Union such as solidarity and freedom of movement, we drafted a letter calling for an active involvement of European citizens in all EU member states, candidate

countries and in the European Neighborhood in discussing and finding sound policy decisions to address this crisis. This letter was sent to the MEPs in Foreign Affairs, Human Rights and Civil Liberties Committees and to the rapporteurs who are working on a report on the situation in the Mediterranean and the need for a holistic approach to migration. Additionally, it was addressed to the relevant EU decision-makers at the European Commission, the European Economic and Social Committee, the Committee of the Regions and the European External Action Service, as well as to other EU stakeholders.

A [press release](#) about the launch of this campaign was also circulated among several EU correspondents and was shared via the social networks. We received several statements of support from MEPs, Commission officials and civil society organisations who agreed on the need to develop a common approach towards migration, in consultation with citizens.



Panel on strategies to counter Euroscepticism at the Heinrich Boll Stiftung

On 13 October, ECAS' Membership and Outreach Manager moderated a panel on strategies to counter Euroscepticism as part of a 5-day capacity building programme, "How to Counter Right-Wing Populism and Extremism in Europe", which was organised by the Heinrich Boll Stiftung EU Office.

The capacity building involved 16 young Europeans from France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Sweden, and the UK, who were brought together to discuss the roots, ideologies, and strategies of right-wing populist and extremist parties and movements in their respective countries, the impact that this is having on EU politics, and possible ways of addressing this trend with actors in the European institutions, NGOs, think tanks, academics, and politicians. The panel focused specifically on strategies to address the rising Euroscepticism following the last European Parliament elections in May 2014. The panel included two speakers –Mana Livardjani, director of the Union of European Federalists (UEF) and former President of Cafebabel, and Ilke Toygur, PhD Candidate at the Department of Political Science and International Relations of the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid and Mercator-IPC Fellow in Istanbul Policy Center.

The outcome of the debate is summarized in an [article](#) on our website.

POLICY POSITIONS

ECAS' Contribution to the Consultation on the Labour Mobility Package

The Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion has invited ECAS to participate in the stakeholder consultation meeting on the **Labour Mobility Package** that the Commission is due to adopt by the end of the year.

The Labour Mobility Package will include, *inter alia*, a proposal for a possible revision of Regulations (EC) Nos 883/2004 and 987/2009 on the coordination of social security systems, and a targeted review of Directive 96/71/EC on the posting of workers – issues in which ECAS is actively involved.

The consultation meeting took place on 17 June, 2015, and ECAS offered its members and partners the opportunity to make their voices heard on these issues.

ECAS also submitted a written contribution comprised of seven recommendations based on data and case studies.

Position paper with the European Movement International: “Upholding Freedom of Movement and EU Citizens’ Rights in the PNR Directive”

Concerned about the implications that the proposed Passenger Name Record (PNR) Directive may have for free movement and fundamental rights of EU citizens, ECAS produced a position paper in November 2015 with key recommendations to EU policy makers and to the European Movement International, urging to strike a balance between security measures and the EU’s fundamental rights. This position paper, which can be consulted on our [website](#), was sent to the relevant EU decision-makers in the European Parliament (AFCO and LIBE Committees), the European Commission (DG HOME and Cabinets of Commissioners Jourová and Avramopoulos), and the Council of the EU (in particular the Luxembourg Presidency who was in charge of this dossier). This campaign led later to a public debate on the Security-Or-Rights trade-off which took place on 13 January, 2016 at the Residence Palace and was attended by over 50 participants, in addition to the 4 panelists and the moderator.



Upholding freedom of movement and EU citizens' rights in the proposed PNR Directive

The challenges of an 'old' new proposal

The new discourse on security since the terrorist attacks in France and Denmark in January and February 2015 has revived the work on the EU Passenger Name Record (PNR) Directive, which was originally proposed by the European Commission in February 2011. The proposal was initially rejected by the European Parliament's LIBE Committee in April 2013 on the grounds that it did not fulfil the principles of necessity and proportionality enshrined in article 5 of the Treaty of the European Union (TEU).

Against the looming security threats in Europe, however, the EU PNR Directive is once again on the agenda and the EU institutions are committed to reaching an agreement on it by the end of 2015.

While we acknowledge the importance of security measures to prevent new terrorist attacks in Europe, these measures should strike the right balance between security on the one hand, and citizens' rights – including free movement – on the other. **As civil society representatives, we are deeply concerned about the impact that the PNR Directive may have on the right to free movement of EU citizens, as well as about the citizens' guarantees surrounding it.**

Our balance of the European Parliament's position

There are several positive amendments included in the second draft report of the European Parliament, such as **narrowing the scope of the use of PNR data** by circumscribing the definition of 'serious transnational crime' to a list of specific offences. In addition its emphasis on the principles of necessity and proportionality and the various references to the European Court of Justice's jurisprudence and to the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights and Values, to the European Convention on Human Rights and to other relevant international conventions are very encouraging. However, we still have major concerns with regard to some of the new elements included in the proposal.

We are particularly concerned with the **potential inclusion of intra-EU flights in the scope of the Directive**, which is in contrast to the Commission's initial proposal that focused only on international flights. While the inclusion of international flights would already have significant implications for EU citizens' ability to exercise their right to free movement, the extension of this proposal to also cover intra-EU flights will only exacerbate this problem. This is especially important when one considers that intra-EU flights account for the largest share of air passenger transport in the EU (44% of flights), ahead of extra-EU (38%) and national flights (18%) (see [European air passenger data from September 2013](#)).

We are equally concerned about the Parliament's proposal to broaden the scope of the use of PNR data for the **prevention of immediate and serious threats to public security**, in addition to the prevention of 'serious transnational crime'. By extending the scope of the proposal to include a vague expression regarding what may constitute a 'public security threat' in each Member State, we run the risk of turning an exceptional preventive

ECAS' Contribution to the EU Citizenship Consultation

10 Recommendations for Improving EU Citizenship

- Recommendation 1: Encourage Member States to adopt a more proactive approach in raising awareness about a first-hand information on EU law available at EU level and in provision of training at various levels of the national administration on EU citizen rights.
- Recommendation 2: Unify at EU level or harmonise as much as possible across Member States the procedures and the documents for obtaining residence. Encourage Member States to clarify and make procedures more accessible to citizens.
- Recommendation 3: Increase the period for the exportability of benefits under Article 64(1)(c) of Regulation 883/2004 to six months (if not longer) and allow the competent services or institutions to extend that period by another six months (if not longer).
- Recommendation 4: Strengthen the European dimension of EU elections through European transnational lists, allowing parties to campaign and fight for European mandates, as opposed to the current system, where EU elections are approached from a national perspective.
- Recommendation 5: Improve and develop further the practice of the "Spitzenkandidaten" by giving citizens – instead of political parties – the opportunity to identify the lead candidates running for the Commission Presidency and to pre-select them.
- Recommendation 6: Introduce e-voting as a way to facilitate the exercise of the right to vote in EU elections, while ensuring that the system for registering and collecting the votes is fully reliable, so that no double voting occurs, and personal data is duly protected and kept confidential.
- Recommendation 7: Encourage cross-border broadcasting as means of provision of objective and impartial information to EU citizens on the actual situation with regard to EU policies, legislation and actions, thus diminishing the possibility for populist interpretation of facts.
- Recommendation 8: Adopt a tailor-made approach to engaging youth by identifying where young people naturally are in the digital space and going to them through e-participation and creation of appealing digital content on EU policy-making.

- [Recommendation 9](#): Improve and further develop existing instruments – e.g. the European Citizens’ Initiative by clarifying the legal admissibility test and by simplifying the online process of collecting signatures in order to make it much more accessible to EU citizens.
- [Recommendation 10](#): Initiate a crowdsourcing experience at the EU level to enable citizens to express their ideas, interact with policy-makers more openly on a regular basis, and even to co-decide certain cases with them.

ECAS Warns against Limitations to Free Movement in a Press release in February 2015

ECAS warned EU lawmakers against adopting increased security measures which may jeopardise freedom of movement and other fundamental rights and further increase divisions and marginalisation in the EU itself.

“European citizens should not be forced to choose between their freedoms and their security. They are entitled to both! We shouldn’t forget that ‘The right to swing my fist ends where the other man’s nose begins’[1]”, said Assya Kavrakova, director of ECAS.

Dispelling the Myths of 'Benefit Tourism'

In an [article](#) published recently in the *European Parliament Magazine*, ECAS' Director Assya Kavrakova makes a call to dispell the myths of so-called 'benefit tourism' in the EU, stressing the positive impact that EU migrants have for the economies of their hosting countries, as revealed in a [study commissioned by ECAS on the fiscal impact of EU migrants](#) in a selected number of countries. The findings of this study were presented in a [public event](#) at the European Parliament on the challenges and opportunities on free movement in the EU, which took place in November 2014.

ECAS' Director was also interviewed recently by the *New European Magazine* on the positive economic impact of EU Migrants. You can read the full interview [here](#) (page 8).

“Putting up barriers will not solve the migrant crisis” - ECAS on the Looming Threats over Schengen on *EurActiv*

ECAS' Director Assya Kavrakova was featured on *Euractiv* to talk about the consequences of a potential abolishment of the Schengen Agreement, following the recent development and statements by some Member States.

According to her, such a scenario would exacerbate the migration crisis and leave Europe more exposed to terrorist threats than ever.

[Read the full article](#)

“Paving the Road to Hell with Good Intentions”

“Paving the Rode to Hell with Good Intentions” is an article in *EU Observer*, expressing ECAS’ opinion on the delicate balance between security measures and citizen rights



‘Free Borders is a Privilege We are Losing’

“Free Borders is a Privilege We are Losing,” claims ECAS Director in an interview by the Danish newspaper Information on the impact of dismantling Schengen.

De frie grænser er et privilegium, vi er ved at miste

Assya Kavrakova har kæmpet hele sin karriere for borgernes ret til at bevæge sig frit over de europæiske grænser. Nu oplever hun en tilbagegang forårsaget af panik og politiske automat-reaktioner. Hun savner en langsigtet politisk stillingtagen til, hvad vi vil med det projekt, der måske har betydet mest for de fleste almindelige EU-borgere: Schengen-samarbejdet



DIGITAL DEMOCRACY Focus AREA

ECAS is implementing a Digital Democracy Agenda with the aim being to explore the democratic potential of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in:

- Reducing the gap between the political elites and citizens.
- Transforming the relationship between EU citizens and EU decision-makers into more of a partnership, thus contributing to the creation of an engaged citizenship.
- Enabling the EU to go beyond consultations and structured dialogues with the usual stakeholders to expand the number of contributors to EU policy making, remove potential barriers to participation that translate into a general feeling of exclusion, and engage groups that are underrepresented.

ECAS actively supports the implementation of the first transnational instrument of participatory democracy in the EU – the European Citizens’ Initiative (ECI) – through the ECI Support Centre, by providing legal advice, research, analysis, and recommendations for the simplification of the ECI Regulation as well as through co-organising the ECI Day annual event in Brussels.

SERVICES TO CITIZENS


ECI Support Centre

Support, Advice, and Information

The ECI Support Centre, a joint initiative of the ECAS, Democracy International, and Initiative and Referendum Institute Europe, has continued running in 2015. The ECI Support Centre is a not-for-profit service, which aim is to provide advice and information to ECI organisers before and during the process of launching and implementing an ECI.

In 2015, the collaboration between the ECI Support Centre and the Economic and Social Committee (EESC) has been made official by a *Letter of Intent* signed by both parties. The collaboration includes working closely together on ECI related issues by supporting each other in the promotion of activities on ECIs, supporting ECI organisers, exchanging information on ongoing ECI procedures, co-organising events, and more.

Furthermore, the ECI Support Centre has defined its competences when giving support and advice to ECI organisers:

AIMS OF THE ECI SUPPORT CENTRE			
1. To be a contact point for ECI related issues (for organisations, institutions, think tanks, etc.). 2. To share knowhow and expertise at conferences and events. 3. To advocate for a simplification and an increased user-friendliness of the ECI. As a platform of organisations with expertise in different fields, the ECI Support Centre offers a complete package to ECI organisers:			
ORGANISATION	GENERAL COMPETENCES	SERVICES PROVIDED	CONTACT
European Citizen Action Service (ECAS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research and analysis Legal and technical advice Advocacy work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Legal advice for ECI proposals (partnership with Freshfields, non-binding but high-level legal advice) Expertise on procedure (to guide ECI organisers through registration and collection process) Access to more than 250 informational resources on ECI through the ECI Knowledge Centre 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assya Kavrakova, Director assya.kavrakova@ecas.org Elisa Iironi, Coordinator elisa.iironi@ecas.org
Democracy International	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Campaigning Europe-wide network Convey issue to ordinary citizens 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Campaigning advice (communication, fundraising, raising public awareness) Help dissemination of ECI (app, other online support infrastructure, mailing list) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Daniel Schily, Executive Manager schily@democracy-international.org Sophie Hatzfeldt, EU Programme Manager vonhatzfeldt@democracy-international.org
Initiative and Referendum Institute Europe (IRI) and people2people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Broad media network Editorial and broadcasting competences 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Editorial advice on formulating ECI proposals Broadcasting support (consultation for ECI organisers regarding communication, media broadcasting of initiative in different languages) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bruno Kaufmann, President kaufmann@iri-europe.org

ECI Watch newsletter: bimonthly newsletter on the European Citizen's Initiative sent to almost 900 subscribers

The ECI Watch's design was revamped in the end of 2015. The last two editions are: September 2015, November 2015

Digital Democracy Day event

120 participants in the ECAS' conference on Digital Democracy (27.01.2015 Brussels) in the EU explored the possibilities for deepening online debate and the crowdsourcing of legislation at EU level. More than 10 examples of the use of e-democracy platforms for citizen participation and co-decision from different member states were presented in Brussels.

The debate focused on digital tools as a way to reach out to “new” audiences while still remaining complementary to traditional means of participation. EU decision-makers are not yet ready to engage in co-decision with citizens online, and citizens still need to develop the necessary skills to do so. However, the conference showed that there are encouraging national examples of crowdsourcing initiatives which have resulted in legislation and the necessary platforms and technology are already in place. The current challenge is to create a meaningful interface that would encourage the participation of both citizens and policymakers at the European level on European policies. The Digital Democracy Day (DDD) can continue to be an annual forum for the sharing of good practices, the development of skills for on-line participation, and for the assessment of progress.

The conference was web streamed and watched on-line by 180 people.

Final Report: <http://ktptasgp.preview.sharedbox.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/digital-democracy-conference-report-final.pdf>



EVENTS

ECI DAY 2015: Renew-Review-Reset!

After the successful event of the previous year, the ECI Day 2015 (13.04.2015) opened the discussion on the assessment and potential reset of the ECI legal framework.

The ECI Day 2015 focused particularly on the European Commission assessment report on the first three years of ECI practice, and on the European Ombudsman's 2014 own-initiative inquiry based on feedback on how effectively the ECI procedure was working. The presentation of these reports was a valuable opportunity of reflection for the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC), ECI stakeholders, and the European institutions.

The EESC partnership with the Committee of the Regions (CoR), the European Citizen Action Service (ECAS), Democracy International, the Initiative and Referendum Institute Europe (IRI), The ECI Campaign, EurActiv and Euronews, organised the conference which was attended by 100 participants.

Programme: <http://www.eesc.europa.eu/?i=portal.en.events-and-activities-eci-day-2015-programme>

Final report: <http://www.eesc.europa.eu/resources/docs/eci-day-2015-final-report.pdf>



EPIC Study Visit to Brussels

Between 26 and 30 January, a group made up of 22 citizens active in civil society organizations in Romania and Hungary visited Brussels on a study trip. Their goal was to learn more about the EU institutions and the opportunities they might provide. The visit was organized by ECAS under the European Participation Initiative for Citizens (EPIC) program, and funded by the *Europe for Citizens Programme*.



The group visited EU institutions including the Commission, the Parliament, and the Council. They heard presentations on topics such as the history of the EU institutions, and the ways in which citizens could approach and interact with them. Additionally they had the chance to question the EU insiders presenting to them, with gossip about Hungarian MEPs proving to be a popular subject!

The final event involved a round table meeting with representatives from the [CEV - European Volunteer Centre](#), the [IETM](#) and the [European Journalism Centre](#). An exchange of views followed on the political situations, attitudes towards the EU, and possibilities for enhanced participation in Hungary, Romania and Belgium

ECAS at the 2015 NGO Forum in Riga

On 2 and 3 March 2015, the European Movement Latvia, with the Society Integration Foundation (SIF), the Latvian Presidency of the Council of the EU, and other partners organized an NGO Forum in Riga (Latvia), in the framework of the EU Presidency events.

The main aim of the forum was to make progress in the involvement of civil society in decision making, in implementation of Article 11.1 and 11.2 of the Treaty on European Union.

ECAS Director, Assya Kavrakova, made a presentation in the working session on challenges and future perspectives for dialogue and sharing of best practices between civil society (organisations and citizens).



ECAS at the European Network of Cultural Centres' Travelling Academy

In October 2015, ECAS was invited to the Travelling Academy, organised by the European Network of Cultural Centres (ENCC), to present its work on Digital Democracy.

This three-day seminar in Krakow gathered representatives of cultural centres to debate on 'Reinventing Forms of Civic Participation and Audience Development at the Age of Digitalization: the Role of Cultural Centres'. The aim of the seminar was to discuss ways to enhance citizen participation in cultural and democratic life, especially in an age in which digitalization has a strong impact on our societies. Furthermore, the seminar explored new possibilities for connecting, collaborating and sharing with each other to tackle common challenges in different fields, such as education and migration.

ECAS was invited to give an introduction of digital democracy and to describe ways in which cultural centres can use technology in order to reach their goals. The presentation included a description of ECAS' work in empowering citizens to exercise their rights, an explanation of 'digital democracy' and 'crowdsourcing', and three case studies of eDemocracy worldwide. Through the three cases, a list of challenges and recommendations were presented to the representatives of cultural centres. ECAS' contribution allowed national representatives of cultural centres from all across Europe to exchange views and reflect on the difficulties they are facing with the rise of digitalization.

Website: <http://encc-ta2015.com/>



ECAS at the European Civic Days in Strasbourg

Over one hundred civil society organizations from throughout Europe met on 22 and 23 October at the European Civic Days in Strasbourg to discuss the various **challenges Europe is currently facing** and to brainstorm on **how to develop connected, collaborative, inclusive, and sustainable societies** which give civil society and citizens a voice.



ECAS and other participants discussed the potential for digital democracy at the European level, and how new tools and online platforms could be used to create a campaign.

Read the full article , Agenda of the conference

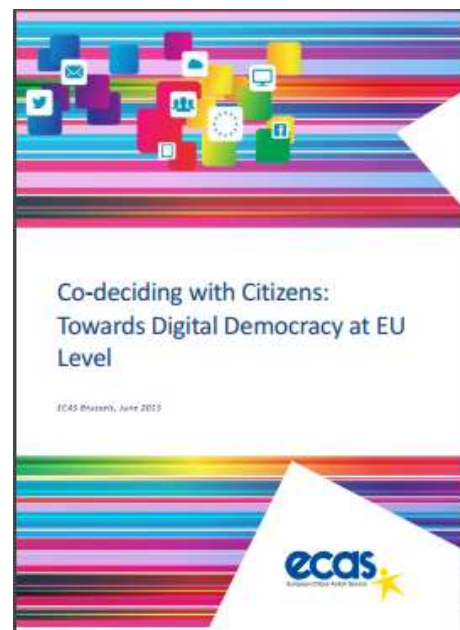
POLICY POSITIONS

Study “Co-deciding with Citizens: Towards Digital Democracy at the EU Level”

This study has been conducted by ECAS under the framework of the Digital Democracy focus area.

The purpose of this publication is to explore complementary methods to existing forms of interaction between citizens and policy-makers at EU level which foster co-decision processes using the Internet and Web 2.0 technologies. Through crowdsourcing it is possible to go beyond national borders and engage a wider real-time audience online. This publication describes the use of crowdsourcing for policy-making in Iceland, Finland and Paris as non-exclusive examples, which show the added value of co-legislating with citizens in terms of process (wisdom of the crowd) and outcomes (increased legitimacy in the adopted policy).

<http://www.ecas.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/ECAS-Publication-online-version.pdf>



ECAS Contribution to the EU E-Government Action Plan 2016 – 2020



On 5 November 2015, ECAS was invited as a speaker to the second workshop on the new EU eGovernment Action Plan organised by Directorate General for Communications Networks, Content & Technology (DG CONNECT).

In preparation of the new eGovernment Action Plan 2016-2020, to be launched next year, DG CONNECT organised three workshops to collect best practices, ideas and feedback on how to engage with stakeholders online. More specifically, the second workshop was on how to bring citizens to the digital platforms proposed by the European Commission. In this context, ECAS, as a representative of civil society, was invited to present its position on digital democracy and to explain how to improve citizens' eParticipation at the EU level.

ECAS was also invited to contribute to the third workshop in December 2015 in order to test the European Commission's a new online engagement platform called Futurium, a digital tool stakeholders can use to "co-create the visions and policy ideas that matter to them and attach scientific evidence to these through a library of relevant references."

The European Commission has stated that the fruitful exchange of ideas from the three workshops will be taken into consideration when designing the eGovernment Action Plan 2016-2020.

ECAS Position on *EurActiv*, on the Need to Reform the ECI

Three years after the entry into force of the ECI (European Citizens' Initiative) regulation, it seems "easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle" than it is to register an ECI, according to Assya Kavrakova.

The planned revision of the ECI Regulation in 2015 provides a window of opportunity for making this unique instrument for transnational participatory democracy more user-friendly and accessible for European

citizens. ECAS, Democracy International, and the Initiative and Referendum Institute Europe have agreed on a common agenda for the revision. They have put forward a series of recommendations in that regard, making a case for a clearer definition of the nature and scope of an ECI, and for a more transparent and consistent procedure as regards the application of the legal admissibility criteria for registering an ECI.

[Read full article published in EurActiv](#)

“For a future EU of the citizens, for the citizens, with the citizens”

ECAS EU Policies and Outreach Manager Elisa Bruno has been featured in an opinion piece on *Euractiv* on the European Commission’s recently adopted [Better Regulation Agenda](#).

She argues that “the modus operandi for citizens should aim at ensuring inclusiveness: 'engaging the unengaged' and making sure that minority voices are heard; look for innovative ideas based on the so called 'wisdom of the crowd'; and create 'learning moments' for citizens, thus raising public awareness and strengthening civic education.”

[Access the full article](#)

ECAS on the Issues of Democracy and Civic Participation

"The economic crisis in Europe revealed serious institutional shortcomings that have been affecting the European decision-making process, a process which has been characterized by increasing fragmentation, re-nationalization, and diminishing citizen trust. Currently more than two-thirds of European citizens believe that their voice does not count in the EU (Standard Eurobarometer, 2013). This proportion has increased almost continuously since the spring of 2009 (EB71) from 53% up to 67%. This is its highest level since the autumn of 2004 (EB62) when the question was first posed to EU citizens"

(extract from *'Making Decisions with Citizens, not only for Citizens; access full version [here](#), pages 95-101*)

BEYOND THE EU FOCUS AREA

Ever since its inception, ECAS has been determined to develop the capacities of emerging CSOs in EU accession countries in Central and Eastern Europe by mobilizing citizens and by promoting models of cooperation between CSOs and Governments. Presently, ECAS is using its expertise in participatory democracy and direct provision of services to citizens to help build performant and sustainable CSOs in the Western Balkans & Turkey. It does this by coordinating regional projects and providing technical assistance, but also by directly building the capacities of CSOs through tailor-made conferences, study visits, and training.

From 2015, ECAS has decided to go a step further and use the experience and know-how gained in wider Europe to support the democratic transition and the development of civil society in the Southern Neighbourhood. ECAS has contributed to EC consultations on the Neighbourhood policy and is actively consulting local stakeholders in order to ensure, as always, that the real needs of the citizens are being answered.

PROJECTS

The **Triple A Project** was expanded into **Macedonia, Montenegro, and Albania** with a local partner in each country: the [Macedonian Young Lawyers Association \(MYLA\)](#), the [Centre for Monitoring and Research \(CeMI, Montenegro\)](#), and the [Open Society Foundation Albania \(OSFA\)](#). Due to Croatia's accession to the European Union, the [National Foundation for Civil Society Development](#) has ended its participation in the project with the closing of the first phase.

The [revamped Triple A website](#) was launched to give it a more modern look and to include an updated [Regional Service Providers Map](#) which comprises organizations from Macedonia, Montenegro, and Albania who provide Access to information, Advice, and Active help services.

A **call for proposals** was also put out and two pilot projects each from Macedonia, Montenegro, and Albania were selected. The recipients will carry out advocacy-based projects in their respective countries and will also benefit from a mentoring program and study visits to Romania, the UK, and Ireland. The recipients are: The Tirana Legal Aid Society and Res Publica in Albania, NGO LIL and the Coalition All for Fair Trials in Macedonia, and the Association of Youth with Disabilities of Montenegro and the Centre for Civic Education in Montenegro.

EVENTS

Triple A Regional Conference in Pristina, Kosovo

From November 25-27 a Regional Conference was organized by the [European Citizen Action Service](#) and [Civil Rights Project Kosovo](#) in Pristina. The **draft national advocacy roadmaps** were presented and discussed for each country of the WB and Turkey as well as the upcoming advocacy campaigns targeting the improvement of free legal aid, advice, and information services. The work being done by Triple A partners on the current refugee/migration crisis in the region was also discussed.

In addition the **mission, vision, and values** of the Triple A network were adopted by Steering Group members and officially published.

Lastly the CfP for the **further capacity building activities in Turkey** was published in December 2015.



Study Visit of Turkish CSOs on Effective Advocacy and Lobbying Hosted by ECAS

On 25 and 26 June, ECAS welcomed a group of Turkish CSO Representatives, a Government representative, and a representative of the National Human Rights Institution of Turkey for a study visit to Brussels. The visit was organized by ECAS for a project which is led by the Turkish Civil Society Development Center ([STGM](#)), and focuses on the **dissemination of best practices of advocacy and lobbying and the enhancement of democratic participation in Turkey**. The representatives gathered to meet with the Permanent Delegation of Turkey to the European Union, the Commission, and various NGOs and associations over the two days.

The fact that Brussels should be accessible to all NGOs regardless of geography and which language the organizations speak was underlined by European Movement International ([EMI](#)) board member and the European Movement Belgium President Olivier Hinnekins in his discussion with several CSOs. Although a lack of English proficiency can be a severe restriction for NGOs outside of Brussels in accessing the various resources and knowledge which can be found here, it is this type of visit which has allowed these local organizations to begin to establish relations beyond their country, laying the groundwork for potential future partnerships, collaboration, and more.



ECAS at the Global Forum on Modern Direct Democracy in Tunisia

Assya Kavrakova, the ECAS Director and Kenan Hadzimusic, Senior Manager, Programmes and Fundraising, took an active part in the four-day Global Forum on Modern Direct Democracy in Tunis from 14-17 May, 2015.

The Forum discussed the advances in democracy in Tunisia and around the world with special emphasis on tools for participatory and direct democracy. In the Tunisian context, many of the interventions tackled the upcoming decentralization process and the necessary reforms which are needed to make it a success. It offered a space for debate with prominent experts in the field on issues ranging from the relation between Islam and democracy, women and democracy, free trade and direct democracy, participative democracy, local democracy and the role of social media.

[Read full article here](#)



Photo credits: Cora Pfafferoth, Democracy International

POLICY POSITIONS

ECAS calls for an enhanced participation of civil society actors in the democratization process in the ENP countries in response to ENP public consultation (July, 2015)

ECAS' reaction to the ENP Review (November, 2015)

ECAS SERVICES TO MEMBERS AND CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS

ECAS Newsletter (monthly basis)

ECAS' Newsletter is sent out on a monthly basis to a mailing list of over 1,500 subscribers. The number of recipients increases every month and is significantly higher than in 2014, when the Newsletter was exclusively sent to our members as part of the membership package. In addition, it is shared via social networks (Facebook and Twitter) in order to maximize the impact.

Following a customer service survey launched in September 2014 and other *ad hoc* consultations (including a stakeholder analysis undertaken internally by the team) we have worked to improve the quality and relevance of this publication to align with ECAS' mission and goals and with our areas of work (i.e. EU rights, digital democracy and EU neighborhood). The Newsletter now works as a tool to promote our activities and those of our members and partners (through a dedicated space for our membership) and to inform our stakeholders and citizens in general about the main ongoing initiatives at EU level on our areas of work and possibilities to participate and have a say on the discussions.



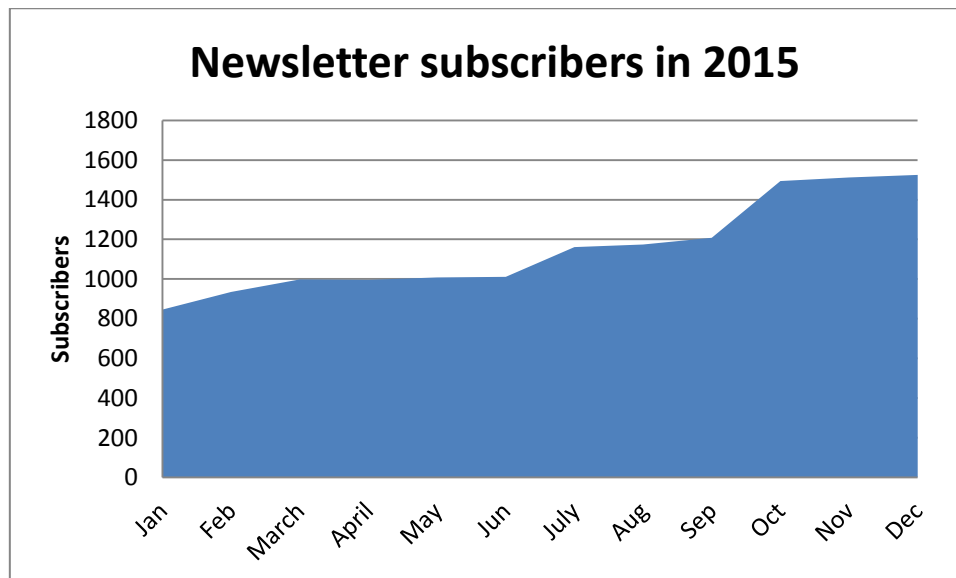
In This Issue

- [ECAS Corner](#)
 - [Welcome to our New Home!](#)
 - [Our Director on EU Observer on the Security-Rights Balance](#)
 - [ECAS' Reaction to the ENP Review](#)
 - [Triple A Conference: The Challenges of Providing Free Legal Aid in the Western Balkans and Turkey](#)
- [Members' Corner](#)
- [EU Updates](#)
 - [The European Parliament Adopts an ECI Budget Line for 2016](#)
 - [The Council Confirms Agreement with the Parliament on the PNR Directive - Read our Recommendations!](#)
- [EU Rights in the Spotlight](#)
- [Save the Date for ECAS Events!](#)
- [EU Events Calendar](#)
- [Have Your Say on EU Policies](#)



WE HAVE MOVED!

Since the 1st of December you will find us at our new office in
Avenue de la Toison d'Or 77, 1st floor - 1060 Brussels



ECAS Funding Alerts (monthly basis) & Online Members' Room

In October 2014 the monthly funding alerts underwent a substantial change in terms of layout, so as to make them more user-friendly and easier for our members to navigate. The calls are since then classified by policy area to facilitate navigation and allow members to spot the relevant calls for their needs quicker (see figure below). In addition, since January 2015 the funding alerts are being uploaded on an online platform only accessible to ECAS' members, which makes it easier for them to keep a record of all funding opportunities as they emerge. In addition, this online platform includes a variety of complementary tools to support our members in their fundraising efforts, including **access to the e-version of the annual guide** to European Funding that we produce; a **membership forum** with updates on EU funding programmes, information days and networking/partnership opportunities at EU level; and a **chat-type interface** through which members can pose us questions on specific calls for proposals and tenders they intend to submit and get a timely and accurate response.

(Month) EU Funding Alert

User instructions:

1. Please click on the headings below for a **short summary** of the calls per policy area. You will get information about the objectives, priorities, financed actions, eligibility criteria and financial allocation of each call
2. Please click on the links displayed at the bottom of each call for further information about the call and the contact person
3. We recommend you to check out our **Funding Guide**, which takes the form of an e-Book, to learn more about EU funding opportunities and tips to submit successful grant proposals

Download the ORDER FORM [here](#) and send it to publication@ecas.org
Order your copy now either with PAYPAL or by credit card!

Development, Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid

Education, Training and Youth

Employment, Innovation, Social Affairs and Inclusion

Employment and Neighbourhood

Environment, Climate Action and Energy

Agriculture and Rural Development

Health and Consumer Protection

Democracy, Citizenship and Transparency

Justice, Human Rights and Migration

Any questions...?

Send your enquiries to our [Services Manager](#) and get a timely and individual response to your questions!

Welcome to ECAS Members Room



ECAS Members

Find out more about the other members using the Membership Guide overview.



News and funding updates

- [Funding Alerts Record](#)
- [Newsletter Record](#)



ECAS Funding Guide for the non-profit sector

[Click here to access ECAS 2015 e-Funding Guide.](#)



Members Forum

Start a discussion on a CALL, a PROJECT, an EVENT or a TOPIC



Contact your Funding Helpdesk

Questions on EU funding opportunities?



Membership Statutes

[Click here for the Membership Statutes.](#)

ECAS Funding Guide for the non-profit sector

The Guide is published on an annual basis and offers an overview of the main programmes and sources of funding in the EU.

The 2015 Guide was published in March 2015 in a revamped format and layout. As opposed to the previous edition, which took the form of a PDF and was saved in a USB stick, the 2015 edition of the Guide was published in electronic format (also downloadable in PDF format), offering enhanced accessibility. The Guide was offered to all 95 ECAS members, as part of the membership package. 31 copies were sold online to interested individuals and organisations using a password-protected page.

In addition, 75 copies were printed, out of which some have been distributed to interested European libraries in Brussels and the others have been offered to the participants in the training sessions on EU funding that we have organised throughout the year (*see below for more information*).

The 2016 edition of the Guide will exhibit continuity with the previous edition, since the layout was already revised last year. However, it will include a few new features, such as schemes and pictures to make the content more appealing. In addition, the section on alternative sources of funding will be further expanded to help interested organisations diversifying/complementing the fundraising efforts.

European Funding Guide for the Non-Profit Sector 2015 78 of 219

ECAS Funding Guide for the Non-Profit Sector 2015

MAIN FUNDING INSTRUMENTS

LIFE: THE EU PROGRAMME FOR ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Overall Objectives

LIFE is the only EU financial instrument specifically targeting the environment and climate change. Its general objective is to contribute to the implementation, updating and development of EU environmental policy and legislation.

According to the LIFE Regulation, the general objectives of this Programme are:

- to contribute to the shift towards a resource-efficient, carbon and climate-resilient economy, to the improvement of the quality of the environment and reversing biodiversity loss;
- to improve the development, implementation and enforcement of Union environmental and climate policy and legislation, and to promote the integration and mainstreaming of environmental and climate objectives into other Union policies and public and private sector practice;
- to support better environmental and climate governance at all levels, including better involvement of civil society, NGOs and local actors;

Legal basis

Regulation (EU) No 1293/2013 on the establishment of a Programme for the Environment and Climate Action (LIFE)

Budget

The financial envelope foreseen for the implementation of the LIFE Programme for the period 2014-2020 is estimated at EUR 3.4 billion, 75% of which is attributed to the sub-programme Environment and Programme Climate Action.

LIFE multiannual work programme for 2014-2017 (the next four years of the Programme will amount to EUR 1,796 million (EUR 1,347 million for the sub-programme "Environment" and EUR 449 million for the sub-programme "Climate Action"), which will be distributed in the following 6 priority areas¹ identified as follows:

- Environment and Resource Efficiency: EUR 695 million
- Nature and Biodiversity: EUR 630 million
- Environmental Governance and Information: EUR 163 million
- Climate Change Adaptation: EUR 190 million

¹ Refer to the LIFE work programme 2014-2017 for the concrete thematic priorities under these priority areas.

Click to read

European Funding Guide for the Non-Profit Sector 2015 3.84 MB

[Click here to download the eBook in PDF version](#)



Pilot working group on partnership building and fundraising

Following a request by some of our members to receive additional guidance in their fundraising strategies and in finding partners for projects, ECAS launched an pilot working group in February 2015 with a reduced number of members who expressed their interest in joining the initiative (7).

The first meeting took place on 5 February and the participants agreed on sharing information among each other about partners they had worked with in the past or from which they had good references. After the first meeting, it was agreed to set up an online database that is centrally managed by ECAS where each of the participants in the working group could add their references. Overall, 50 entries were added to this database between March and April 2015, which included the following fields: name of the organisation, contact details, country, sectors of activity, previous projects implemented and comments.

For 2016 ECAS aims at bringing forward this pilot initiative and to include new members that have expressed interest in joining it. To this end a call for a second meeting has been sent to the participants for February/March 2016. In that meeting the usefulness of this initiative will be assessed and the next steps will be agreed.

Tailor-made services: Capacity building to CSOs on EU fundraising and Communication



Throughout the year ECAS organised several training modules for non-profit organisations to help them improve their fundraising and communication strategies. These have been offered either at ECAS' own premises or at the offices of the requesting organisation. Some of these training sessions have been offered as part of a European project, while others have been delivered as a tailor-made service and therefore entailed a small fee.

A list of the training sessions conducted in 2015 (more information can be found on our website: <http://ecas.org/services/tailor-made-services/>) includes:

- Tailor-made training to Albanian CSOs in Tirana (12-13 December, 2015; 14 participants)
- Training modules on communication and EU funding at ECAS' premises (13 and 16 October, 2015; 5 participants)
- Training module to Open Society Europe Policy Institute Europe on EU budget cycle at the client's premises (26 October, 2015; 10 participants)

- Training module on EU funding opportunities for youth organisations as part of the Secretary in 2015 Secretary General's Day at the European Youth Forum (2 July, 2015; 16 participants)
- Training module to Turkish CSOs as part of a study visit in Brussels (25 June, 2015; 25 participants)
- Training module on EU funding for UK-based charities in London (18 June, 2015; 4 participants)
- Training on EU funding to Romanian and Hungarian CSOs as part of a study visit in Brussels (27 January, 2015; 24 participants)



