

Policy Recommendations paper

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Abstract:	This deliverable includes a coherent list of policy recommendations regarding Mobile EU citizens that should be implemented at an EU, National and Local Level with the aim to enhance their integration in the hosting societies. Within this context, in total 9 structured recommendations are being presented in a visualized way, in the form of “cards” for an easier distribution and presentation to stakeholders.
Authors:	UNION OF CYPRUS MUNICIPALITIES
Contact Persons	Christos Hadjiyiangu

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1 Introduction of the deliverable

We understand policy recommendation as policy advices that should be realistic and applicable, supporting decision makers to undertake actions, should they decide to adopt them. Within this context, for the identification of Policy Recommendations in the framework of the ENVISION PROJECT, we have adopted the following methodological procedure:

1. Capitalization of experiences and know-how that have been accumulated during the implementation of the Project, including:
 - ☐ Conclusions and relevant information collected during the implementation of the desk research and the country reports on participation level of mobile EU citizen in EP and local electoral procedures in Greece and Cyprus.
 - ☐ Feedback from the consultation process with Mobile EU Citizens during the current situation analysis and the quantitative and qualitative research.
 - ☐ Challenges that have been identified during the implementation of the capacity building trainings to Municipality Employees and other relevant stakeholders.
2. Brainstorming at a partnership level, where we have discussed a preliminary list of ideas on recommendations with the representatives of the Local Authorities.
3. Finalization of the list of policy recommendation, with the intention to keep them as limited and practical as possible. We have merged recommendations that had similar or complementary approaches, into well-structured, evidence-based approaches.

As a result, nine (9) policy recommendations have been designed and organized as solutions that can be applied at a local, regional, National and -in some cases- EU level:

Recommendation 1. Develop an assessment tool for measuring the integration level of EU Mobile Citizens

Recommendation 2. Awareness Raising Campaigns should be Organized and implemented

Recommendation 3. Creation of an electoral cooperation Network among EU Unions of Municipalities

Recommendation 4. Establishment of a funding mechanism for the support of inclusive policies for Mobile EU Citizens

Recommendation 5. Establishment of One Stop Shops as reference points for Mobile EU Citizens

Recommendation 6. Engagement of Mobile EU Citizens at a Local Level to increase their electoral participation

Recommendation 7. Upskilling of public administration representatives at National and Local Level

Recommendation 8. Profiling and support services during First Reception Recommendation 9. Better Data Collection regarding Mobile EU Citizens participation in hosting countries

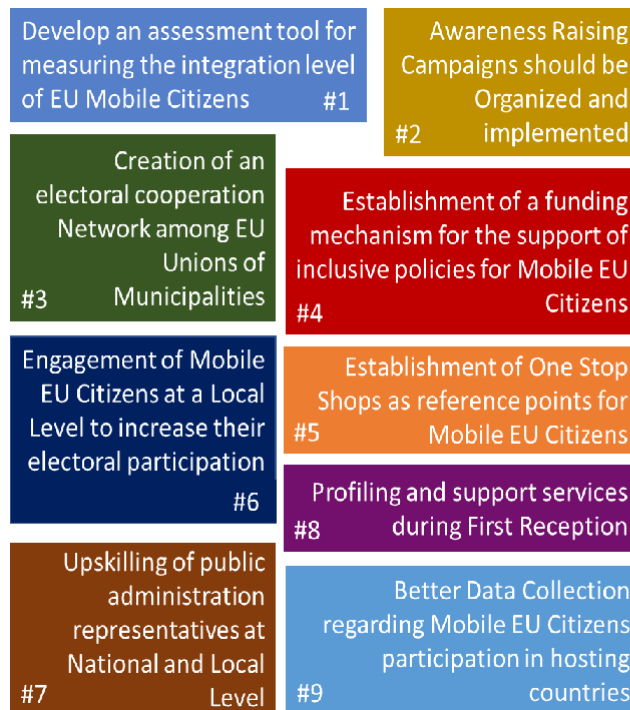
All recommendations have been structured, taking into consideration cost-effectiveness and the achievement of the broadest possible social acceptance. At the same time, we have assured that our recommendations are aligned with EU and National policies, increasing the relevance of the suggested interventions with current initiatives.

2 Structure of the Policy Recommendations

2.1 General Structure

We have designed a visualized presentation of each Policy Recommendation, to increase visibility and achieve better understanding of the practical points each recommendation covers. Within this context, we have created one single-page view per recommendation, that has a different color, to raise attention and provide better guidance through the different recommendations.

Picture 1 Colored Identification Structure of Policy Recommendations



The idea is to use each recommendation in the form of a “card”, that can be left as a stand-alone document, increasing flexibility and adaptation during the presentation meetings to our stakeholders. As a result, we will be able to focus on specific recommendations per meeting, “placing on the table” only the “cards” that are of the interest of the stakeholders we meet.

Each recommendation is structured in three (3) areas, as follows:

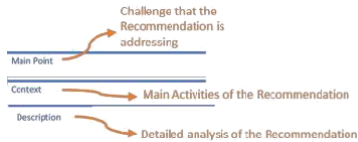
- **Area 1: Identity of the Policy Recommendation**, which includes the title and the ascending number (from 1 to 9) of the recommendation.



- **Area 2: Application level and referred target groups of the policy recommendation**. In total we have included



all levels of application, starting from the National and Local Level, but also identifying whether the recommendation can be applied at a Greece / Cyprus level, or also at an EU Level, including the transferability to third countries



- Area 3: Analysis of the recommendation, covering the Main Topic, the Context, and the Description for each of the recommendations.

Other visual characteristics that have been included in each of the recommendations include:

- The Project Logo, in the upper left of the recommendation
- The project Partners logos and the REC Programme Logo, at the footer of each Recommendations.


2.2 Target Audience

In Area 2, we have categorized several target audiences where the Recommendations should be presented at an EU / National or Local Level. These categories include:

- **European Commission**, responsible for the design and application of the REC Programme.
- **EU Parliament**, since the EU Parliamentary elections are one of the civic rights of mobile EU citizens and therefore they are considered as one of the most important interests groups of the policy recommendations emerging from the ENVISION Project.
- **Governments at National Level**, with a focus to Greece and Cyprus, countries where the ENVISION Project has been implemented.
- **Local Authorities**, since the ENVISION project targeted Local Authorities representatives.
- **Embassies**, who have a specific interest in enhancing the civic rights of their mobile EU citizens
- **Mobile EU Citizens**, who have formally or informally organized themselves into national groups in the hosting countries
- Relevant NGOs, of mobile EU citizens in the hosting countries
- **ESF Managing Authorities**, who are being requested to financially support some of the policy recommendations.
- **General Public**, who are representing the hosting societies and should be aware of the civic and social inclusion rights for mobile EU Citizens.

3 Policy Recommendations

3.1 Develop an assessment tool for measuring the integration level of EU Mobile Citizens



ENVISION

#1

POLICY RECOMMENDATION

Application Level

National ☒

Local ☒

Applicable at

All EU Countries ☒

Cyprus ☐

Greece ☐

Who should be contacted

Commission ☒

EU Parliament ☐

Governments ☒

Local Authorities ☒

Embassies ☐

EU Mobile Citizens ☒

Academia ☐

Relevant NGOs ☒

ESF Managing Authorities ☒

General Public ☐

Develop an assessment tool for measuring the integration level of EU Mobile Citizens

Main Point

A self-assessment and mapping tool for the integration of Mobile EU Citizens in national and local policies and practices is going to facilitate integration initiatives both at a National and Local Level. Through the tool, policy makers can identify the current level of friendliness and openness to mobile EU citizens and design interventions that are going to increase their integration both at a local level and in general at a Country level.

Context

The self-assessment and mapping tool is going to be divided in two different sections. The Assessment function and the recommendation of interventions section.

At first a number of mapping activities should be designed as a “turn-key” methodology, including a desk research, a satisfaction survey, focus groups with local representatives and Mobile EU Citizens and the application of a number of checklists that would identify the comfort level of Mobile EU Citizens.

At a second level, an inventory of interventions should be created and applied. Increasing the “scoring” of integration of EU Mobile Citizens.

Description

Mapping activities are suggested to be developed in the form of “Checklists” to be filled in during a “City Tour” covering the following four areas:

- Mapping of the existing (should there be any) Local (or National) Vision and Services towards Mobile EU Citizens (**1st Checklist**).
- Level of Civic Participation and Social Inclusion of Mobile EU Citizens (**2nd Checklist**)
- Urban Environment and safety, ensuring accessibility for Mobile EU Citizens (**3rd Checklist**)
- Ensuring equal behavior and respect towards Mobile EU Citizens (**4th Checklist**)

All checklists should include more than 5 areas, with a scoring method according to Likert and include an area for Comments and the provision of evidence collected.

Based on the score in each of the relevant areas a selected number of interventions (per area) is going to be suggested, as turnkey solutions to be applied at a local or National Level. These interventions, are going to increase the level of friendliness to Mobile EU Citizens, resulting to a “Badge” with a “Score” to Cities that have succeeded a score over the threshold (i.e. 8/10). The scoring system will cover all four assessed areas and include an overall scoring system.

These intervention is going to increase the visibility of Cities that wish to attract Mobile EU Citizens, including cities with high demand of labour force. All badges should be included in an EU-wide visibility tool, increasing the acceptance and sustainability of the action.

3.2 Awareness Raising Campaigns should be Organized and implemented



#2

POLICY RECOMMENDATION

Application Level

- National ☒
- Local ☒

Applicable at

- All EU Countries ☒
- Cyprus ☒
- Greece ☒

Who should be contacted

- Commission ☒
- EU Parliament ☒
- Governments ☒
- Local Authorities ☒
- Embassies ☒
- EU Mobile Citizens ☒
- Academia ☒
- Relevant NGOs ☒
- ESF Managing Authorities ☒
- General Public ☒

Awareness Raising Campaigns should be Organized and implemented

Main Point

Awareness raising activities should target all stakeholders informing them about their rights and obligations. Hence, awareness raising should inform Mobile EU Citizens on their rights to participate in Local and EU democratic processes (elections included), increasing their civic competences. On the other hand, awareness raising should be targeting also National and Local Authorities, informing them about the necessity to organize inclusive activities for Mobile EU Citizens, enhancing their engagement and integration through participation.

Context

Low level of awareness about EU citizenship rights, Union values and democratic standards, are harming the free movement of EU citizens across the EU principle.

Within this context the project is going to support the collection of data at a National and Local Level and build of a knowledge baseline concerning EU citizenship rights, fostering inclusion and provision of information to mobile EU citizens and their family members and encourage democratic participation of mobile EU citizens and under-represented groups.

Description

Awareness raising activities should be developed in a mid-term perspective with the use of a Communication / Media Advisor, who should be appointed for a period of at least 6 months (best 1 year) prior elections (local or EU Parliamentary level). The mission will be to increase participation at the elections both as candidates or as voters.

Hence, the registration in National Mobile EU Citizens registries should be promoted through several activities that would include the creation of online informative material, TV / radio spots and organization of live discussions with the participation of all stakeholders.

Awareness raising campaigns should also include explanatory sessions, where the different electoral processes at a National / Local level are going to be explained, increasing their understanding and their participation. Information should be available in the major mobile EU citizens groups that have resided to each country with the data being available at National and EU level (i.e. for Cyprus this would be Greek, Bulgarian, Romanian and English and for Greece, this would be Greek, Bulgarian, English, Polish and Italian).

Workshops targeting the capacity building of Public Administration Representatives (National and Local Level) should also be organized, increasing effectiveness and their responsiveness towards Mobile EU Citizens, supporting their quality of life and integration process at the hosting EU societies.

3.3 Creation of an electoral cooperation Network among EU Unions of Municipalities



#3

POLICY RECOMMENDATION

Application Level

- European Union ☒
National ☐
Local ☒

Applicable at

- All EU Countries ☒
Cyprus ☐
Greece ☐

Creation of an electoral cooperation Network among EU Unions of Municipalities

Main Point

Being one of the Priorities of REC, it is expected to create a sharing of practices and expertise among Municipalities on the integration of Mobile EU Citizens, through their participation in electoral processes and local activities.

Therefore, the Network is going to facilitate sharing of experiences among the national authorities, helping them to acquire the necessary capacity to monitor enforcement and administrative practices, identifying shortages in existing frameworks, including cross-border implications, and to raise awareness among stakeholders and citizens on the right of Mobile EU Citizens to reside to any country of the EU, ensuring their rights emerging from their EU citizenship.

Who should be contacted

- Commission ☒
EU Parliament ☒
Governments ☐
Local Authorities ☒
Embassies ☐
EU Mobile Citizens ☒
Academia ☐
Relevant NGOs ☒
ESF Managing Authorities ☐
General Public ☐

Context

The network is proposed to include both Unions of Municipalities and Regions of the EU but also Municipalities of countries where Unions have not entered the Network. Within this context, it is expected that through improved monitoring and understanding of local electoral processes, which differ at a National Level, the increase of awareness for the inclusion of Mobile EU citizens is going to be achieved.

While risks and challenges in the inclusion process and the participation of the latest in the electoral processes, new solutions and interventions are going to be agree, enhancing participation of Mobile EU Citizens in the countries where they have resided.

Description

The establishment of the network would introduce a bottom-up approach, where a new collaboration channel between Municipalities and Unions on the one hand, and from Unions to the Network on the other, are going to bring information concerning integration of Mobile EU Citizens to the Commission and the EU Parliament.

The approach is suggested to include several common activities at an EU and National Level, such as: workshops, technical exchanges among experts, mutual learning activities (including study visits), development of tools and guidelines and checklists for municipalities who wish to enhance the integration of Mobile EU citizens. Within the activities of the Network, fall also comparative studies regarding the integration level of Mobile EU Citizens per county/municipality, sharing knowledge and awarding best practices and good examples.

Upon the establishment of the electoral cooperation network for Mobile EU Citizens it is expected that the capacity at national, regional and local expert is going to increase, enabling a better facilitation of the participation of mobile EU citizens and their family members in the political and social life of their host communities. Therefore, inclusion policies are not only going to focus on one profile of mobile EU citizens, but rather take into account both the different needs of these EU citizens and their family members as well as the challenges cities are facing when welcoming them promoting equal accessibility to services and multiculturalism at a local level.

3.4 Establishment of a funding mechanism for the support of inclusive policies for Mobile EU Citizens

Application Level

National ☒

Local ☒

Applicable at

All EU Countries ☒

Cyprus ☐

Greece ☐

Establishment of a funding mechanism for the support of inclusive policies for Mobile EU Citizens

Main Point

Achieving a higher level of representation of Mobile EU citizens in the countries they have resided demands resources that should be allocated towards initiatives supporting this cause.

Within this context, hereby we are proposing the establishment of a funding scheme and the allocation of resources at a Country and EU level that are going to support a more coherent intervention that will be longer in time, with short- and long-term results and impact to the integration of Mobile EU citizens in the countries they reside to.

Who should be contacted

Commission ☒

EU Parliament ☒

Governments ☒

Local Authorities ☒

Embassies ☐

EU Mobile Citizens ☒

Academia ☐

Relevant NGOs ☐

ESF Managing Authorities ☒

General Public ☐

Context

Integration needs interventions that require adequate financial support. While this has been the case for Third Country Nationals, where interventions and relevant projects have been financed by AMIF and ESF, during the MFF 2014-2020, this was not the case for Mobile EU Citizens. Interventions Targeting mobile EU citizens, have been ineligible for funding from AMIF, while ESF interventions have been guided to other target groups, with Mobile EU citizens being not identified as eligible under either of the two funding mechanisms. As a result, the funding scheme is going to direct financial resources (ESF) to support initiatives that will promote integration of Mobile EU Citizens.

Description

The European Social Fund (ESF) is the main EU instrument to invest in people. For 60 years now, the ESF has been promoting employment, improving skills and fostering social inclusion. ESF is a major source of funding for active inclusion and integration measures, therefore it should include Actions and Interventions targeting Mobile EU Citizens.

The budget for ESF interventions during the MFF 2021-27 has been increased by 21%, compared to the 2014-20 period, widening the support opportunities and the target groups, that should include mobile EU citizens. The minimum share that each member state should allocate for social inclusion was increased from 20% to 25% and a new earmark of 2% to address material deprivation was added. Within this context, 1% per country should be distributed and directed to Mobile EU Citizens with interventions that will foster their integration into the hosting societies.

Through this adoption, Mobile EU Citizens are going to be recognized as one of the vulnerable groups and ESF would become the mechanism to support integration and social inclusion actions towards their integration. ESF+ has incorporated 11 Specific Objectives, where migrants and Roma population have been included, while Mobile EU Citizens fall into different categories (i.e. active inclusion, equal opportunities and social integration of people at risk. Within this context, policy recommendations included in this Report would find adequate and necessary funding.

3.5 Establishment of One Stop Shops as reference points for Mobile EU Citizens

Application Level

National ☒

Local ☒

Applicable at

All EU Countries ☒

Cyprus ☒

Greece ☒

Who should be contacted

Commission ☒

EU Parliament ☒

Governments ☒

Local Authorities ☒

Embassies ☒

EU Mobile Citizens ☒

Academia ☒

Relevant NGOs ☒

ESF Managing Authorities ☒

General Public ☒

Establishment of One Stop Shops as reference points for Mobile EU Citizens

Main Point

Through One-Stop-Shops for Mobile EU Citizens, increased awareness raising through the creation of one single access points, are going to be achieved, encouraging EU mobile citizens to take up rights and opportunities to participate in their host EU country's civic and political life. It aims to develop and promote the exchange and dissemination of innovative community-based methods based on the best available research and practice, while raising policy-makers' awareness of the reasons, procedural and practical obstacles, and interests for mobile EU citizens to use these rights and opportunities.

Context

On-line and physical One-Stop-Shops integrated in the function of Municipalities should be established at National and Local Level, in each partner country aiming at directly supporting the participation of mobile EU citizens through information and advice.

The establishment of the one-stop-shops, will give the opportunity to mobile EU citizens to access information and advice on major National topics, including legislation and administrative practices related to enabling democratic participation for mobile EU citizens and the rights, including voting rights, and responsibilities of EU mobile citizens in a given country/region/city and assistance in seeing them through.

Description

One-stop-shops for Mobile EU Citizens, are going to cover the following areas:

- Housing, including practical information of renting / buying a house in the hosting country
- Social and other benefits that should be acquired / used during the re-siding process and for the successful integration and social inclusion in the hosting country.
- Consumer rights in the hosting country, increasing the civic skills and competences of Mobile EU Citizens in the hosting country
- Education and training for all, covering mobile EU citizens and their family members at all levels of education
- Ageing issues, providing guidance for elderly people on care and other support services.
- Practical information of what to do, should an emergency happen during their stay in the country they have resided to.

For each of the above-mentioned areas, information in the form of QAs should be prepared and become available in all (at least 5) major languages spoken by the mobile EU nationals, living in the country. Information should become available both online and in the one-stop-shops, while a dedicated process with a call center and/or mentor should be created, offering on-hand tailored information and guidance to mobile EU citizens should that be needed. In these cases, mobile EU citizens should be directed to the necessary authorities, through intervention and mediation services, to facilitate their support in a reasonable period of time. Within this context, close collaboration with the embassies of the country of origin of Mobile EU Citizens is highly advised.

3.6 Engagement of Mobile EU Citizens at a Local Level to increase their electoral participation

Application Level

National ☒

Local ☒

Applicable at

All EU Countries ☒

Cyprus ☐

Greece ☐

Engagement of Mobile EU Citizens at a Local Level to increase their electoral participation

Main Point

Registration and participation rates in EP elections and at Local Elections in countries of residence are generally very low. Therefore, through targeted and structured Action the level of participation of mobile EU citizens in EP / Local elections should be increased, while they should not be treated as external voters in their own countries.

Within this context wider use at National and Local level of the **FAIREU database** should be applied, while increase of participation could be encouraged through targeted and long-lasting engagement of mobile EU citizens at local level, by using various engagement techniques.

Who should be contacted

Commission ☒

EU Parliament ☒

Governments ☒

Local Authorities ☒

Embassies ☒

EU Mobile Citizens ☒

Academia ☐

Relevant NGOs ☒

ESF Managing Authorities ☐

General Public ☐

Context

Engagement of Mobile EU Citizens, should follow the engagement methodology adopted during the Envision project, focusing both at National and Local level. The methodology of engaging mobile EU citizens is going to create positive impact by:

- Allowing mobile EU citizens to vote and stand as candidates in all types of municipalities;
- Extending the right to vote for non-citizens also to the regional level
- Increasing participation of mobile EU citizens in European Parliament elections

Description

Engagement of mobile EU citizens should include:

- Mapping of Grass-Root Associations of Mobile EU Citizens. ENVISION experience prove that expat formal / informal groups, including i.e. NGOs, facebook groups and other local groups usually focusing on cultural activities are the best “pool” to reach out to Mobile EU Citizens. While this approach may seem challenging, it created strong links to the target group enabling the transfer of information and the upskilling of Mobile EU Citizens regarding their civic and electoral rights at EU and local level.
- Identification of possible candidates in order to be included in local elections. This would create the necessary linkage with Mobile EU Citizens and establish a permanent connection that should increase their participation rates both at Local and also at EP elections.
- Collaboration with Embassies of the targeted population, in order to identify mobile EU citizens that have been resided and are in contact with the Embassy.
- Collaboration with Municipalities since they have registered a number of Mobile EU Citizens that are more than 6 months in the country or have registered their place of stay at the municipality they have resided.
- Localization of outreach strategy should be used, translating major information material into the languages of the targeted Mobile EU citizens population.

3.7 Upskilling of public administration representatives at National and Local Level



#7

POLICY RECOMMENDATION

Application Level

National ☒

Local ☒

Applicable at

All EU Countries ☒

Cyprus ☐

Greece ☐

Upskilling of public administration representatives at National and Local Level

Main Point

Lack of adequate and efficient training and awareness raising of the “meaning” of Mobile EU Citizens to the European Integration Process, in relation to the European Citizenship, has been identified as a major constrain during the establishment of a permanent and effective integration and social inclusion mechanism for Mobile EU Citizens. Therefore, a number of capacity building and training activities, for the upskilling of public and local authorities’ representatives, using the ENVISION training material should be organized and implemented at a National and Local level.

Who should be contacted

Commission ☒

EU Parliament ☐

Governments ☒

Local Authorities ☒

Embassies ☐

EU Mobile Citizens ☐

Academia ☐

Relevant NGOs ☐

ESF Managing Authorities ☒

General Public ☐

Context

Capacity Building activities should be organized at a National and Local Level, through the facilitation of Unions of Municipalities and the respective Ministries of Interior (responsible for the electoral procedures), including Workshops and other Training sessions, available online or blended, including face2face trainings.

They should provide adequate information and training to public administration representatives, covering areas of “What is a Mobile EU Citizen” to more complex situations (i.e. necessity to acquire translations of public documents issued by other countries).

Description

The implementation of the upskilling activities should be implemented through the effective use of the training modules developed within the ENVISION project, covering the following areas:

- Explanation of the nature and legal basis of Mobile EU Citizens, providing information about the necessity to treat them equally as country Nationals, when interacting with them at a National or Local Level.
- Tackling with stereotypes, related to mobile EU citizens and / or specific Nationalities.
- Establishment of Trust and creation of a sustainable communication channel with Mobile EU citizens

Within this context, upskilling trainings should include practical information, incorporating a QA section, where a number of cases are going to be presented.

Through these capacity building activities one-stop-shops are going to be staffed with highly trained personnel, who are going to serve as national, regional and / or local experts, offering their services to mobile EU citizens. Within this context, at least 20 detailed QAs per thematic field (see also the complementary One-Stop-Shops policy recommendation above) will improve their competence and knowledge of the legislation and administrative practices related to enabling the democratic participation of mobile EU citizens in the host Member States.

Application Level

National ☒
Local ☒

Applicable at

All EU Countries ☒
Cyprus ☐
Greece ☐

Who should be contacted

Commission ☒
EU Parliament ☐
Governments ☐
Local Authorities ☐
Embassies ☐
EU Mobile Citizens ☐
Academia ☐
Relevant NGOs ☐
ESF Managing Authorities ☐
General Public ☐

Profiling and support services during First Reception

Main Point

Based on the experience gained during the implementation of the ENVISION project, there is no established mechanism that would provide tailored support services to Mobile EU Citizens, upon arrival at the hosting countries they have decided to reside.

Within this context, the creation of a profiling mechanism that is going to screen the basic needs and expectations of mobile EU citizens, upon their arrival, should be created, from where an integration process will be initiated, right from the first arrival.

Context

Upon arrival and during the registration process, mobile EU citizens should be offered a profiling service, that would include a structured interview, based on a interview guide, with the intention to identify their expectations from residing to the country / municipality.

During the interview, the accessibility to social benefits are going to be identified, while other services / requests and answers to questions are going to be provided (i.e. access to education for children, access to employment services etc). Attention should be given to vulnerable groups (i.e. pregnant women, families with elderly people etc)

Description

A First Reception service for Mobile EU Citizens should be introduced, at a Municipality Level, where at least one employee should be trained (see relevant recommendation above) in order to provide support to Mobile EU Citizens. Support should include mapping (based on a questionnaire and an interview guide) of the expectations and the need of the Mobile EU Citizen.

Based on the interview and the requests and questions of the Mobile EU Citizens, the employee should guide the Mobile EU Citizens to the applicable integration services. Integration services could include:

- Referral of available Language courses, should this be requested.
- Referral of available employment opportunities, through the relevant Public Employment Services.
- Referral to mentoring / coaching services should this be needed / requested
- Referral to available registries (i.e. housing, education for children etc.
- Referral to social benefits, based on the needs identified.

First reception and profiling should include localization services, in case of language barriers. This would include translation services if needed, at a centralized (National Level) for the establishment of economies of scale. At the same time all informative material created should be at hand and used, easing the integration of the Mobile EU Citizen and creating a long-term perspective for their integration in the hosting country.

3.9 Better Data Collection regarding Mobile EU Citizens participation in hosting countries

Application Level

National ☒

Local ☒

Applicable at

All EU Countries ☒

Cyprus ☐

Greece ☐

Better Data Collection regarding Mobile EU Citizens participation in hosting countries

Main Point

Comparative data regarding participation of mobile EU citizens at EP/Local electoral procedures are not broadly available, while the lack of data is not supporting decision making at an EU/National/Local level, hindering the increase of active participation of mobile EU citizens at EP/Local Elections, both as voters or candidates. To tackle this, we are proposing a regular questionnaire to national electoral authorities after each round of municipal elections to collect basic indicators regarding participation of mobile EU citizens in EP/Local elections.

Who should be contacted

Commission ☒

EU Parliament ☐

Governments ☒

Local Authorities ☐

Embassies ☐

EU Mobile Citizens ☐

Academia ☒

Relevant NGOs ☐

ESF Managing Authorities ☐

General Public ☐

Context

During the Desk Research of the Envision project, it became obvious that available data, seems to be more detailed in some countries than others. In several countries, there appears to be no publicly available data on the participation of mobile EU citizens in the electoral process, while in some cases, data may not even be compiled in the first place due to national restrictions or bureaucratic obstacles. In order to improve democratic quality, we need to understand the reasons for lower or higher uptake of electoral rights within these different groups. For EP (and local) elections, information on the registration and turnout levels of voters abroad should be compiled and cross-referenced with the national returns on mobile EU voters voting within each country.

Description

Based on the research conducted during the ENVISION project, it became obvious that there is a significant lack of reliable information, both quantitative and qualitative, that would increase our understanding of the low participation rates of Mobile EU Citizens at Local/EP Elections. While low participation is present in all EU member states, the understanding of the nature and causes of this phenomenon remain unclear, hindering effective decision making and implementation of mitigation activities. Within this context, the design of a standardized structured qualitative and quantitative research, at National/Local level, monitored at EU level, should increase the collection of reliable information, that would support efficient decision making regarding the increase of participation of mobile EU citizens in EU / local electoral procedures.

Therefore, a unified EU wide qualitative and quantitative research on the participation of mobile EU Citizens should be designed and transferred from EU to National level, in collaboration with the responsible Ministries of Interior and the support of National Statistical Authorities. Research should be conducted during the conduction of EP elections and target all stakeholders, including both focus groups and in-depth interviews with a combination of a questionnaire that should be used intact in all EU countries, for comparative reasons and to support future decision-making procedures.

The collection of relevant, reliable and comparable data from all EU member states, would support the –in the long term- increase of the participation of mobile EU Citizens in EP and local electoral procedures.

