



## REACT

*Reactivating European citizenship: a network of inclusive towns*

Presentation meeting  
Wattrelos, 12-13 July 2017

Constitutional principles and legal aspects  
of citizenship in Belgium

Presentation of MINT

# Constitutional principles and legal aspects of citizenship in \_\_\_\_\_ (EU 27) \_\_\_\_\_

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- **Political rights**
- **Voting in European elections:** a right to vote and stand in elections to the European Parliament, in any EU member state
- (Article 22)
- **Voting in municipal elections:** a right to vote and stand in local elections in an EU state other than their own, under the same
- conditions as the nationals of that state (Article 22)
- **Accessing European government documents:** a right to access to European Parliament, Council, and Commission documents
- (Article 15).
- **Petitioning Parliament and the Ombudsman:** the right to petition the European Parliament and the right to apply to the
- European Ombudsman in order to bring to his attention any cases of poor administration by the EU institutions and bodies,
- with the exception of the legal bodies (Article 24)[23]
- **Language rights:** the right to apply to the EU institutions in one of the official languages and to receive a reply in that same language (Article 24).

## Constitutional principles and legal aspects of citizenship in \_\_\_\_\_ (EU 27) \_\_\_\_\_

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- **Rights of free movement**
- **Right to free movement and residence:** a right of free movement and residence throughout the Union and the right to work in
- any position (including national civil services with the exception of those posts in the public sector that involve the exercise of
- powers conferred by public law and the safeguard of general interests of the State or local authorities (Article 21) for which
- however there is no one single definition);
- **Freedom from discrimination on nationality:** a right not to be discriminated against on grounds of nationality within the
- scope of application of the Treaty (Article 18);

## Constitutional principles and legal aspects of citizenship in \_\_\_\_\_ (EU 27) \_\_\_\_\_

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- **Rights abroad**
- **Right to consular protection:** a right to protection by the diplomatic or consular authorities of other Member States when in a
- non-EU Member State, if there are no diplomatic or consular authorities from the citizen's own state (Article 23): this is due to the fact that not all member states maintain embassies in every country in the world (14 countries have only one embassy from an EU state).

# Constitutional principles and legal aspects of citizenship in \_\_\_\_\_ (EU 27) \_\_\_\_\_

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## Limitations

New member states may undergo transitional regimes, during which their nationals only enjoy restricted access to labour markets in other member states. EU member states are permitted to keep restrictions on citizens of the newly acceded countries for a maximum of seven years after accession. For the EFTA states (Iceland, Lichtenstein, Norway and Switzerland), the maximum is nine years.

Following the 2004 enlargement, three "old" member states—Ireland, Sweden and the United Kingdom—decided to allow unrestricted access to their labour markets. By December 2009, all but two member states—Austria and Germany—had completely dropped controls. These restrictions too expired on 1 May 2011.

Following the 2007 enlargement, all pre-2004 member states except Finland and Sweden imposed restrictions on Bulgarian and Romanian citizens, as did two member states that joined in 2004: Malta and Hungary. As of November 2012, all but 8 EU countries have dropped restrictions entirely. These restrictions too expired on 1 January 2014. Norway opened its labour market in June 2012, while Switzerland kept restrictions in place until 2016.

Following the 2013 enlargement, some countries implemented restrictions on Croatian nationals following the country's EU accession on 1 July 2013. As of July 2013, all but 13 EU countries have dropped restrictions entirely.

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Exceptions for overseas territories!

Any thing else we  
should know about  
citizenship in your  
country?

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**EU CITIZENSHIP AND  
BREXIT**

