

VOTING RIGHTS FOR ALL RESIDENTS

a european, international network
for democracy & political participation

Introduction

It's time to cooperate! We are creating an open, transparent network based on solidarity and trust, aiming to achieve equal voting rights and equal political participation for all residents in our democracies.

Our focus is on all of Europe, but in the European Union alone 35.1 million residents have no or limited voting rights, because they do not hold the passport of the country they live in¹. In Switzerland 2.1 million residents are affected².

We are convinced that all people living together within a defined area i.e. community, district or state have the right and the duty to propose, discuss and decide on their living conditions in a political process on equal terms. This is what democracy means to us.

The exclusion or discrimination of people based on gender, religion, income, ethnicity or nationality is anti-democratic.

One main goal of our activities is to promote voting rights for all residents at the local level.

Equal political participation strengthens social cohesion and fosters a sense of belonging, involving more people in the search for common solutions.

This is essential for democratic systems and empowers democracy.

At least 45 countries worldwide³ have granted voting rights to some or all residents without the country's passport - on the local, regional or national level. In 1992, the European Union opened political participation to 14 million of their residents (as of 2016)³ by giving them local voting rights. The result is a higher democratic legitimation of local parliaments and their bodies, a higher interest and participation of residents in the democratic process (e.g. 2500 city councillors with EU-passports in France, 2019)⁴.

14 out of 27 EU member states today have also extended voting rights to some or all residents without EU-passports in local elections. 13 still have a democratic task to fulfill: Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechia, Cyprus, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Latvia, Malta, Poland and Romania.

The European Parliament has also formally suggested "*that long-term residents (three years) who are third-country nationals should be entitled to take part in local elections and elections to the European Parliament*"⁵

collectif j'y suis, j'y vote - France • **mitstimme** Basel - Switzerland • **A Bari voto anch'io** - Italy
SOS Mitmensch Pass Egal Wahl - Austria • **1bru1vote** Brussels - Belgium • **Freiburger Wahlkreis 100%** - Germany
DPGE Genève - Switzerland • **AGABY** Bavaria - Germany • **Citizens for Europe** - Europe

¹ eurostat 2019, EU 25 (without GB, MT, CY), 7.8% of a total EU27-population/ 4.8% of them are third country nationals

² Bundesamt für Statistik Switzerland 2020, population with foreign citizenship 25.3 %, all with migr. background: 37.7%

³ Noncitizen Voting Rights in the Global Era: a Literature Review and Analysis (2019), Ferris, Hayduk et. al. Int. M&I, 21

³ 14 Million EU-citizens of voting age are residents in another EU-state, EU-report 2018 COM(2018) 44 final

⁴ In France 2.500 elected city councillors without French citizenship are active in one of 35.048 municipal councils.

757 councillors with British passport loose their mandate, 145.000 Brit. their voting rights - The Local, France, 30.01.20

⁵ European Parliament, resolution on the situation as regards fundamental rights in the EU 04.09.2003, P5_TA(2003)0376

links

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Migration_and_migrant_population_statistics#Migrant_population:_21.8_million_non-EU-27_citizens_living_in_the_EU-27_on_1_January_2019

² <https://www.bfs.admin.ch/bfs/de/home/statistiken/bevoelkerung.assetdetail.14941425.html> + <https://www.bfs.admin.ch/bfs/fr/home/statistiques/population/migration-integration/selon-statut-migratoire.html>

³ <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12134-019-00687-8>

⁴ <file:///C:/Users/User/AppData/Local/Temp/COM-2018-44-F1-EN-MAIN-PART-1.PDF>

⁵ <https://www.thelocal.fr/20200130/we-will-miss-our-british-councillors-they-bring-new-ideas-to-france/>
<https://www.statista.com/statistics/1059795/uk-expats-in-europe/>

⁶ <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+TA+P5-TA-2003-0376+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN>



CITIZENS FOR EUROPE



collectif j'y suis, j'y vote • France
<https://jsiv.fr/>
contact: ben-said2@wanadoo.fr



SOS Mitmensch Pass Egal Wahl • Austria
www.sosmitmensch.at
contact: magdalena.stern@sosmitmensch.at



1 Bru1vote Bruxelles • Belgium
<https://www.1bru1vote.be/>
contact: 1bru1vote@gmail.com



mitstimme Basel • Switzerland
www.mitstimme.ch www.5jahrebasel.ch
contact: info@mitstimme.ch



DPGE Genève • Switzerland
<https://www.facebook.com/dpge.ch>
contact: info@dpge.ch



A Bari voto anch'io - Bari • Italy
<https://www.facebook.com/CGIL.Bari/>
contact: jarjawi.flai@puglia.cgil.it



Netzwerk WIR WÄHLEN • Germany
<https://www.wir-wählen.org>
contact: kontakt@wir-wählen.org



AGABY Bavaria • Germany
<https://www.agaby.de/>
contact: agaby@agaby.de



Freiburger Wahlkreis 100% • Germany
www.facebook.com/FreiburgerWahlkreis100
contact: kontakt@wahlkreis100.de



Citizens for Europe • Europe
<https://citizensforeurope.org>
contact: miess@citizensforeurope.eu