



ECAS Activity Report 2018

THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ECAS' ACTIVITIES IN 2018 WAS SUPPORTED BY:



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SUMMARY

ECAS' vision is of an inclusive, transparent, citizen-centric and democratic European Union in which citizens' rights are at the heart of decision-making at all levels and in which citizens are informed, consulted and actively participate.

ECAS' work is focused on two main areas: **EU Rights** and **Digital Democracy**. In addition, ECAS provides support to its network of about 130 members, as well as numerous civil society organisations in the EU and beyond.

In 2018, ECAS' work in the **EU Rights** focus area was marked by **strengthened advocacy for the promotion and enforcement of citizens' rights** through:

- **complaints and petitions filed by the EU Rights Clinic against Member States** that have failed to secure the rights of EU citizens;
- **the identification of good practices** in the implementation of the EU Citizenship Directive at national level presented in an [interactive map](#) of 112 administrative measures (websites, services, etc.);
- an analysis of the problems faced by EU mobile citizens in the EU28 in the comprehensive **study 'Freedom of Movement in the EU: A Look behind the Curtain'**;
- the first **'State of the Union Citizens' Rights' conference**, which brought together over 100 decision-makers, researchers and civil society organisations from 20 different countries; and
- a contribution to the [own-initiative report](#) on the implementation of the Treaty provisions related to EU citizenship of the European Parliament's Committee on Constitutional Affairs (AFCO), published on 29 November 2018.

Moreover, in light of the upcoming European elections in 2019, ECAS launched two projects specifically dedicated to **fostering the political participation** of EU mobile citizens in their host countries.

Under the **Digital Democracy** focus area, in 2018, ECAS continued advocating for stronger Digital Democracy in the EU through:

- the creation of a **Crowdsourcing Knowledge Centre**;
- the **'Digital Democracy Day 2018'** event, which discussed the outcomes of the EUCROWD project in view of launching a European pilot on crowdsourcing policies; and
- the promotion of the **YourVoteMatters.eu** platform, which informs citizens on EU policies and connects voters with their current MEPs, new candidates for the European Parliament and other voters.

In 2018, ECAS supported the development and implementation of the **European Citizens' Initiative Forum**, a new online collaborative platform in partnership with ESN and CARSA. The platform, a pilot project for the European Commission, was launched in May 2018. ECAS is exclusively responsible for the **Seek Advice service**, which provides legal, fundraising and campaign advice to current and potential ECI organisers.

ECAS continued to support **non-profit organisations** by conducting specific **training modules** to help them improve their fundraising and advocacy strategies, as well as their project management skills. In the

framework of the **'We are Europe' Academy**, ECAS organised workshops on EU advocacy, online disinformation and digital democracy.



EU RIGHTS FOCUS AREA

The right to free movement of persons is one of the four fundamental freedoms underpinning the European project and the right that EU citizens consider the most notable achievement of European integration. ECAS has an extensive track record in helping EU citizens to exercise their right to free movement and an in-depth knowledge of the problems associated with its implementation.

In 2018, ECAS' Your Europe Advice¹ experts replied to **19,194** enquiries from citizens who experienced difficulties when exercising their free movement rights in the EU.

For the first time in the history of the service, social security was not the most common topic. **Entry rights**, relating to obstacles encountered by third country national family members of EU citizens, **is now the most frequent topic**, representing 22% of all enquiries in 2018. This was followed by social security (20%) and residence (18%), but there was also an increase in questions relating to business, specifically enquiries linked to taxes and free movement of goods and services.

In 2018, the EU Rights Clinic continued to provide problem-solving services in difficult cases involving EU migrants and to advocate for the implementation of concrete and adequate measures at EU and national level to overcome visible and hidden barriers to European citizenship rights.

¹ YEA is an EU advice service on the personal EU rights of citizens and businesses that ECAS manages under contract with, and on behalf of, the European Commission.

From January 2013 to December 2018, the EU Rights Clinic handled over **732 cases** involving 830 individual clients and 6 NGO clients.

In 2018, the EU Rights Clinic filed **several complaints against Member States** that have failed to secure the rights of EU citizens:

- a [petition](#) calling the European Parliament to take immediate action to address specific gaps and omissions still featuring in the draft Withdrawal Agreement concerning the protection of some categories of citizens' rights after the Brexit date;
- a complaint and petition against Sweden concerning excessive delays in the issuance of residence documents to the family members of EU citizens;
- a [complaint](#) and petition against France linked to the widespread problems facing British and other EU citizens who apply for residence documents;
- a complaint on behalf of 100 signatories and a petition against the UK's EU settlement scheme, which will govern the post-Brexit residence rights of EU citizens presently residing in the UK;
- complaints and petitions before the EU authorities relating to the systematic verification by the Belgian authorities of the residence rights of EU citizens when they claim benefits.

In 2018, on the basis of Your Europe Advice cases in the period from 2015 to 2017, ECAS identified problems faced by EU mobile citizens in the EU28. The [main findings](#) of the study '**Freedom of Movement in the EU: A Look behind the Curtain**' and the [full report](#) were published in March 2018.

In addition to the report, **good practices** in the implementation of the EU Citizenship Directive at national level were identified and an [interactive map](#) of 112 administrative measures (websites, services, etc.) was developed. The map allows citizens to look for good practices in each Member State according to 14 categories, including healthcare, social security, consumer rights and taxation.

ECAS launched two projects in 2018 relating to the political participation of EU mobile citizens in their host countries:

- **FAIR EU (Fostering Awareness, Inclusion and Recognition of EU Mobile Citizens' Political Rights)**, which is led by ECAS, aims to develop a holistic approach to identify and tackle obstacles to free movement rights and political participation. In 2018, ECAS conducted a number of focus groups to explore the link between free movement obstacles and their influence on political participation in local and EU elections in selected Member States and to identify best practices for political participation. A crowdsourcing platform was launched on 10 September 2018 in order to gather citizens' input on obstacles to political participation and possible solutions. The opinions of more than 320 citizens from various EU Member States were solicited by the end of December.
- The **IMPEU (Improving Inclusion of EU Mobile Citizens)** project aims to foster the political participation of EU mobile citizens and enhance the capacity and knowledge of civil servants and relevant national, regional and local experts on EU citizenship and related political rights.

On 25 September 2018, ECAS organised its first '**State of the Union Citizens' Rights**' conference. The event brought together over 100 decision-makers, researchers and civil society organisations from 20 different countries and reached more than 2,000 people online.

ECAS contributed to the [own-initiative report](#) on the implementation of the Treaty provisions related to EU citizenship of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs (AFCO) published on 29 November 2018 and adopted by the European Parliament on 12 February 2019.

SERVICES TO CITIZENS

Your Europe Advice (YEA)

Your Europe Advice is an EU advice service on the personal EU rights of citizens and businesses that ECAS manages under contract with, and on behalf of, the European Commission.



ECAS' team of around 60 lawyers, who cover all 24 official EU languages and are experts in both EU law and national law in all EU countries, responds to citizens' questions within one week, free of charge and in the language chosen by the user. Enquiries can be submitted either via an [online form](#) or by phone (00 800 6 7 8 9 10 11).

Performance in 2018

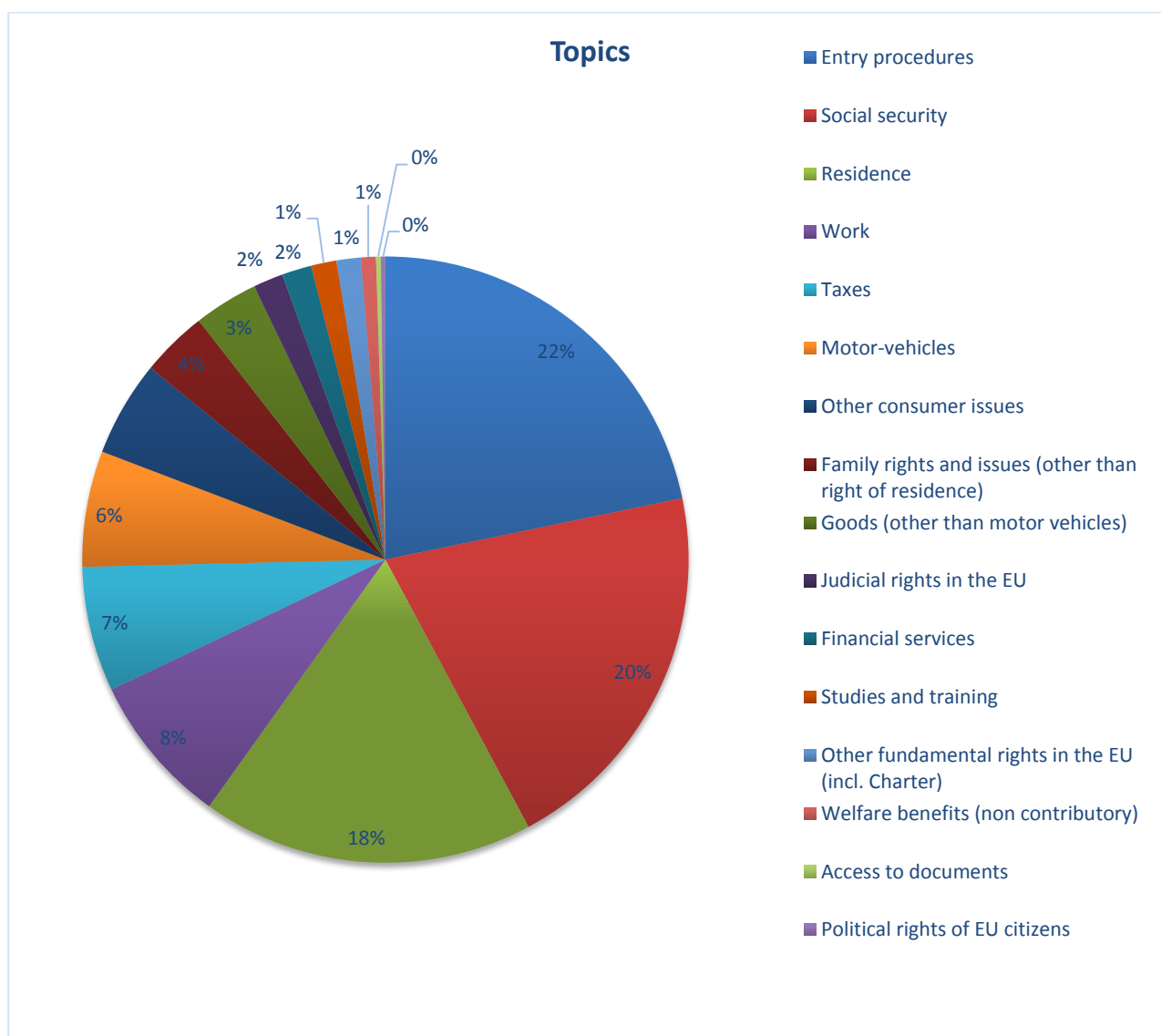
In 2018, YEA legal experts replied to **19,194 enquiries**, which is an increase of 1% compared to the previous year.

The quality of the service was maintained at a high level. Under the service contract, the European Commission requires ECAS to have a high level of quality assurance and to carry out quality control based on a sample that “should be 10% of all cases” and “not less than 150”. This quality assessment allows precise quality control and very focused management responses.

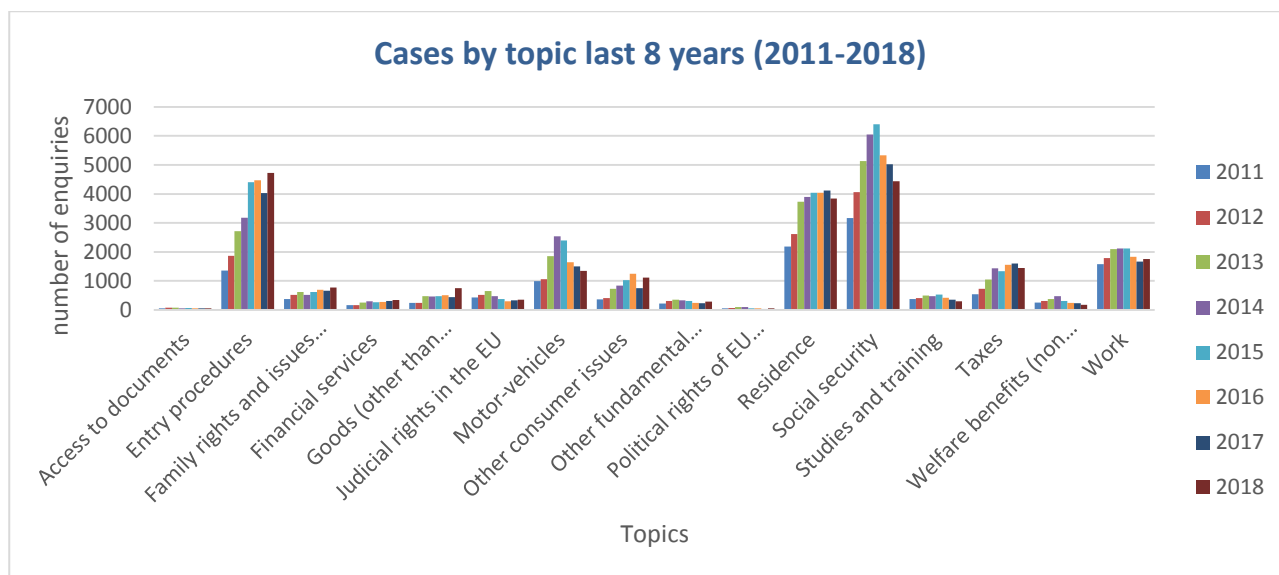
In 2018, more than 95% of the controlled cases again fulfilled all the quality assurance criteria and 93.6% of all replies were provided within the deadline.

Nature of the Enquiries

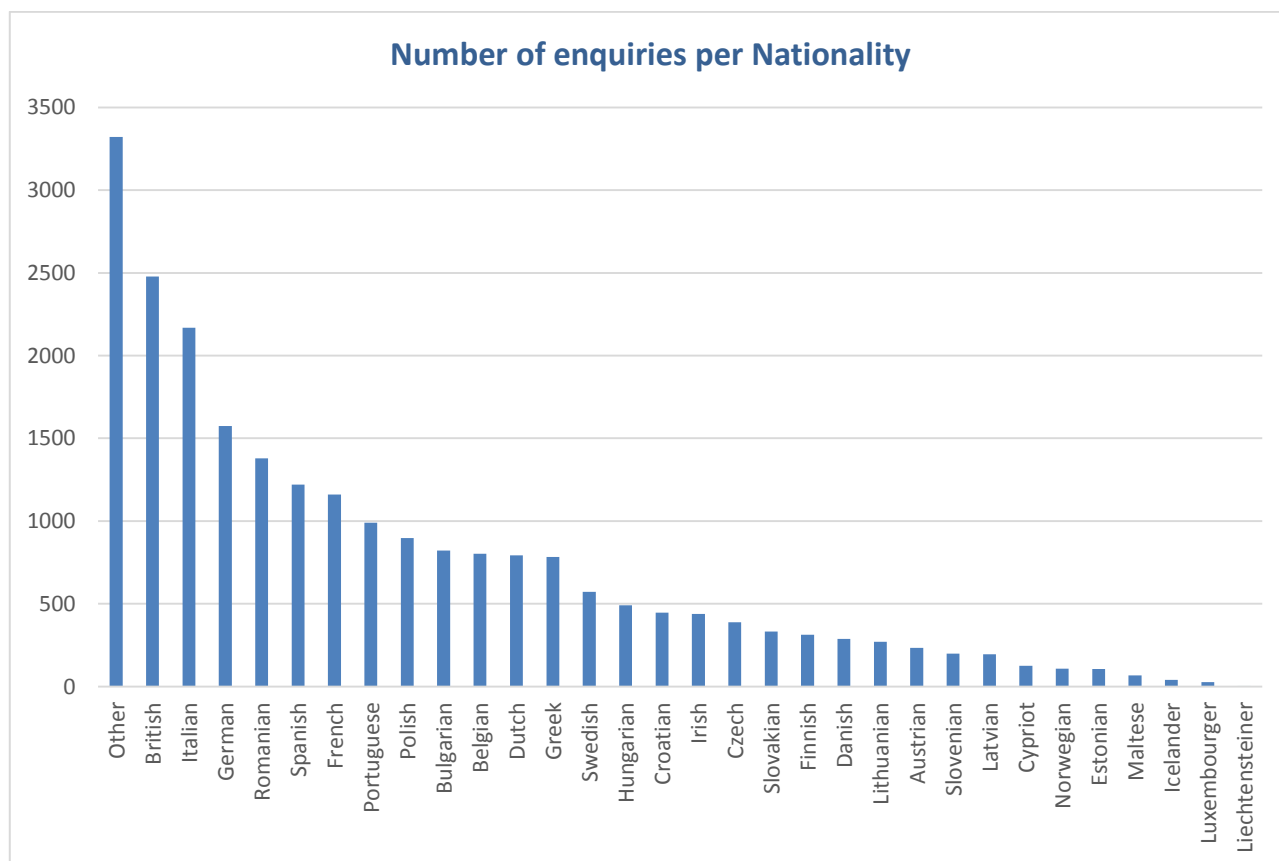
In 2018, YEA again received more enquiries than in previous years, reflecting real problems experienced by citizens rather than just requests for information. This was true across all topics and for all categories of citizen. Citizens faced obstacles imposed not only by national administrations but also by private entities. A significant proportion of citizens are well informed, but unable to find any remedy to their situation.



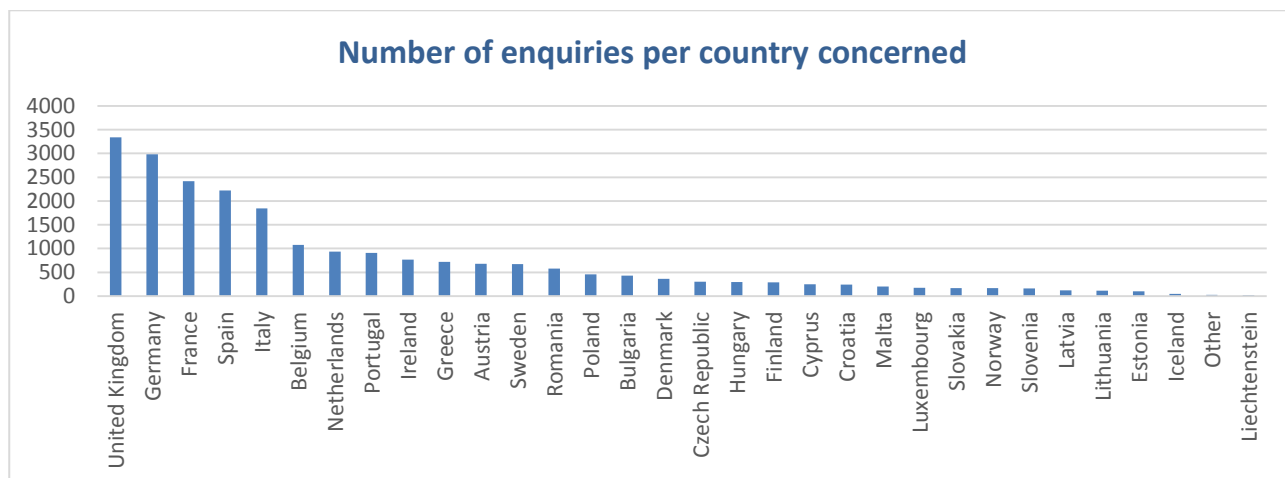
For the first time in the history of the service, social security was not the most common topic. Entry is now the most frequent topic, representing 22% of all enquiries, followed by social security (20%) and residence (18%). There was also an increase in questions relating to business, specifically enquiries linked to taxes and free movement of goods and services.



YEA received enquiries from citizens from all 28 EU countries and from Norwegian, Icelandic, and third country nationals who are family members of EU citizens. Most enquiries were from third country nationals, which may explain why entry was the most common topic dealt with in 2018.



The enquiries received related to all 28 Member States, as well as Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein. 14.5% of enquiries received in 2018 were about the United Kingdom. This was partly due to Brexit, but also the large number of third country nationals who are already in the EU but would like to move to the UK.



Outreach Activities

14 YEA experts participated in 15 outreach activities in Belgium, France, Hungary, Italy, Portugal and Slovenia. The number of participants varied significantly according to the type of event, but based on the feedback reports, the number of persons reached may have exceeded 1,000 citizens (excluding the Facebook chats, which reached over 1.2 million Facebook users).

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 and consumer organisations. YEA experts complied with the two main objectives: presenting and explaining the Your Europe website and YEA to potential multipliers and 'institutional' users, and liaising with representatives from other networks who provide help and advice to citizens and businesses.

Consultation days took place at the Dublin Commission Representation. During these consultation days, an 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 respective cases.

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. In 2018, ECAS contributed to updates of the portal with a revision of the car registration section. A list of frequently used EU legislation and EU case law was provided, together with an analysis of the Your Europe links, with a view to updating the Your Europe Advice database.

EU Legal Updates

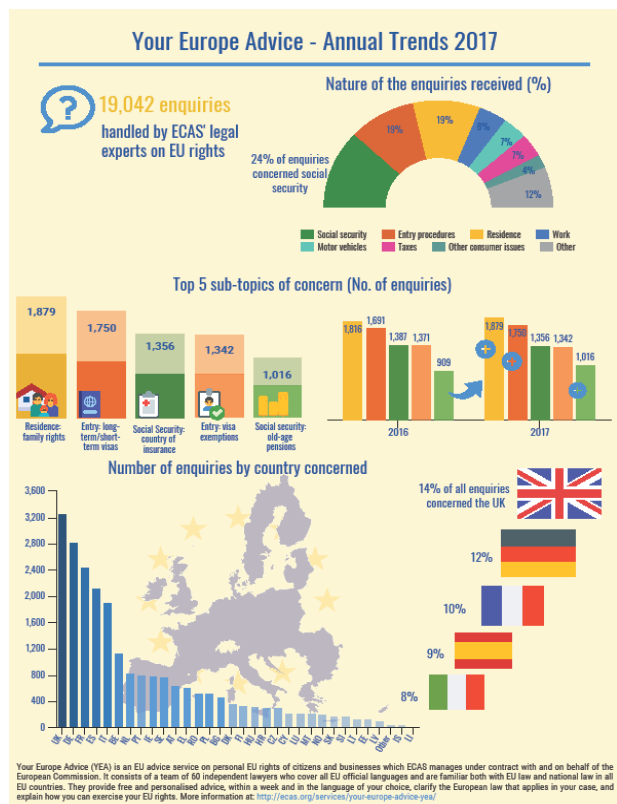
The Management Team ensures that the experts are kept up-to-date with new legislation and case law by providing them with a monthly newsletter entitled 'EU Law Update'. This newsletter is tailored to the continuously evolving informational needs of the experts. It includes the latest news from the EU, information on recent infringement procedures undertaken by the European Commission and an analysis of the latest European Court of Justice judgments relating 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 considered to be either exemplary 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 per year. These reports include details of the cases handled by the experts in YEA and a policy analysis of the topics covered in the enquiries.

YEA annual trends

Based on the enquiries responded to in 2017, ECAS produced a report that identifies key trends in obstacles to free movement. This was published at the end of March 2018. These trends provide useful information about the problems experienced by citizens who seek to exercise their right to free movement.



YOUR EUROPE ADVICE
ANNUAL TRENDS

YEA training seminar

In cooperation with the European Commission, ECAS organises a training seminar for the YEA legal experts once a year. On 15 and 16 November, the Your Europe Advice annual training seminar took place in Brussels and was attended by 57 experts. The seminar was launched on the evening of 14 November, with a cocktail party organised at ECAS' premises, where YEA experts were able to meet and informally exchange thoughts and experiences with representatives from the MoveS network. The aim of the seminar was to inform the legal experts of new developments in EU law and the service's achievements during 2018, and to keep them up-to-date with the new challenges that Europe is currently facing.

Training topics are proposed to the Commission by the Management Team after consultation with the experts, taking into account difficult enquiries that have been identified by quality control together with trends and problems presented in the feedback reports and issues arising from outreach activities. In cooperation with the European Commission, the topics are presented and discussed during the training seminar by specialists in these areas from the European Commission. In 2018, the experts were trained on the latest legislative updates and developments in areas such as residence documents under free movement rules, Schengen border rules, the posting of workers, the recognition of professional qualifications, CE Marking and the GDPR.

Your Europe Chats on Business in the EU and EU passenger rights

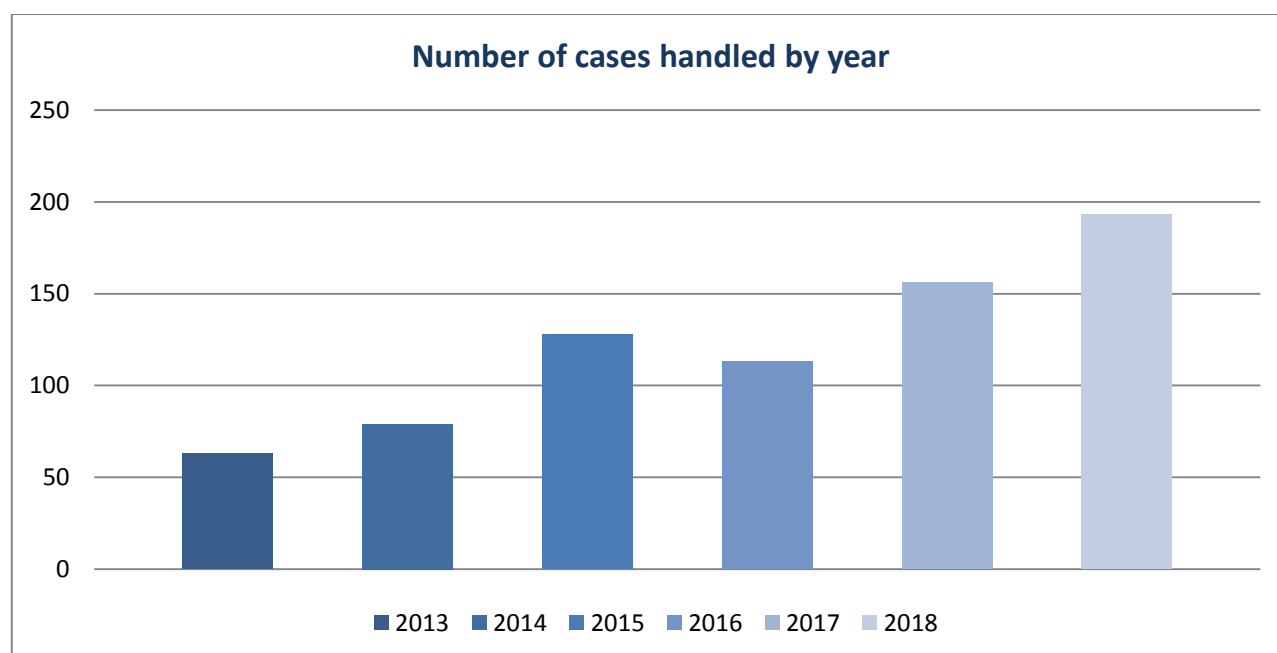
In 2018, YEA experts played an active role in two online chats hosted on the Your Europe Facebook page. On 26 February 2018, 7 YEA experts provided online replies to **66 questions** on 'Doing business abroad'. The chat session reached more than 1,200,000 people. On 20 November, 8 YEA experts replied to over **43 questions** on 'Passenger rights'. This chat had a reach of more than 100,000 Facebook users.

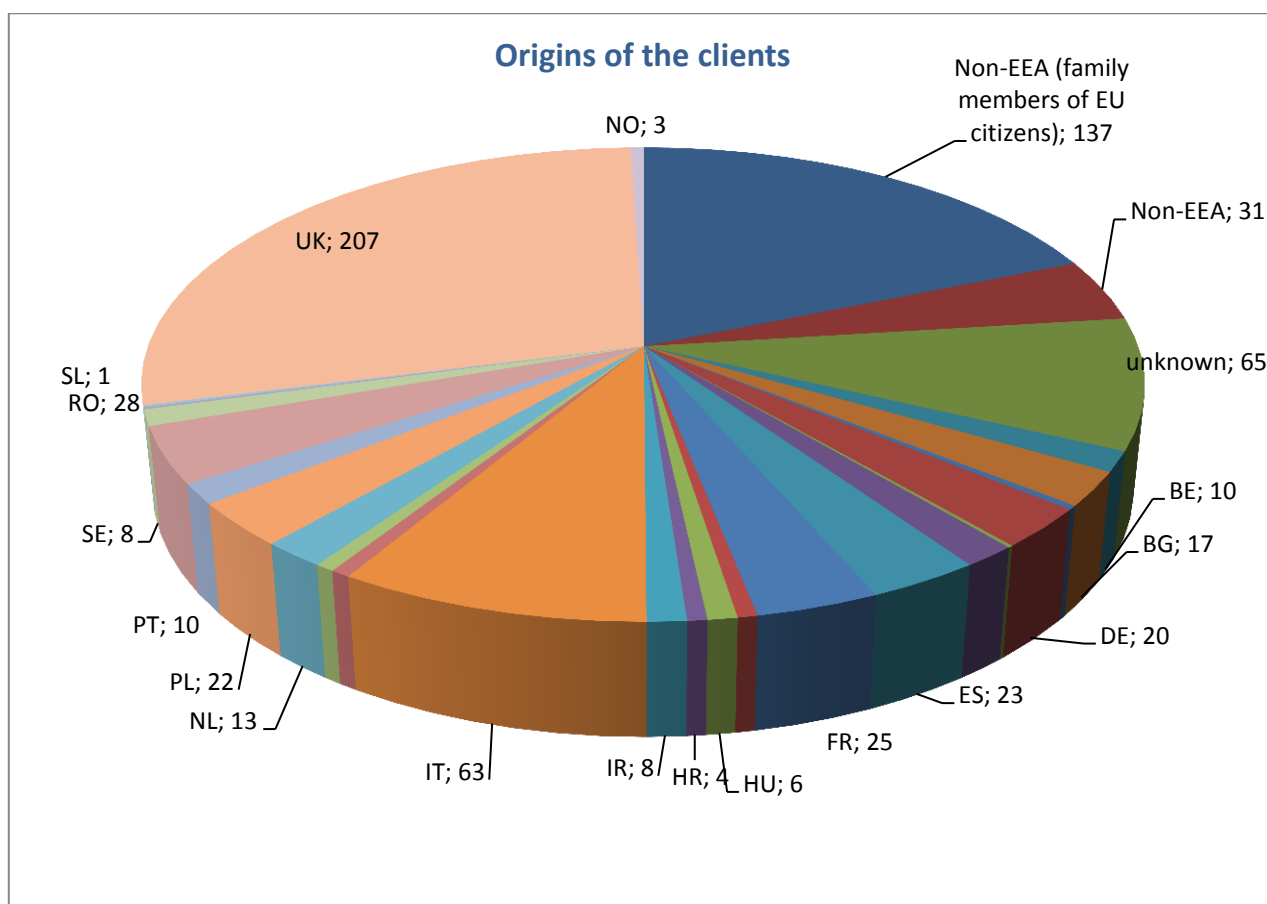




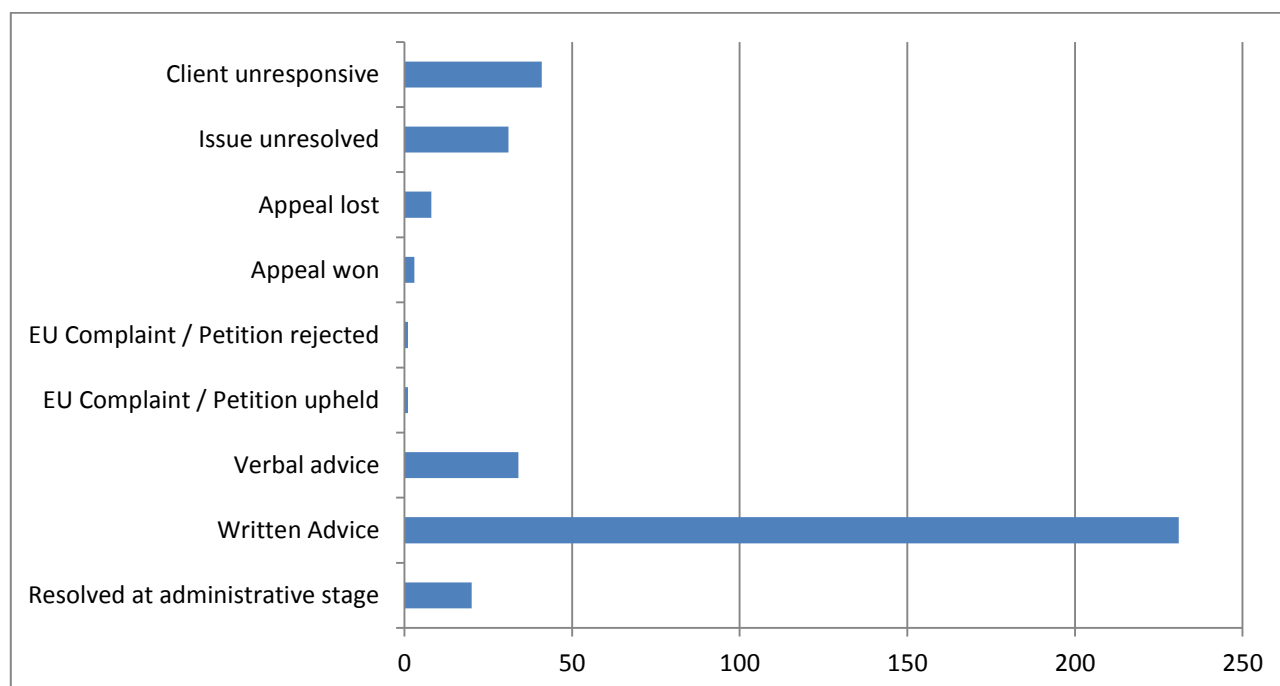
In 2018, the EU Rights Clinic continued to provide problem-solving services in difficult cases involving EU migrants and advocate for the implementation of concrete and adequate measures at EU and national level to overcome visible and hidden barriers to European citizenship rights.

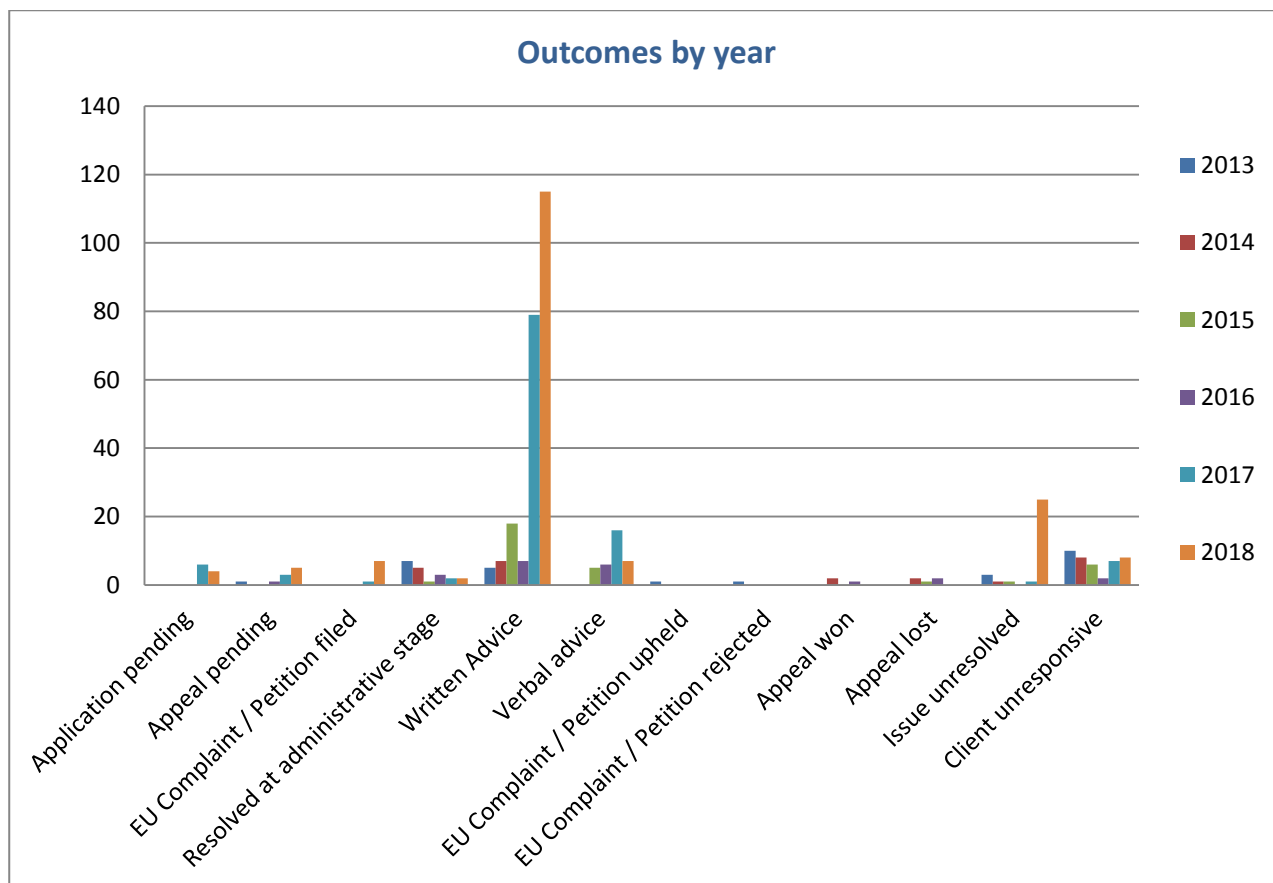
From January 2013 to December 2018, the EU Rights Clinic handled over 732 cases involving 830 individual clients and 6 NGO clients.



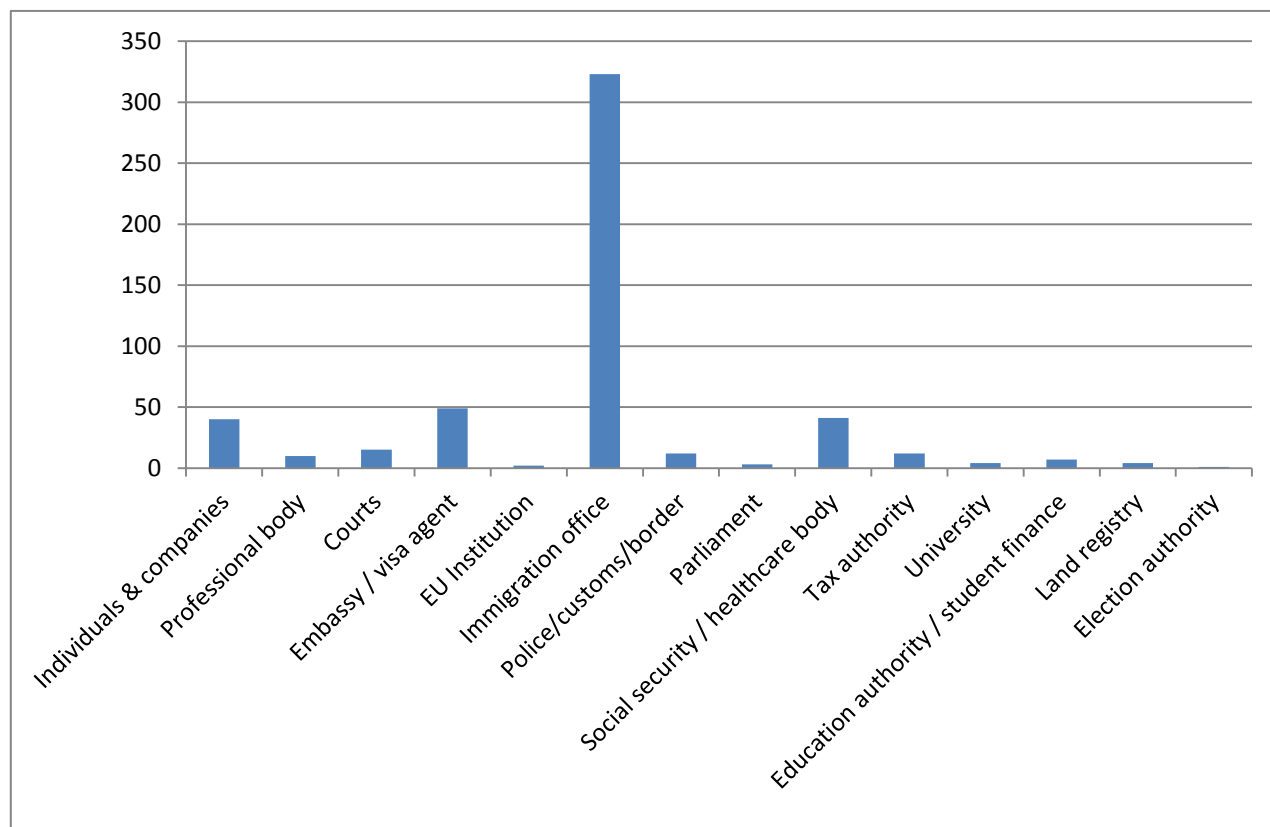


Between January 2013 and December 2018, the EU Rights Clinic successfully closed 367 cases (excluding cases referred to other services):

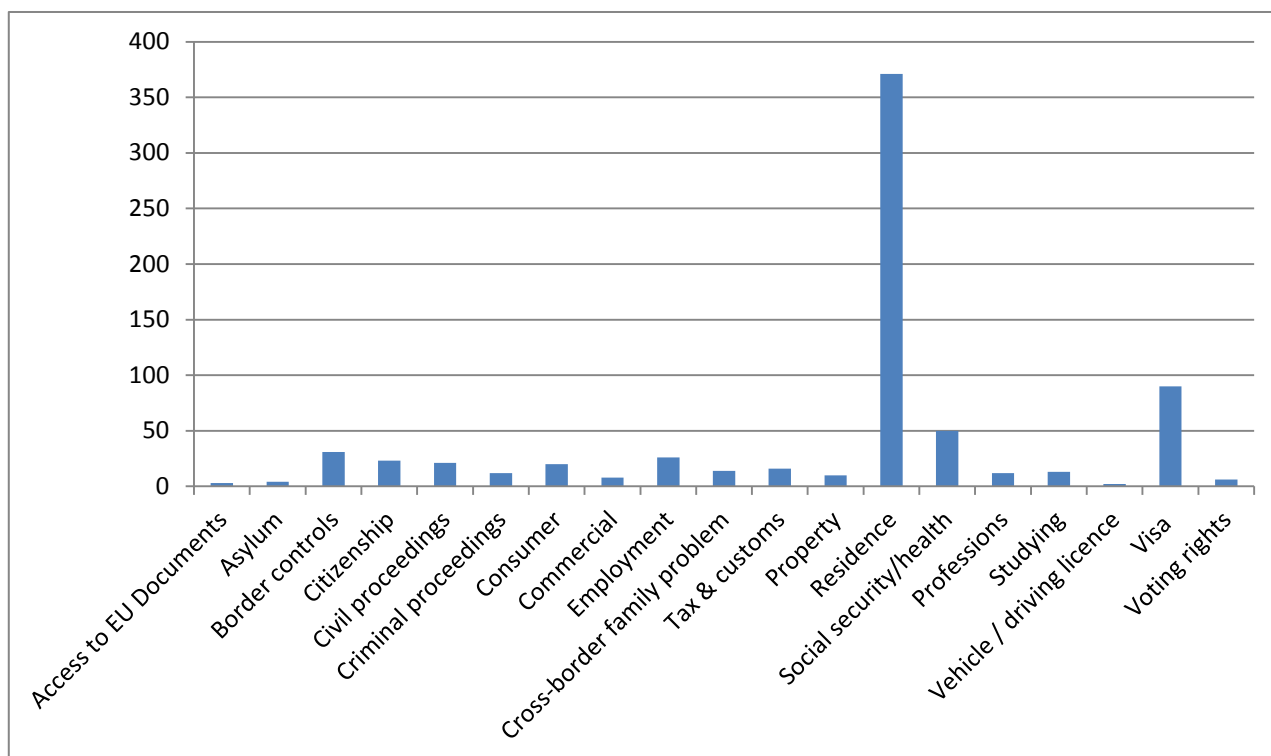




The institutions dealt with between January 2013 and December 2018 on behalf of the clients were:

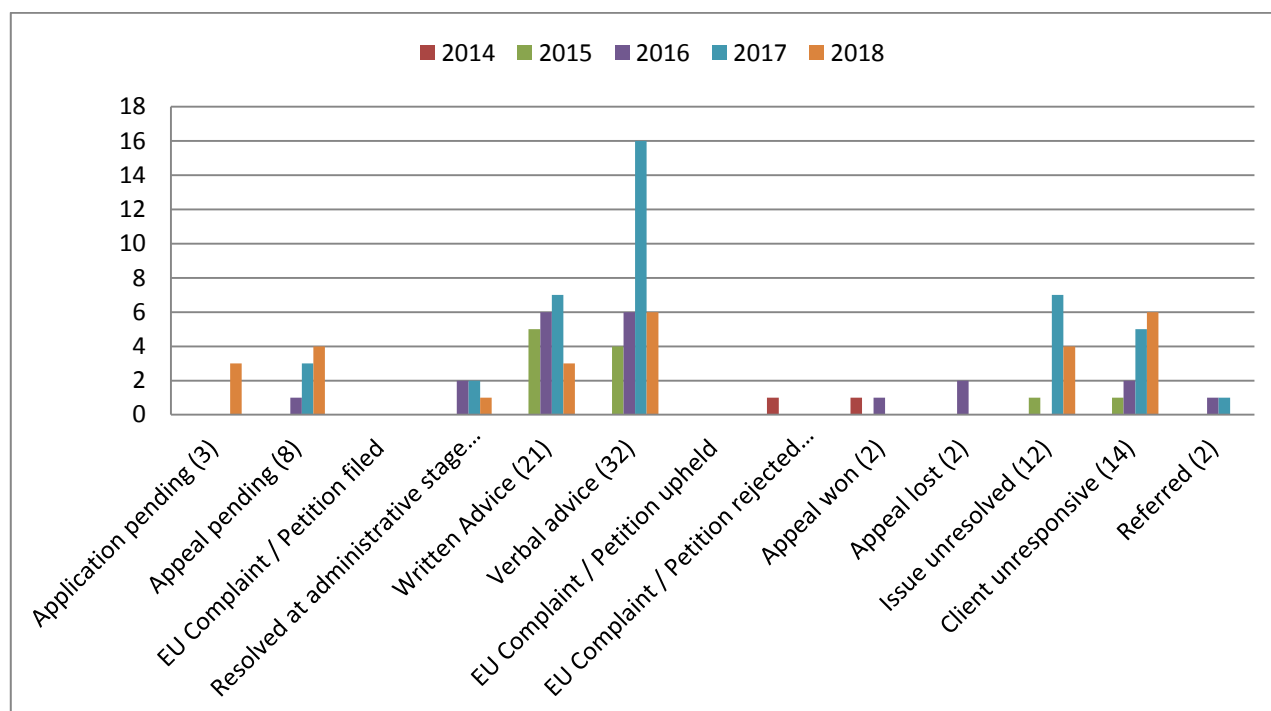


The following chart shows the nature of the problems dealt with by the EU Rights Clinic between January 2013 and December 2018. In 2018, most of the cases concerned residence issues.



In 2018, the EU Rights Clinic continued its cooperation with the 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 have been issued with an expulsion order from the Belgian authorities.

The following chart shows the outcome of cases handled by the Brussels Helpdesk from 2014 to 2018:



PROJECTS

ACT for Free Movement

This project was supported by the European Programme for Integration and Migration (EPIM), a collaborative initiative of the Network of European Foundations, and was led by ECAS in partnership with: European Alternatives (EA), UK, Gothenburg Rescue Mission (GRM), Sweden, EU Rights Clinic (EURC), Belgium, Krytyka Polityczna (KP), Poland, and the Good Lobby (GL), Belgium.

ACT for Free Movement aimed to establish permanent direct advocacy in Brussels and provide support, resources and training to citizens throughout Europe to take action to counter the trend towards a restrictive interpretation of the EU Citizenship Directive (2004/38/EC). Its final objective was to increase the extent to which EU citizens can effectively secure access to, and be aware of, their rights. It also aimed at building public awareness and political support for mobile citizens' rights. To achieve this, a multilevel strategy was deployed, including:

- Research to identify specific problems and to define good practices in free movement of EU citizens;
- EU-level advocacy through complaints to the European Commission and petitions to the European Parliament, as well as submissions to the REFIT Platform;
- Training of free movement activists during workshops in Poland, Italy, Spain, Sweden and the UK, and support for their grassroots campaigns on mobile citizens' rights.

The project began in April 2017 and continued until October 2018.

Research

In 2018, on the basis of Your Europe Advice cases in the period from 2015 to 2017, ECAS identified problems faced by EU mobile citizens in the EU28. The [main findings](#) and the [full report](#) were published in March 2018. The research clarifies that entry rights are an issue that has been of increasing importance over the last 6 years. While some enquiries concern the entry rights of EU nationals, the vast majority relate to the entry rights of non-EU family members.

The results of the research and the main obstacles faced by EU citizens were also reported by eastwest.eu (in [English](#) and [Italian](#)). Assya Kavrakova, ECAS' Executive Director, provided a comment to the article explaining that:

"The situation of citizens' rights in Europe has deteriorated since 2015 as a spill-over effect of the economic crisis, the surge of immigrants and refugees, and the terrorist threat. The attention has shifted towards security and EU member states have become more inventive, so to speak, on ways to undermine free movement. Problems in the way free movement rules are enforced are not new. In the past, the most problematic issue has been the right to access social security in other EU countries. But since 2015 we have seen more obstacles on the right of entry and residence too. This is worrying because these are the rights at the heart of EU citizenship"

In addition to the report, good practices in the implementation of the EU Citizenship Directive at national level were identified. Based on a questionnaire developed by Anna Nicolau, national YEA legal experts were tasked with identifying the best practices and services for implementing the rights of mobile EU citizens.

The best practices fed into an [interactive map](#), which was officially presented during the first ‘State of the Union Citizens’ Rights’ conference in September 2018. The guide contains examples of 112 administrative measures (websites, services, etc.) taken by EU Member States that have successfully addressed identifiable problems with the application of the Directive. The map allows citizens to look for good practices in each Member State according to 14 categories, including healthcare, social security, consumer rights and taxation.

Advocacy and complaints

In 2018, ECAS continued advocating before the European institutions and EU Member States to build political will to implement the Citizenship Directive to the maximum.

In July, the EU Rights Clinic submitted a [petition](#) calling on the European Parliament to take immediate action to address specific gaps and omissions still featuring in the draft Withdrawal Agreement concerning the protection of some categories of citizens’ rights after the Brexit date. The petition was submitted on behalf of 80 signatories, including representatives of the 3 million British in Europe, MEPs Seb Dance, Jean Lambert and Molly Scott Cato, Plaid Cymru leader Leanne Wood, legal experts, leading academics and representatives of civil society organisations.

In September 2018, the EU Rights Clinic filed several complaints against Member States that failed to secure the rights of EU citizens.

The complaint and [petition](#) against Sweden concerned excessive delays in the issuance of residence documents to the family members of EU citizens. This was filed in collaboration with Crossroads Göteborg (Göteborgs Stadsmissionen). Despite Article 10 of Directive 2004/38 imposing a six-month deadline within which to issue residence cards to non-EU family members, it is currently taking about two years to issue such documents. This affects the ability of family members to access employment and also prevents them from obtaining a *personnummer* (personal identification number).

A [complaint](#) and [petition](#) against France were linked to the widespread problems facing British and other EU citizens who apply for residence documents. The complaint was based on submissions from 23 EU citizens residing in France. All related to the failure of French municipal authorities to issue residence documents to applicants who meet the conditions of permanent residence under Article 16 of Directive 2004/38 or ordinary residence under Article 7.

The EU Rights Clinic also submitted a complaint on behalf of 100 signatories and a petition against the UK’s EU settlement scheme, which will govern the post-Brexit residence rights of EU citizens presently residing in the UK. In particular, the complaint referred to the failure of the UK authorities to comply with EU law in respect of the [pilot phase of the EU Settlement Scheme](#) being rolled out in anticipation of Brexit.

The last complaint and [petition](#) were lodged in October 2018 before the EU authorities relating to the systematic verification by the Belgian authorities of residence rights of EU citizens when they claim benefits. The Belgian authorities have put in place an electronic system to exchange information between social security institutions and the Immigration Office that systematically provides information on all benefits granted to EU citizens and their family members. This electronic data exchange system covers social security institutions for workers and the self-employed as well as jobcentres and public social assistance centres (CPAS/OCMW) throughout Belgium.

All the complaints have been registered by the Commission and admitted by the Committee on Petitions. The follow-up steps will be taken by the EU Rights Clinic in 2019.

FAIR EU

On 2 February 2018, ECAS launched the project Fostering Awareness, Inclusion and Recognition of EU Mobile Citizens' Political Rights (FAIR EU).

The project aims to develop a holistic approach to identify and tackle obstacles to free movement rights and political participation. Free legal advice services at national level will be researched and good practices and evidence-based recommendations on upcoming election campaigns will be identified.

The project stems from the ongoing need to counter negative trends against mobile citizens' rights. These issues were approached by the One-Stop-Shops project funded by the European Commission and led by the Migration Policy Group (MPG), with its direct continuation being the FAIR EU project and consortium.

ECAS coordinates the project in consortium with the following partners: European University Institute (EUI), Malmö University (MU), University of Maastricht (UM), the Migration Policy Group (MPG), and the European Association for Local Democracy (ALDA).

Focus groups

The objective of the focus groups is to explore the link between free movement obstacles and their influence on political participation in local and EU elections in selected Member States. The focus groups will also identify best practices for political participation.

Based on the outcomes of the focus groups, a synthesis report will be developed and will provide an overview of the obstacles to free movement and their effect on the exercise of political rights in the EU28 with a special focus on the 6 Member States in which the focus groups took place. It will also generate recommendations for local, national and EU stakeholders.

ECAS chose countries for the focus groups based on the following criteria:

- Member States with the lowest percentage of EU citizens registered to vote in municipal elections
- EU cities in those Member States with the largest share of EU mobile citizens in the population

As a result, the following cities were identified: Brussels, Dublin, Athens, Luxembourg, Paris and Lisbon. Four focus groups took place in 2018 (Brussels, Dublin, Athens, Lisbon), while the remaining two in Paris and Luxembourg were held in January 2019.

Focus group in Brussels

The first focus group took place in Brussels on 23 October 2018 and gathered 15 attendees representing local authorities, civil society organisations and academia. The participants discussed the main obstacles faced by EU mobile citizens and provided recommendations for enhancing political participation.

The participants noted that there may be a link between the obstacles to freedom of movement and political participation in cases of EU citizens who are at risk of expulsion or have received an order to leave the

country. The self-employed, unemployed and those who have worked less than a year in Belgium are particularly at risk of being considered an unreasonable burden on the host state's social assistance system. In Belgium, there are 7 to 8 Europeans expelled every day.

Obstacles to political participation:

- Lack of interest in local politics among EU mobile citizens;
- Lack of proactivity for voter registration among certain local administrations;
- Limited time for registration;
- The complexity of the Belgian system;
- Language barriers;
- Administrative obstacles;
- Lack of channels to build awareness and mobilisation;
- Obligation to vote once registered.

Recommendations:

- Introducing online voter registration;
- Local authorities should provide information to EU mobile citizens on a regular basis;
- Local authorities should aim at enhancing mutual interest through common activities for EU mobile citizens and local residents and authorities (cooking, language classes, etc.);
- The communes should cooperate on developing common information messages and campaigns.

Focus group in Dublin

The focus group in Dublin took place on 9 November 2018 and gathered 8 participants.

It was generally agreed that significant obstacles remain to the free movement of EU nationals in Ireland, particularly those who are vulnerable or unemployed. Many are inhibited by language difficulties, which means they are unable to properly express their needs or understand what is required of them.

The main link between obstacles to freedom of movement and political participation was identified in the case of access to social housing. The Department of Housing requires that those seeking social housing should be able to demonstrate that they have 52 weeks of employment before being accommodated. As many migrants seeking housing cannot fulfil this requirement, a significant number elect to leave the country and return to their home country. This was evident among the Polish community in Ireland and may have a direct link to political participation, as mobile EU citizens experiencing problems in accessing housing or social security benefits may prioritise these issues over participation in elections.

Obstacles to political participation:

- Lack of interest among EU mobile citizens;
- Lack of interest among public authorities to have mobile EU citizens as voters;
- Local authorities have limited power in Ireland, so EU migrants therefore have little to gain in engaging with their local politicians;
- EU citizens prefer civic participation over political engagement.

Recommendations:

- Local authorities and CSOs should provide information to EU mobile citizens on a regular basis;

- Local authorities, in cooperation with CSOs, should run awareness-raising campaigns, particularly among those EU citizens who haven't developed a culture of political participation in their country of origin.

Focus group in Lisbon

The focus group took place on 7 December 2018 and gathered 10 participants.

It was generally agreed that significant obstacles remain to free movement of EU nationals in Portugal. Several factors hindering the free movement rights of EU migrants in Portugal were identified as factors also influencing the political participation of EU mobile citizens. In particular, EU mobile citizens and their non-EU family members still encounter problems, delays and excessive requirements when applying for and obtaining residence documents and visas. All these factors may contribute to a lack of interest and discourage EU mobile citizens from participating in local elections.

Obstacles to political participation:

- The exercise of the right to vote depends on registration to vote;
- Uncertainty on how to meet the required procedures for registration on the electoral roll;
- Difficulties in integration;
- Difficulties in accessing information;
- Linguistic barriers;
- Complexity of the local government.

Recommendations:

- National authorities should facilitate everyday life of EU mobile citizens by reducing bureaucratic obstacles concerning EU migrants' free movement rights
- Local authorities and CSOs should run campaigns to raise awareness and disseminate information
- Automatic registration on the electoral roll

Focus group in Athens

The focus group took place on 7 December 2018 and gathered 5 participants.

The main link between obstacles to freedom of movement and political participation was found in the case of residence procedures. Greek authorities (police) require EU citizens who want to get a residence certificate in Greece to prove they are in possession of a minimum amount of EUR 4,000 in a bank account, even though the provisions of Directive 2004/38/EC (art.8 par.4) prohibit Member States from laying down a fixed amount of 'sufficient resources'. Representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs confirmed that there are a lot of cases where the police, who are responsible for issuing registration certificates for EU citizens, do ask for that kind of proof of sufficient resources and the focus group confirmed that this kind of administrative requirement might form an obstacle to the exercise of EU mobile citizens' political rights.

Obstacles to political participation:

- Lack of automatic registration on the electoral roll;
- Lack of information campaigns;
- Administrative obstacles, malfunctioning of the Greek administration;
- Lack of interest and understanding among EU citizens.

Recommendations:

- Local authorities should provide information to EU mobile citizens on a regular basis
- Local authorities and CSOs should focus on raising awareness of EU mobile citizens
- Automatic registration on the electoral roll

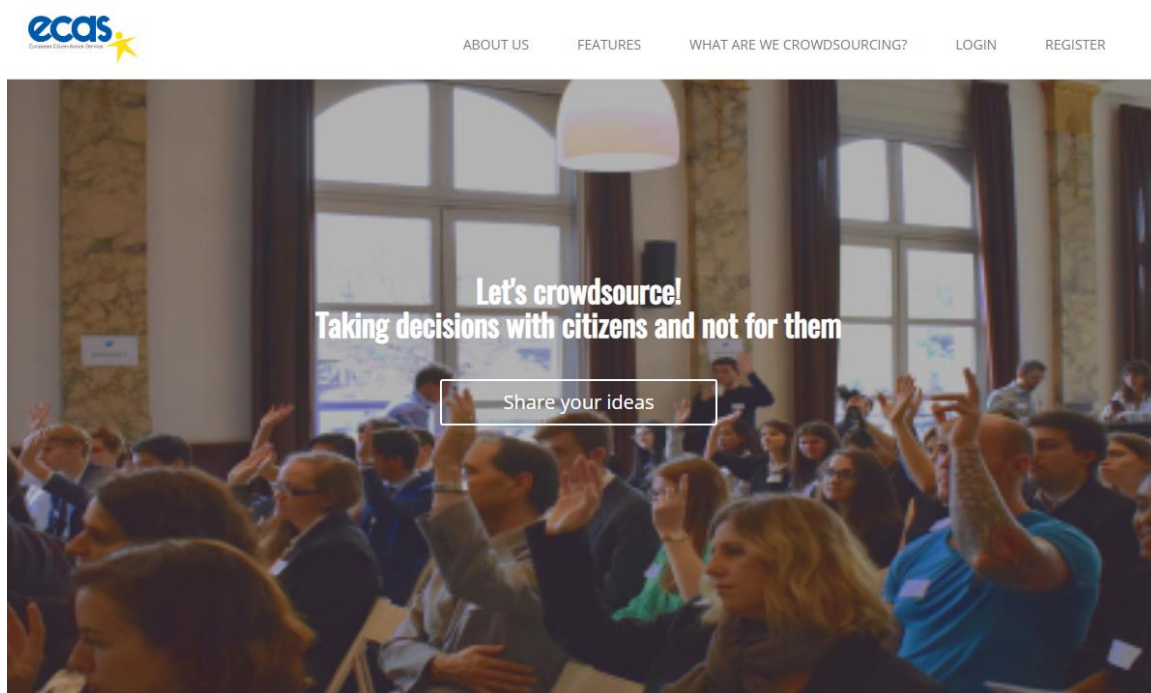
Crowdsourcing

The FAIR EU project includes a citizen-orientated outreach component, based on ICT. A crowdsourcing platform was launched on 10 September 2018 in order to gather citizens' input on problems related to political participation and possible solutions.

The crowdsourcing exercise is being implemented in two phases:

- September 2018-February 2019: closed-ended questions on obstacles to freedom of movement and political participation
- February-April 2019: based on the results of the first phase, open-ended questions with an aim to crowdsource recommendations and solutions

Between September 2018 and January 2019, more than 320 people from various EU Member States replied to the survey.



Initial findings

Out of more than 320 respondents, 35% had voted in European elections in their host Member State, while 45% said they had participated in local elections. Given that the platform attracts attention among EU mobile citizens of a rather high political awareness, the actual numbers are even lower. According to data

from the last municipal elections in Belgium, on average, fewer than 17% of mobile EU citizens² registered to vote in the Brussels-Capital region.

According to the results of the crowdsourcing exercise, mobile EU citizens lack knowledge of their political rights. This is particularly surprising given that 90% of them declared themselves familiar with the term 'EU citizenship' and the related rights. It is probable that many of them associate EU citizenship only with freedom of movement. Our analysis proves that mobile EU citizens face obstacles to the exercise of their political rights. Around 10% of respondents did not vote in the local elections because they were wrongly informed by public authorities that they were not allowed to participate and they experienced difficulties in the registration process.

IMPEU

In December 2018, ECAS started the project 'Improving Inclusion of EU Mobile Citizens' (IMPEU). The aim is to foster political participation of EU mobile citizens and enhance the capacity and knowledge of civil servants and relevant national, regional and local experts on EU citizenship and related political rights.

The first phase of the project will focus on research into best practices of political inclusion policies across the European Union. The project partners will identify obstacles faced by EU mobile citizens when exercising their EU citizenship rights. Finally, they will analyse civil servants' training needs related to the political participation of EU mobile citizens. This will be done through desk research, online surveys, citizens' dialogues and roundtables gathering policy-makers.

Based on the research, in the second phase, a needs-based training course will be developed for civil servants and relevant national, regional and local experts. The course will be available on an online training platform, while additional material will also be developed for the trainers to administer and facilitate the delivery of the programme. Relevant and tailored information on EU citizenship will also be available for citizens, public officials, civil servants and experts through the provision of online information toolkits and the establishment of Info Kiosks.

The project is funded by the Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme of the European Commission and is implemented by ECAS in consortium with:

- Agenzia per lo Sviluppo dell'Empolese Valdelsa (ASEV) - Italy
- Institut za Podgotovka na Slujiteliv Mejdunarodni Organizacii Zdruzenie (ITPIO) - Bulgaria
- Astiki Mh Kersoskopiki Etareia Helping Hand (HELPING HAND) - Greece
- Dimos Vrillission (MUVRI) - Greece
- Magenta Consultoria Projects SI (MAGENTA) - Spain

² <http://www.elections.fgov.be>

ECAS will:

- develop a comparative analysis of existing best practices for political inclusion policies in the EU28 and conduct a transferability assessment;
- produce a report on civil servants' training needs based on a survey in five partner countries;
- develop a Good Practice Guide, including 20 transferable good practices of inclusion policies;
- write policy recommendations on political inclusion policies for EU mobile citizens;
- develop a Q&A Citizen Toolkit 'Know Your Rights as a European Citizen';
- organise an Info Day in Brussels to present the IMPEU results and inform the wider audience about mobile EU citizens' rights;
- host two citizen dialogues and two roundtables for policy-makers in Brussels in order to discuss the political participation of mobile EU citizens and civil servants' training needs;
- organise the final European conference, gathering 250 participants in person and online.

The project will run for two years and finish in November 2020.

EVENTS

State of the Union Citizens' Rights Conference

On 25 September 2018, ECAS organised its first 'State of the Union Citizens' Rights' conference. The event brought together decision-makers, researchers and civil society organisations. Over 100 participants from 20 different countries took part in the conference and the event reached more than 2,000 people online. The opening speech was presented by Jaume Duch Guillot, Director-General for Communication and Spokesperson of the European Parliament. The event focused on the current challenges faced by EU citizens concerning their rights' enforcement and the grassroots civic campaigns and engagement.



The first panel presented the findings from the ACT for Free Movement project and discussed the main obstacles to free movement and other EU rights.

- *Assya Kavrakova*: "Many EU Rights are currently under threat, namely the following two: the right to healthcare and the right to family life"
- *Mauro Striano*: "Mobile EU citizens face difficulties accessing basic services"
- *Anthony Valcke*: "Citizens' rights are under threat from Brexit"
- *Niccolo Milanese*: "If EU rights are under threat, other rights may follow. Free movement debate needs to unite all EU citizens"



During the second panel, moderated by Elisa Lironi, Digital Democracy Manager at ECAS, speakers analysed grassroots actions that NGOs are undertaking in order to address key challenges faced by citizens. The panellists stressed the importance of these actions and provided suggestions on how civil society could strengthen its voice in view of the next European elections.

The interactive approach of the panel allowed the audience to engage with the speakers after each presentation by asking questions and adding relevant comments to the discussion.



During the event, ECAS also presented the interactive map of good practices, which contains examples of administrative measures (websites, services, etc.) that can help mobile EU citizens settle in another EU Member State.

Dr László Andor, former Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, and member of ECAS' Board of Directors, made the closing speech, stressing the importance of a discussion around the challenges posed to citizens' rights.

He said that the issue of free movement has been at the heart of the Brexit debate and the situation of EU citizens living in the UK and British citizens living in the Union still represents a major challenge.

Based on the discussion, the following recommendations were proposed in order to enhance the inclusion of EU citizens in civic and political life:

- Local and EU institutions should use innovative and digital participatory tools more frequently, including crowdsourcing legislation, in order to foster citizens' involvement in decision-making;
- EU institutions should put more effort into reaching out to those citizens who are disenfranchised and uninvolved in politics;
- The loopholes in the application of the right to free movement should be addressed by a new European Commission Communication on the Citizenship Directive;
- EU institutions should deliver more on the issues that are close to citizens' everyday concerns, such as social policies, in order to enhance citizens' interest and participation in political processes;
- EU institutions should provide support to NGOs' activities and upscale some of these initiatives to a governmental level to better protect citizens' rights;
- NGOs should undertake a coordinated effort and understand citizens' most urgent needs in order to counter the rise of populist movements in the next European elections;

The full event report is available [here](#).

On 29 November 2018, the Committee on Constitutional Affairs (AFCO) published an [own-initiative report](#) on the implementation of the Treaty provisions related to EU citizenship. The draft report focuses on EU citizenship, political rights, freedom of movement and the rights of EU citizens abroad.

The rapporteur, Maite Pagazaurtundúa Ruiz (ALDE, Spain), welcomed the benefits that free movement brings to EU citizens and Member State economies and pointed out that the rights derived from Directive 2004/38/EC on the right of citizens of the Union and their families to move and reside freely within the territory of the Member States are not always known and respected. She is also concerned about declining voter turnout in both national and European elections, and calls on the European Commission to promote European citizenship and citizens' awareness of their political rights.

ECAS was in contact with the MEP's office and provided comments during the [amendment process](#). The amendments published by AFCO include some input provided by ECAS, in particular those related to non-EU family members:

Amendment 61

*Paragraph 7 b (new) Underlines the problematic of the absence of information or the provision of incorrect or confusing information on visa requirements for family members or on residence rights; **insists that Member States should ensure the removal of unnecessary barriers to the right of entry/residence, in particular for third country nationals who are family members of EU citizens.***

The final resolution, including the amendment, was adopted by the European Parliament plenary on 12 February 2019.



DIGITAL DEMOCRACY Focus Area

ECAS implemented its Digital Democracy agenda with the aim to explore the democratic potential of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in:

- Reducing the gap between 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.

In 2018, ECAS continued advocating for stronger Digital Democracy in the EU through different EU projects and activities. The EUCROWD project successfully concluded in March and the Crowdsourcing Knowledge Centre was created as a result. In view of the 2019 European elections, ECAS – together with its partners in the new YouVoteEU project – created the innovative YourVoteMatters.eu platform. The platform was launched in July to inform citizens on EU policies and connect voters with their current representatives in the European Parliament, new candidates and other voters. In the second part of the year, ECAS commenced activities related to three new projects: 'We are Europe', 'Smart eDemocracy against Fake News' (SMART eD), and 'Democratic Efficacy and the Varieties of Populism in Europe' (DEMOS).

ECAS continued to strive for the improvement of the ECI and other already existing EU participation tools. Furthermore, ECAS closely monitored the new revision of the ECI regulation and, together with other civil society organisations, advocated for and proposed improvements to the text.

In 2018, ECAS supported the European Commission in the development and implementation of the European Citizens' Initiative Forum, a new online collaborative platform in partnership with ESN and CARSA.

The platform, a pilot project on behalf of, and under contract with, the European Commission, was launched in May 2018.

ECAS organised its fourth annual flagship event in this focus area, 'Digital Democracy Day 2018'. The event discussed the outcomes of the EUCROWD project in view of launching a European pilot on crowdsourcing policies. Furthermore, ECAS also contributed to many other events in this field, such as 'ECI Day 2018' and the 'Civil Society Days'.

ECAS was also increasingly invited to numerous events and research groups to participate as a speaker, expert or trainer on topics relating to Digital Democracy.

European Citizens' Initiative Forum

The European Citizens' Initiative Forum – a pilot project carried out on behalf of, and under contract with, the European Commission – was officially launched at the end of May 2018.



The purpose of the online collaborative platform is to provide advice and information to organisers before, during and after the process of launching and implementing an initiative. The objective is to foster interactions between (potential) organisers, citizens and experts on the topic of the European Citizens' Initiative (ECI).

In 2018, ECAS supported the European Commission in the development and implementation of the European Citizens' Initiative Forum. In the first part of the year, ECAS assisted in the development of the technical specifications of the online platform.

After the launch of the platform in May, ECAS managed the 'SEEK advice' section of the Forum, handling citizens' enquiries and providing legal, campaigning and fundraising advice. Furthermore, ECAS supported the creation of guidance material and contributed in the organisation of three participatory activities to collect feedback on how to improve the platform. ECAS successfully organised three online webinars on different aspects of the ECI that have been published on the platform and are available to citizens.

PROJECTS

EUCROWD

The 'European Citizens Crowdsourcing' (EUCROWD) project, under the Europe for Citizens programme, started in September 2016 and successfully concluded in March 2018. The project – in partnership with 7 organisations – aimed at raising awareness among citizens of e-participation mechanisms at national and European level, with a focus on the possibility of crowdsourcing legislation at EU level.

ECAS organised the final conference of the project, 'Digital Democracy Day 2018 – Crowdsourcing EU Legislation: Taking Decisions With Citizens and Not For Them', where the project outcomes were presented and discussed. Furthermore, as a result of the project, ECAS developed and created a web-based Knowledge Centre as an online repository on European crowdsourcing. The Knowledge Centre is available on ECAS' website: <http://ecas.issuelab.org/?category=Crowdsourcing>

Results of the project can be found here: <https://ecas.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/EUCROWD-Results.pdf>

You Vote EU

The 'You Vote EU' project aims to stimulate the participation of EU citizens in the 2019 European Parliament elections and increase understanding of current and future EU policies. The project, under the Rights, Equality and Citizenship (REC) programme of the European Union, is implemented by five partner organisations and started in February 2018.

As part of the project, the partners created an innovative web platform to inform voters on EU policies and connect them with their current representatives, new candidates and other voters. The YourVoteMatters.eu web platform was launched in July and officially presented to the public at ECAS' 'State of the Union Citizens' Rights' event in Brussels in September.



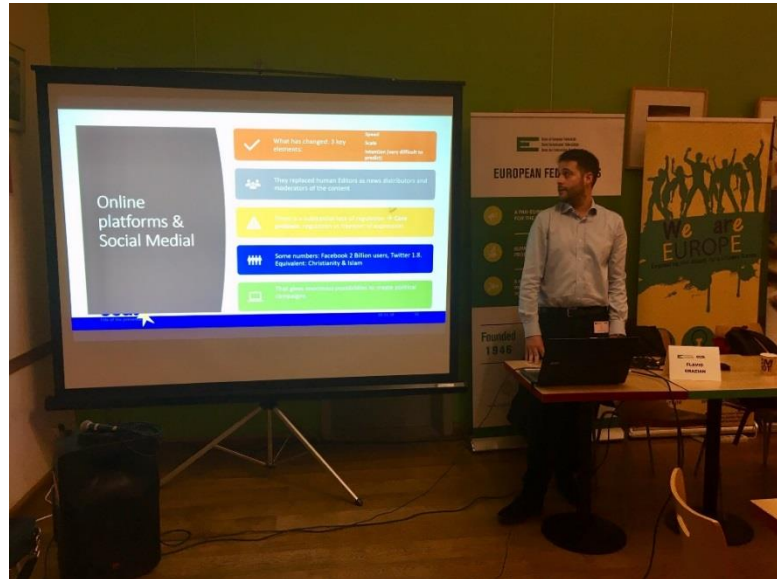
ECAS is supporting the promotion of the platform through effective communications and with the development of the platform's dissemination and population strategy.

We Are Europe



The 'We Are Europe' project aims at allowing civil society organisations (CSOs) to become actors in the 'Future of Europe' debate in the 2018-19 period. The project, under the Europe for Citizens programme, started in August 2018 and is implemented in partnership with 8 different organisations. The project involves three different kinds of activities taking place across Europe: 2 European Academies in Brussels (BE), 2 European Civil Society Meet-Ups, in Vienna (AT) and Vilnius (LT), and 4 Citizens' Agorae, in Budapest (HU), Barcelona (ES), Strasbourg (FR) and Sofia (BG).

ECAS actively contributed to the formulation of the curricula of the first edition of the European Academy held from 9 to 11 November 2018 in Brussels and provided trainers for three different workshops on Digital Democracy, Online Disinformation and EU Advocacy. Furthermore, ECAS contributed to the general effort of promotion and dissemination of the project's activities and outcomes through its own communication channels.



SMART eD

The 'Smart eDemocracy against Fake News' (SMART eD) started in September 2018 with the aim to foster European citizenship and improve conditions for civic and democratic participation at EU level by raising citizens' awareness of national and EU level initiatives to counter fake news and online disinformation. The project is implemented in partnership with 7 organisations across Europe.

ECAS participated in the experts' conference in Riga on 29 November 2018, presenting EU level initiatives to counter fake news and online disinformation and participating in the panel discussion 'How to protect an active citizen from disinformation and fake news impact'.



DEMOS

The three-year-long 'Democratic Efficacy and the Varieties of Populism in Europe' (DEMOS) project, under the Horizon 2020 Framework Programme of the European Union started in December 2018. The project is implemented with 14 partner organisations and explores the practical value of 'democratic efficacy' as the condition of political engagement needed to address the challenge of populism.

In the project, ECAS leads the working package on 'improving democratic efficacy: action research and pilot projects' and contributes to identifying the main features of citizens' reactions to populism.

EVENTS

Digital Democracy Day 2018

On 27 February 2018, ECAS held its fourth annual 'Digital Democracy Day – Crowdsourcing EU Legislation: Taking Decisions With Citizens and Not For Them!'. The event focused on national examples of crowdsourcing practices and proposed several concrete solutions for an EU level platform.

The event represented the final conference of the EUCROWD project, a partnership between ECAS and seven other organisations, in order to explore and test out different ways of engaging citizens in the EU's democratic life.

Over 70 participants from 20 different countries took part in the conference and the event has been viewed over 1,000 times online. The conference featured two panels of experts and explored:

- Lessons Learned From Citizens at National Level; and
- Towards a Crowdsourcing Pilot at EU Level.

The keynote speaker, Gilles Pelayo, Head of Unit in charge of the 'Europe for Citizens' programme at the European Commission, underlined how e-democracy is a window of opportunity, now more open than ever, at EU level. Finally, the conference highlighted that there is still a lot to learn from national experiences that can improve the participatory process at EU level.



The final report can be found here: <https://ecas.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/DDD-2018-FinalReport.pdf>

ECI DAY 2018: Working Together

'ECI Day 2018: Working Together' took place at the Economic and Social Committee (EESC) on 10 April 2018 in Brussels. Organised by the EESC in cooperation with several civil society organisations, including ECAS, it represents an important annual meeting to exchange ideas on the European Citizens' Initiative (ECI) as a tool for participatory democracy in the EU. The opening session focused on the revision of the ECI Regulation. European Commission Vice-President Frans Timmermans took this occasion to announce the launch of an online collaborative platform for (potential) ECI organisers, and a communication campaign to raise awareness about the ECI.

In the afternoon, three main workshops were organised:

- The ECI Online Collaborative Platform: Supporting the ECI Community!
- Pioneering participation: The Reform of the ECI as a starting point for a more participatory European Union
- ECItizen: Building synergies between the four recent ECIs addressing EU citizenship in order to contribute to deepening the debate on EU citizenship

ECAS organised the workshop on the 'ECI Online Collaborative Platform', allowing participants to discover the new European Citizens' Initiative Forum. The aim of the interactive workshop was to present the scope and services of the new platform and allow participants to test it out in order to provide feedback on the different features. The platform is intended to be a space for citizens to get practical information and advice about the European Citizens' Initiative, and to discuss any topics related to it.



The programme for the event can be found here: <https://www.eesc.europa.eu/en/agenda/our-events/events/eci-day-2018-working-together/programme>



On 24-25 May 2018, the EESC's Liaison Group organised its annual 'Civil Society Days' event, focusing on 'Citizenship, Democracy and Culture in a digitalised Europe'. CSDs 2018 addressed how civil society is at work in relation to a dimension that has permeated our everyday working and living environment and will affect and shape our future, as well as the future of Europe – the digital world.

In this framework, ECAS organised an interactive workshop 'The Digital Democracy Battle: Defend your tool to improve Civic Participation'. The workshop aimed at exploring the potential of new e-democracy tools for more direct participation of citizens in decision-making processes. The workshop started with a presentation of different e-democracy tools followed by a panel discussion. Participants debated the different types of e-participation tools, engaging the audience on which kinds of tools citizens perceive as more effective, and the workshop concluded with an online poll where participants answered different questions related to the e-participation tools. The results of the poll produced three main recommendations related to e-participation tools:

- At local level, co-creation/crowdsourcing e-tools should be used more frequently to increase citizens' engagement;
- At national level, monitoring e-tools for more transparency should be used more often to support civic participation;
- At EU level, monitoring e-tools for more transparency should be utilised more to support civic participation.

POLICY POSITIONS

PETI-AFCO Hearing – Revision of the ECI Regulation

In February 2018, the European Parliament committees on Petitions (PETI) and Constitutional Affairs (AFCO) organised a joint public hearing on the European Citizens' Initiative and the Commission's legislative proposal for the revision of the ECI Regulation (Reg. (EU) No 211/2011) in the European Parliament in Brussels. ECAS' Digital Democracy Manager was invited as a speaker on the panel 'Revision of the ECI Regulation – academics' and practitioners' view' and gave a contribution on the revision of the ECI regulation.

Contributing to policy papers

In October 2018, ECAS' Digital Democracy Manager was invited to write a policy article by Carnegie Europe as a part of the 'Reshaping European Democracy' project. The article – published in November – explored the potential of digital tools to revitalise European democracy. ECAS also contributed to the European Citizens' Consultations (ECCs) Evaluation Report published by the European Policy Centre, with a case study on the implementation of the ECCs in Italy. The report was published in November 2018.



Contributing to events at EU institutions and think tanks

ECAS' Digital Democracy team was invited to provide expert contributions to many events organised by European institutions and think tanks. In January, ECAS was invited by the European Commission to showcase the DEEP-linking Youth project as an Erasmus+ 'Forward-Looking Project'. In June, ECAS' Digital Democracy Manager was invited to contribute to the Carnegie European Movement Democracy Group and as a speaker in Berlin for the Stiftung Mercator Foundation. In the same month, ECAS was also invited to give a presentation at the European Parliament for iCmedia's 'Education and Critical Thinking in the Age of Fake News' conference. In July, ECAS was invited as a speaker in Balbriggan, Ireland, for the 'DemCon Conference – The International Democracy Convention 2018'. In November, ECAS was also present as an expert at the roundtable on the ECI at the European Parliament in Brussels. Finally, in December, ECAS was invited by Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung in Potsdam, Germany, to contribute to the conference 'Public Sphere for Europe'.



ECAS MEMBERSHIP AND OUTREACH

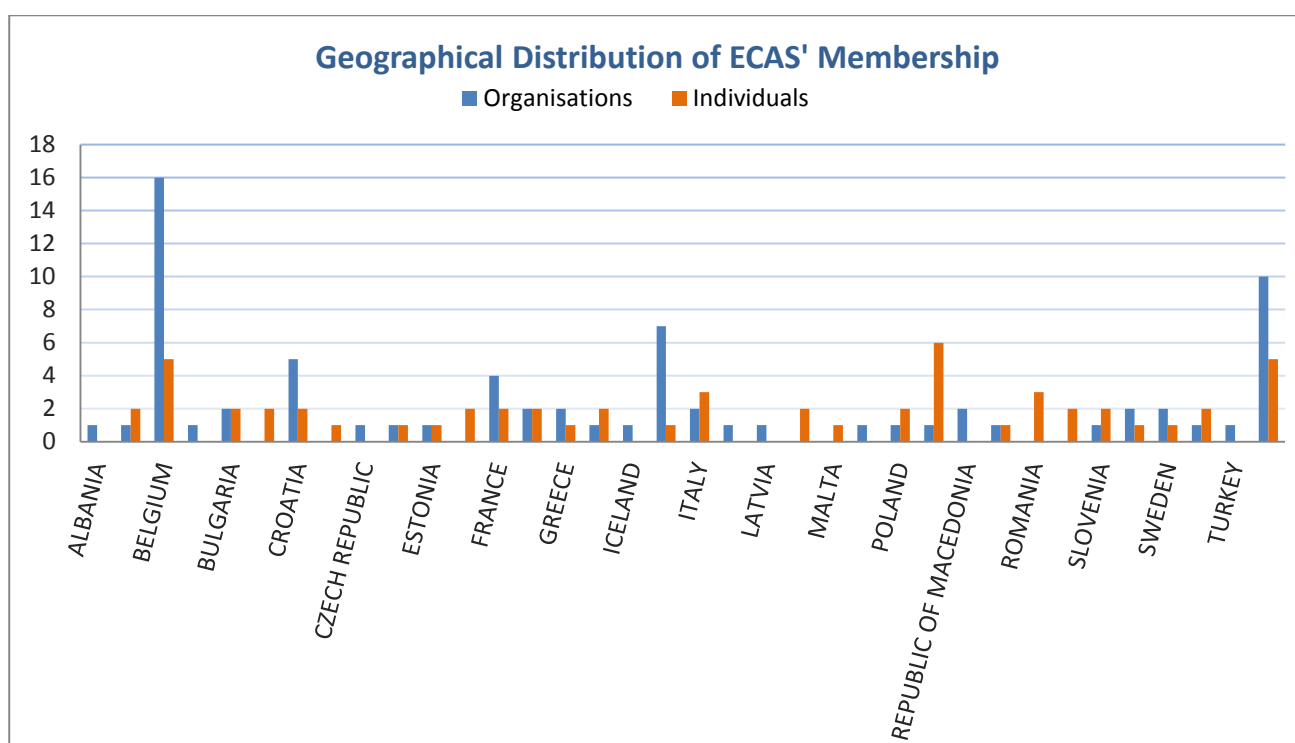
ECAS Membership

On 1 January 2018, ECAS transitioned to a new **mission-driven** and **free-of-charge** membership based on promoting and defending citizens' rights as well as developing and supporting mechanisms to increase citizens' and citizen organisations' democratic participation in, and engagement with, the EU.

At the end of the year, [ECAS' Membership](#) consisted of **130 Members**, both organisations and individuals, who subscribed to [ECAS' Mission and Vision](#) and are active in our focus areas (EU rights and Digital Democracy).

Moreover, in 2018, ECAS' Network of Members covered **36 countries** (27 EU Member State and 9 non-EU Member States) and included:

- **73 Member Organisations** (21 of which are network organisations); and
- **57 Individuals**



ECAS' Outreach

Overview

In 2018, ECAS continued to expand its outreach through all its communication channels – website, YouTube and social media. The main website, ecas.org, had a total of **78,727** visits for the year. It is worth noting that a number of projects (Fair EU, ECI Forum and YouVoteEU), initiated in the beginning of 2018, were supported through the creation of their own, separate platforms, but the traffic generated on them is not included in the above statistic.

Day-to-day, ECAS' news and activities were also widely publicised on Facebook and Twitter. There was a noticeable increase in followers on both platforms, as well as in audience engagement with the posts. Specifically for Twitter, though the total number of tweets was substantially less than in 2017 (1,074 compared to 1,487), they produced more link clicks and post likes in comparison to the previous year (see chart on p42).

On the press front, in 2018 ECAS was featured in a number of leading media outlets, including **Business Insider**, **EU Reporter** and **EU Observer**, among others.

A full list of 'ECAS in the media' can be found [here](#), along with the articles in which it was featured.

ECAS' Communications

Internal and external communication is key to ECAS' work. We strive to develop strong dialogue with members, stakeholders and policy-makers and inform them of key developments through various media channels.

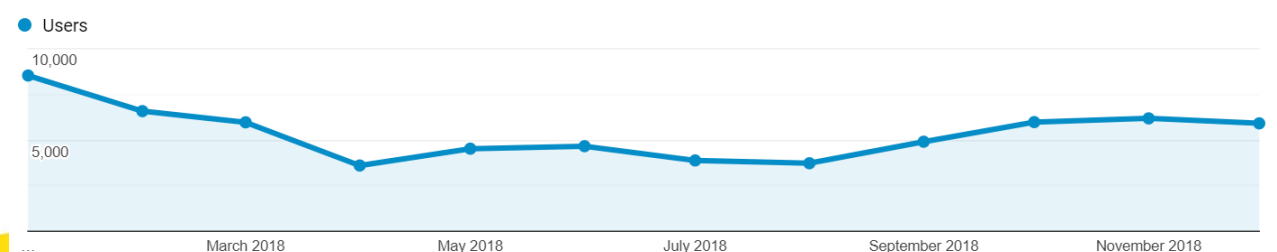
ECAS' website currently provides information about its identity (mission, vision and values), projects and services to citizens, partners and members, and advocacy activities at EU level. This is supported by social media activities across Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn and YouTube.

Our bi-monthly newsletter highlights the latest news from ECAS, our members and relevant EU policy updates. They aim to present the full picture of the political field at the time of publication.

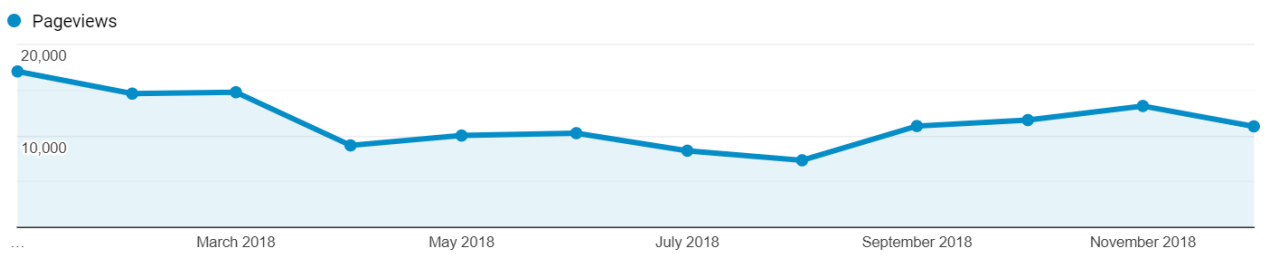
Detailed statistics of ECAS' communications are as follows:

Website activity

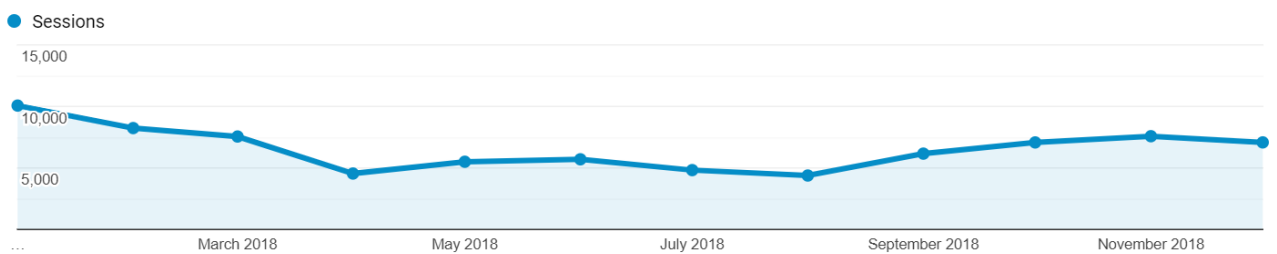
In 2018, ecas.org continued to generate a steady flow of visitors, with a monthly high of **8,526** (January) and a monthly low of **3,601** (April), for a total of **64,425 unique users** for the whole year.



Page views reached a high of **17,037** in January, and a low of **7,336** in August. There were **138,542** page views in total.



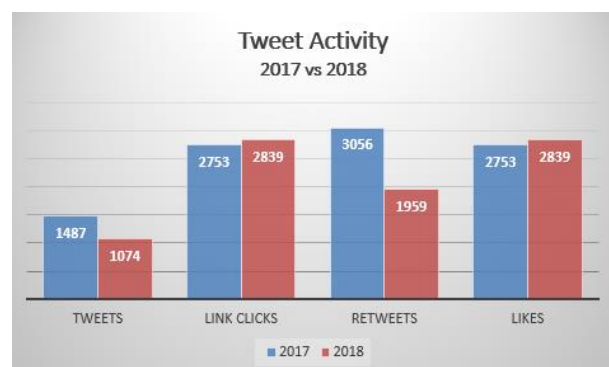
The number of sessions followed a similar trend, with a high of **10,068** in January and a low of **4,386** in August, for a total of **78,727**.



Twitter

By the end of 2018, we had a total of **4,250 followers** – a net increase of **518** from the previous year. We posted **1,074 tweets**, which produced **1,083,100 impressions** (i.e. the number of times a user sees a Tweet on their timeline or in search results).

The average engagement rate per month was **1.0%**, with a total of **1,959 retweets** and **2,839 likes** for the year.



Our **top 3 tweets** were:



Impressions	17,825
Total engagements	691
Detail expands	244
Media engagements	228
Likes	58
Link clicks	58
Profile clicks	48
Retweets	47
Replies	7
Hashtag clicks	1

ECAS NGO @ecas_europe

This is significant. **#EU27** should insist that UK is legally bound to disapply the comprehensive sickness insurance requirement. See our letter to **#EURO** with **@The3Million** and others <http://ecas.org/eu-rights-clinic-brexit-letter-tusk/> ... **#Brexit** <https://twitter.com/StevePeers/status/968831869960835072> ...

Impressions	10,551
Total engagements	83
Link clicks	24
Retweets	17
Detail expands	17
Likes	16
Profile clicks	7
Replies	2

ECAS NGO @ecas_europe

Registration for **#ECIDay2018** is now open! We'll be there to launch a **#ECI** online platform with **@TimmermansEU**, **@EUombudsman** and more. Find out more here: <http://ecas.org/event/eci-day-2018-working-together/> ... **@EU_EESC** **@democracy_intl**

Impressions	10,420
Total engagements	55
Link clicks	19
Profile clicks	10
Detail expands	9
Hashtag clicks	8
Likes	5
Retweets	3
Replies	1

Facebook

In 2018, our Facebook page had a net gain of **615 likes**, reaching **4,452** by the end of the year. Our **297** Facebook posts reached **224,743** unique users (319,061 impressions), with **10,161** users engaging with our page.

YouTube

In 2018, ECAS' YouTube videos received **986 views** for a total of **2,300 minutes**.

Top videos ▲

Watch time (minutes) - 2018

Disability Rights in the UK Post-Brexit	547	
ECI Platform Enquiries - Preliminary Training	181	
Introduction to E-Participation ECAS Digital Democracy ...	161	
Dr Anthony Valcke, EU Rights Clinic - Freedom of Movem...	154	
Laurence de Richemont, DG GROW - The Way forward: Vi...	110	

LinkedIn

By the end of 2018, we had 706 followers. Our 53 posts throughout the year reached a total of **29,025 users**. We had **1,212 page views** and an average engagement rate of **2% per post**.

ECAS Newsletter (bi-monthly)

Since January 2016, ECAS has been issuing a bi-monthly newsletter. Subscribers increased from 3,000 at the end of 2017 to **3,205** at the end of 2018.

The newsletter is structured around ECAS' 2 focus areas of EU Rights and Digital Democracy. It serves to promote our activities, and those of our members and partners, and to inform our stakeholders, and citizens in general, about the main ongoing initiatives at EU level relevant to our areas of work, while enabling them to participate and have a say in the discussions.

ECAS SERVICES

In 2018, ECAS provided the following services:

- Monthly EU Funding Alerts to ECAS' subscribers
- Training workshops on EU Funding, Project Management and Advocacy:
 - (June 2018) *The Ins and Outs of EU Funding: Understanding the Process and Increasing your Chances of Success*;
 - (June 2018) *Got the Money, Now What? Learn How to Manage a European Project Effectively*;
 - (June 2018) *Tips and Tricks for Effectively Advocating and Shaping the Agenda at EU Level*.
- Tailor made training services for organisations:
 - (March 2018) Training for the Open Society European Policy Institute - EU's Post-2020 MFF, Funding Programmes and Policy Framework;
 - (October 2018) Training services for the European Training Academy event, organised by SOLIDAR in Zagreb, Croatia;
 - (October 2018) Training workshop for Caritas Europa on the EU's Post-2020 MFF.
- Rental of ECAS' Conference Room and support to the organisation of private meetings/events:
 - (February 2018) Support to the organisation of the private meeting held by the Centre on Migration, Policy and Society (COMPAS) of the University of Oxford.
 - (June 2018) Hosted a meeting of EPIM grantees.



[Find out more about our Training Centre](#)



European Citizen Action Service
77, Avenue de la Toison d'Or
B-1060 Brussels, Belgium
+32 (0) 2 548 04 90
info@ecas.org
www.ecas.org