



## Webinar

### Enhancing Participation of Mobile EU Citizens in European Parliament Elections

Tuesday, 19 March 2024 at 17:00 – 18:00 hours

#### Background:

The number of EU mobile citizens (EU citizens living in another Member State) is estimated at 13.7 million. Some 11 million are considered to be of voting age. The proportion as well as their registration as voters varies significantly among Member States.<sup>1</sup>

Mobile EU citizens can also stand as candidates but in the 2019 elections only 168 decided to do so. Civil Society Organisations reported several problems of mobile EU citizens when exercising their political rights in their MS of residence. Besides the lack of awareness of their right to vote and to stand in their country of residence, barriers include long and at times cumbersome procedures, making it more difficult to participate in elections, especially for persons with disabilities. In addition to language barriers to register to vote, Member States often require mobile EU citizens to proactively request to be added on the voter lists in the country of residence months before the elections. The EU has been providing mobile EU citizens advice about their personal EU rights via the *Your Europe Advice* service.<sup>2</sup> The EC submitted a proposal to modify the Directive on the right of mobile EU citizens, envisaging several improvements, but this will not affect the 2024 elections.<sup>3</sup>

To ensure uniform application of EU laws Member States also collaborate to exchange information via the Crypto Tool provided by the European Commission on mobile EU voters and candidates to facilitate their suffrage rights and to prevent multiple registrations and candidacy.

#### Objective:

Inform mobile EU citizens and especially young voters on their rights to vote and stand in the 6-9 June European Parliament elections by providing information on registration requirements, possible barriers, and answer questions from the audience.

#### Impact:

Enhance understanding of suffrage rights, requirement to register as a voter in a host country and greater understanding of voting possibilities for mobile EU citizens.

<sup>1</sup> See also Election-Watch.eu [Pre-Election Assessment Mission Report](#), February 2024.

<sup>2</sup> [Your Europe Advice](#); Mobile EU citizens can also get help from [Solvit](#).

<sup>3</sup> [Revision of Council Directive 93/109/EC, Electoral rights of mobile EU citizens in elections to the EP](#), 2023.

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**Agenda**      **17:00 – 18:00 hours**

17:00 – 17:10 **Welcome and introduction**

**Mr. Armin Rabitsch**, *Chairperson Election-Watch.EU*

17.10 -17:20 **Input Statements on mobile EU citizens' participation in European elections**

**Mr. Damian Boeselager**, *Member of the European Parliament, Volt party, Greens/EFA group, Rapporteur of the EP Committee on Constitutional Affairs (AFCO) on the proposal for a Council directive on mobile EU citizens*

**Mr. David de Groot**, *European Parliamentary Research Service (EPRS), Author of Electoral rights of mobile EU citizens in European Parliament elections*

17:20 – 17:50 **Questions and Answers**

17:50 – 18:00 **Closing remarks**

**Amb. Urszula Gacek**, *Advisory Board Member Election-Watch.EU*

**Moderators:** Armin Rabitsch & Tatyana Hilscher-Bogussevich, Election-Watch.EU

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**Baseline:**

- How many people are concerned and what have been past problems and experiences?
- What has changed since 2019 and what happened with the amendments to the Directive on mobile EU citizens?
- What are the different advance and alternative voting possibilities in the Member States? (postal voting, advance voting days; out-of-country voting)
- What are the different requirements to register and vote in their host countries?

**Focus:**

- Citizen engagement in European elections
- Provision of information portals and helplines for mobile EU citizens by EU and CSOs to understand voter registration procedures and eligibility criteria of mobile EU citizens
- Advocacy to engage with mobile EU citizens and motivate them to register and vote

**Q&A:** Zoom chat function, advance consultation for questions

**Webinar Registration:** Please register and submit your questions through this [link](#).



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