



User Manual

Online Collection Software for European Citizens' Initiatives – User Manual

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Directorate-General for Informatics

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Online Collection Software for European Citizens' Initiatives - User Manual

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Contents

1	EUROPEAN UNION PUBLIC LICENCE V. 1.2	5
2	GENERAL PRESENTATION	12
3	PUBLIC INTERFACE	13
3.1	Public page.....	13
3.1.1	Access	14
3.1.2	Header	14
3.1.7	Left side panel	17
3.1.8	Support form.....	20
3.2.1	<i>OCS-ISO languages table</i>	26
3.2.2	<i>OCS-ISO member states table</i>	27
4.	ADMINISTRATION INTERFACE.....	28
4.2.	Access to the interface	28
4.3.	Set up your Online Collection System (OCS) for your proposed citizens' initiative.....	33
4.3.1.	Content - Upload initiative description XML file	33
4.3.2.	Upload certificate issued by national certification authority	35
4.3.3.	Add the language versions published in the ECI register for your proposed initiative	36
4.4.	Manage your system (System status options)	37
4.4.1.	Transition to the online mode (irreversible)	37
4.4.2.	Collection mode: ON/OFF	40
4.5.	Customise	41
4.5.1.	Logo.....	42
4.5.2.	Primary colour	43
4.5.3.	Progress bar	44
4.5.4.	Signature distribution map.....	45
4.5.5.	Show recent signatories	46
4.5.6.	Call-back URL.....	47
4.5.7.	Validation rules on the data provided by signatories	48
4.6.	Make it social.....	50
4.6.1.	Social media links.....	50
4.7.	Initiative dashboard.....	51
4.7.1.	Export signatures data	53
4.7.1.1.	How to decrypt the exported data.....	53
4.7.2.	Withdraw user signatures	56
4.7.3.	Feedbacks	56
	ANNEX I	58
	ANNEX II	59
	ANNEX III	60

2 GENERAL PRESENTATION

This software has been designed for organisers of European citizens' initiatives.

It has been developed by the European Commission and already complies with the functional, application and database related requirements of the technical specifications (Implementing Regulation (EU) No 1179/2011). It provides all the necessary functionalities to collect statements of support online, securely store signatories' data and export the data to the competent national authorities. It can easily be configured for any proposed citizens' initiative as it allows organisers to upload all relevant information on their initiative from their organiser account on the European citizens' initiative website.

The software consists of a public interface for signatories to give their support and an administration interface for organisers to manage the system. Both interfaces are available in all 24 official languages of the European Union.

3 PUBLIC INTERFACE

3.1 Public page

The support page is the starting point of the signing-up process.

The support page provides all the information on your proposed citizens' initiative: it shows the data you provided in the *Initiative setup* in the administration interface, including the different language versions of your proposed initiative.

The public page is divided in 3 sections **HEADER**, **LEFT PANEL**, **SUPPORT FORM**

The screenshot shows the public interface for a European Citizens' Initiative. It is divided into three main sections:

- Header (Green background):** Contains the text "Title - EN - Title - EN - Title - EN Title - EN" and a language selector for "English EN".
- Left Panel (Blue border):**
 - Logo of the European Union and "European Citizens' Initiative".
 - Objectives:** A list of main objectives, each followed by "- EN".
 - Web address of this initiative in the European Commission's register:** <http://www.rest.test.url.com> with an external link icon.
 - +Show more info** link.
 - Registration number:** ECI(2020)000000.
 - Start of the collection period:** 01/01/2020.
 - End of the collection period:** 01/01/2021.
 - Social media icons for Facebook and Twitter.
- Support Form (Green border):**
 - Text: "Support this initiative proposed by European Union citizens".
 - Text: "Select your country of nationality:".
 - A dropdown menu with the text "Please select nationality" and a selection arrow.

Figure 1: Public interface

Various settings allow organisers to customise the look of the public interface, such options include:

1. Upload of own initiative logo
2. Setup of primary colour
3. Display of initiative signature collection progress bar
4. Display of signature distribution map

5. Display of recent signatories
6. Display of call-back URL
7. Display of social media links

The setup of all above-mentioned options is described in sections 4.4 Customise and 4.5 Make it social of this manual.

3.1.1 Access

In **offline mode**, the public interface of your system is password-protected to prevent public access. To log in, you have to proceed in the same way as to access the administration part (see section 4.2 Access to the interface).

In **online mode**, the interface is publicly accessible and is no longer password-protected. The general public will normally access the system through a link on your website.

3.1.2 Header

Header part of the public interface contains the name of initiative and the interface language options.

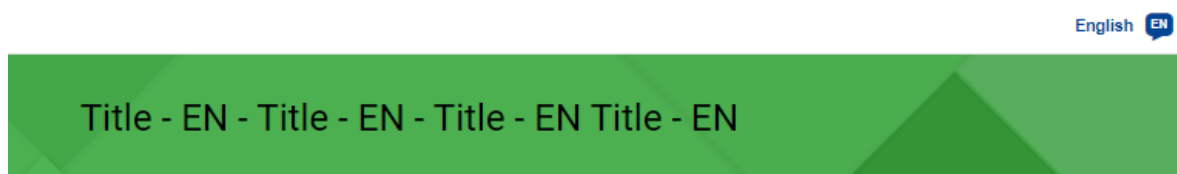


Figure 2: Public interface Header

3.1.3 Privacy statement

Privacy statement concerning signatories' personal data can be accessed from the public interface, through the link at the bottom of the page. This privacy statement is part of the official form to support a European citizens' initiative.



Figure 3: Public interface – Privacy statement

“Privacy statement: In accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation, your personal data provided on this form will only be used for the support of the initiative and made available to the competent national authorities for the purpose of verification and certification. You are entitled to request from the organisers of this initiative access to, rectification of, erasure and restriction of processing of your personal data. Your data will be stored by the organisers for a maximum retention period of 18 months after the date of registration of the proposed citizens’

initiative, or one month after submitting that initiative to the Commission, whichever is the earlier. It might be retained beyond these time limits in the case of administrative or legal proceedings, for a maximum of one week after the date of conclusion of these proceedings. Without prejudice to any other administrative or judicial remedy, you have the right to lodge at any time a complaint with a data protection authority, in particular in the Member State of your habitual residence, place of work or place of the alleged infringement if you consider that your data is unlawfully processed. The organisers of the citizens' initiative are the controllers in the meaning of the General Data Protection Regulation and they can be contacted using the details provided on this form. The contact details of the data protection officer (if any) are available at the web address of this initiative in the European Commission's register, as provided on this form. The contact details of the national authority which will receive and process your personal data and the contact details of the national data protection authorities can be consulted at: <http://ec.europa.eu/citizens-initiative/public/data-protection>.

3.1.4 Conformity certificate

This is the document from the competent national authority certifying that the online collection system meets the required specifications. You need to upload this document via the administration interface (not mandatory in offline mode).

NOTE: the conformity certificate needs to be obtained from the national authority of the country in which servers are located.

The conformity certificate can be accessed from the public interface, through the link at the bottom of the page.

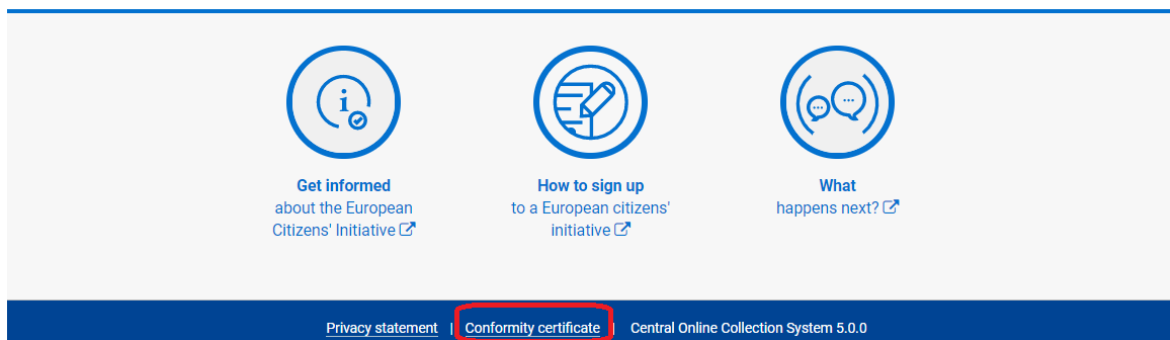


Figure 4: Public interface – Conformity certificate

It is possible for the general public to view and download the conformity certificate of your online collection system you uploaded via the administration interface.

3.1.5 Choice of the interface language

A drop-down list on the top right of the page allows the public to change the language of the interface at any time. When you change the language of the interface, the language of the initiative information will also change, as long as the organisers have uploaded that particular language version of the initiative in the system.

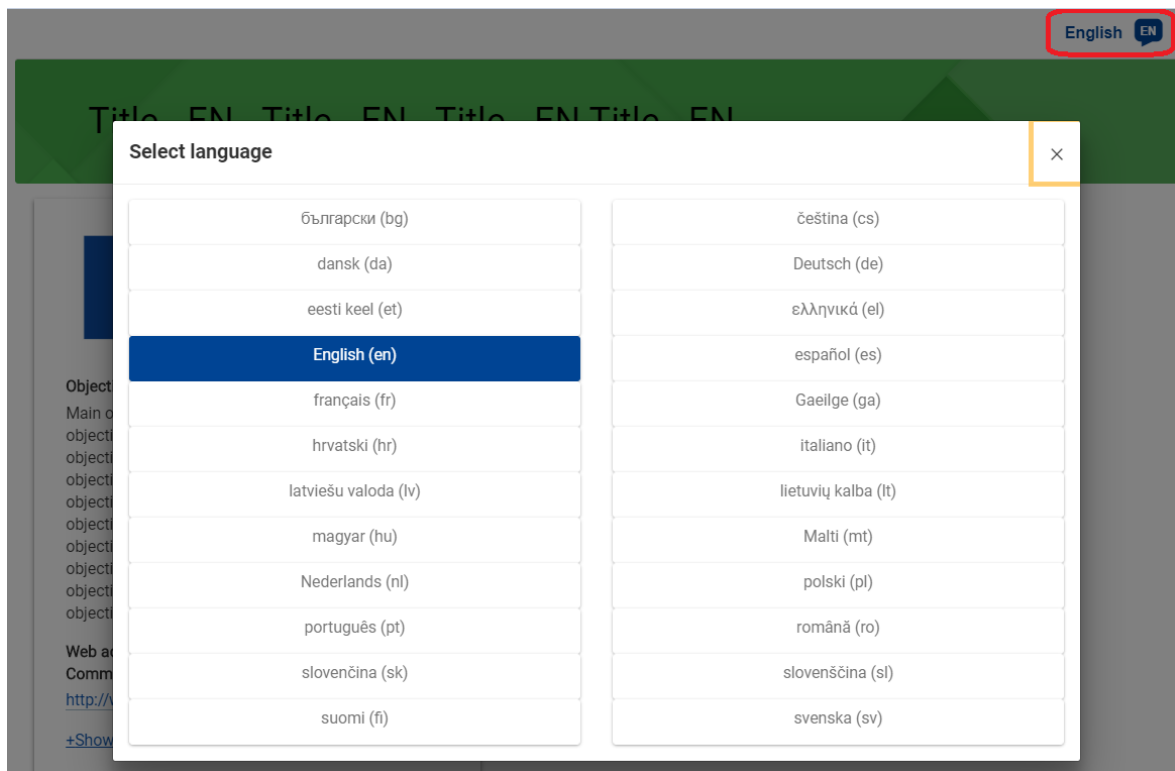


Figure 5: Public interface – interface language

3.1.6 Social media links

Links in the thank you page allows the public user to share the initiative to social media pages. Links to such social media pages can be defined in the system settings (see section 4.6.1 Social media links).

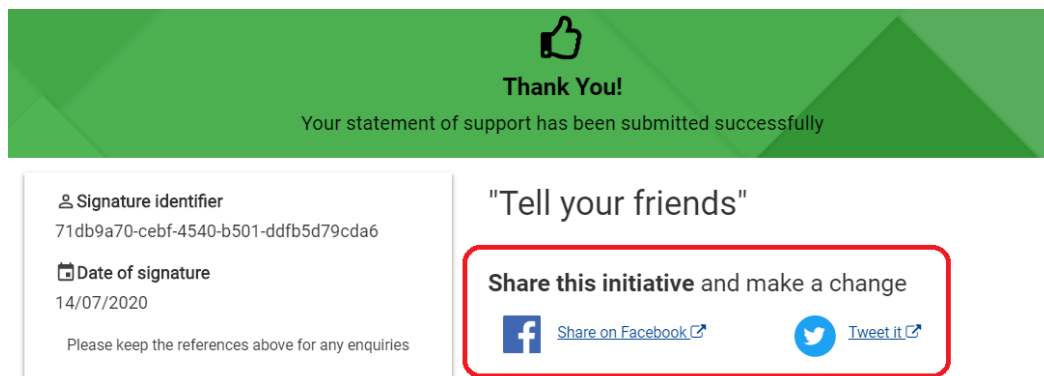


Figure 6: Public interface – social media links



Objectives

[illegible]

Web address of this initiative in the European Commission's register

<http://www.rest.test.url.com>

Website of this initiative (if any):

<http://www.my-campaign-site.en>

Contact persons

Peter Benton

peter_benton@testmail.com

Dug Ross

dug_ross@testmail.com

Legal entity

Global Peace Foundation Peace Boat

Italy

[-Hide more info](#)

Figure 8: Public interface –Contact Members and Legal Entity

3.1.7.1 Progress bar

The progress bar visible next to social media links allows the public to see the progress of the collection of statements of support towards a target number of your choice (see section 4.5.3 Progress bar).

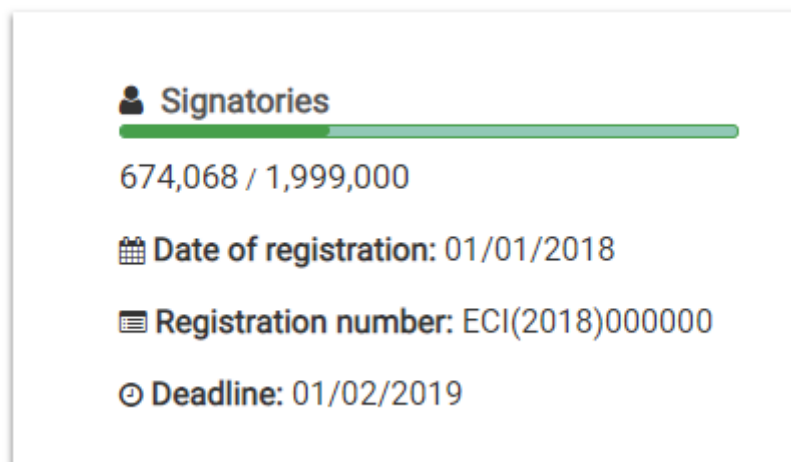


Figure 9: Public interface – progress bar

3.1.7.2 Current support per country and distribution map reporting on the statements of support collected online

On the same panel below *More Info/Close* button, the system displays the number of signatories and the current number of statements of support collected online from the selected country. The user can also display a distribution map and a table showing the current number of statements of support collected online and the percentage reached of the required thresholds by clicking on the *View all countries* link.

[illegible]

Figure 11: Support form – country selection

Depending on the country, signatories must select their country of nationality. At the bottom of the support page are links to the ECI website where signatories can find more information on the modalities and the requirements for signing-up to a citizens' initiative.

The diagram consists of three circular icons arranged horizontally, each representing a step in a process. The first icon contains an 'i' and a magnifying glass, representing 'Get informed'. The second icon contains a document and a pencil, representing 'How to sign up'. The third icon contains two speech bubbles, representing 'What happens next?'. Below each icon is a text label and a small external link icon (a square with a diagonal line).

Get informed
about the European
Citizens' Initiative [↗](#)

How to sign up
to a European citizens'
initiative [↗](#)

What
happens next? [↗](#)

Figure 12: Support form – Links to the ECI website

However, once the country is selected, the system informs the signatory that it is possible to use the form displayed only if, depending on the member state:

1. they are citizens of this country

2. they hold the identification document/number or one of the identification documents/numbers required by this country: in this case additional fields appear to allow signatories to select the relevant document and provide its number.

It is possible to modify the member state chosen by selecting another country from the list.

In any case, signatories are allowed to sign only once for each proposed citizens' initiative. Note that the system does not allow duplicate statements of support.

Support this initiative proposed by European Union citizens

Your country of nationality
Belgium

Please provide the following data, as required by [Regulation \(EU\) 2019/788 on the European citizens' initiative](#).

Personal identification

Document type *

Numéro de Registre national / Rijksre...

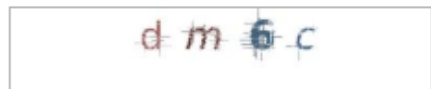
Number

Personal information

Full first names

Family names

Enter the characters you see in the picture *



☐ I hereby certify that the information that I have provided in form is correct and that I have not already supported this initiative.

☐ I have read the [Privacy statement](#) and the content of this [citizens' initiative](#).

Support

Figure 13: Support form –example of the Belgian form.

3.1.8.2 Second step: statement of support form

Once the country has been selected, the relevant form to be completed by the signatory appears on the same page. Each form is customised according to the data

required by the member state selected. For example Figure 14 above shows the support form for Belgium.

3.1.8.3 Third step: finalising and submitting

Once the form has been completed, signatories are required to confirm that the information provided is correct and that they have not already supported your proposed citizens' initiative. They also have to confirm they have read the privacy statement and the content of the proposed initiative.

To finalise the process, signatories are required to enter the characters they see in the captcha image or the characters they hear in the audio captcha.

Signatories can then click on the *Support* button in order to finalise the submission of their statement of support. If no error occurs, the system notifies the signatory that the form has been successfully submitted. In addition to this notification, the date and the signature identifier appear on top of the page. Finally signatories can return through the relevant link to the organisers' website in the language version selected for the initiative.

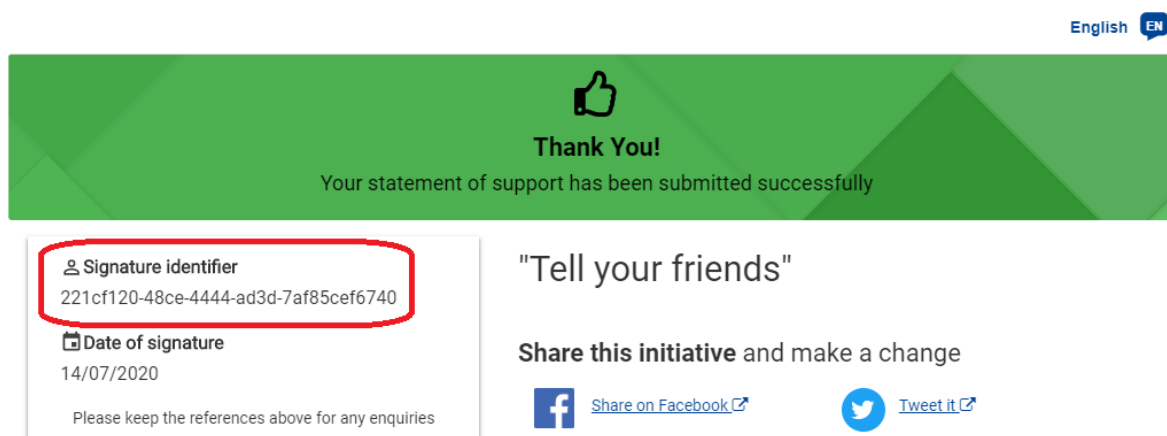


Figure 14: Support form – Signature identifier

3.1.8.4 Downloading signature identifier


The signature identifier and date can be downloaded for future reference by selecting the *Download Signature Identifier* button.

3.1.8.5 Share your support via social media

The signatory can share the information that he/she supported the initiative via the social media links provided on the page as seen in *Figure 15: Support form – Share via social media*.


The organizer can customise the message that will be displayed after clicking on "Tweet it".


The organizer can customise the message displayed in the text box on the left to encourage supporters to share their support on social media.



Thank You!

Your statement of support has been submitted successfully

 **Signature identifier**
30b050c6-2685-48ee-81e7-33f399d5e99c

 **Date of signature**
05/08/2020

Please keep the references above for any enquiries

Download signature identifier

☒ Please leave us your email address if you would like to stay informed:

☐ About this citizens' initiative ([privacy statement](#))


☐ I have read the relevant privacy statement and I agree with the processing of my personal data.


Email address

Stay informed

"Tell your friends"

Share this initiative and make a change


[Share on Facebook](#)


[Tweet it](#)

How was the experience of supporting this initiative?

POOR

FAIR

GOOD

VERY GOOD

Your feedback will help us improve this site.

Write your feedback...

300

Send feedback

Figure 15: Support form – Share via social media.

3.1.8.6 Send feedback

Optionally, the signatory can share feedback on his/her support experience with the online collection system. To enter feedback, he/she rates his/her experience (Bad, Fair, Fine or Good), possibly enter some free text in the box below (max. 300 characters) and click on the *Send Feedback* button as seen on Figure 16: Support form – Send feedback.

How was the experience of supporting this initiative?

☐ BAD ☐ FAIR ☐ FINE ☒ GOOD

Your feedback will help us improve this site.

We may share your feedback with the European Commission which provides this software

Write your feedback... 300

Send feedback

Figure 16: Support form – Send feedback.

3.2. Redirection to the Commission Collection System.

By default, you can redirect to the Commission Collection System url (following formatting is usually used at the Commission: <https://eci.ec.europa.eu/NNN/public> where NNN will be a number associated to your initiative)

There is however a second possibility in case you are interested in fine tuning by language and support form which consists in adding the following parameters when calling your collection system from another website (e.g. your campaign website) by pre-selecting the language and the form by adding <https://eci.ec.europa.eu/NNN/public/?lg=yy&form=zz> at the end of the url of your OCS.

For example if you add [?lg=de&form=be](#) this will preselect the language in German for the country Belgium for your collection system.

Please find below the list of ISO codes for the languages and the form:

3.2.1. OCS-ISO languages table

Code	Language
cs	Czech
da	Danish
de	German
et	Estonian

el	Greek
en	English
es	Spanish
fr	French
it	Italian
lv	Latvian
lt	Lithuanian
ga	Gaelic
hu	Hungarian
mt	Maltese
nl	Dutch
pl	Polish
pt	Portuguese
ro	Romanian
sk	Slovak
sl	Slovenian
fi	Finnish
se	Swedish
bg	Bulgarian
hr	Croatian

3.2.2. OCS-ISO member states table

Code / member state

Code	Member State
cs	Czechia
da	Denmark
de	Germany


et	Estonia
el	Greece
es	Spain
fr	France
it	Italy
lv	Latvia
lt	Lithuania
hu	Hungary
mt	Malta
nl	Netherlands
pl	Polish
pt	Portugal
ro	Romania
sk	Slovakia
sl	Slovenia
fi	Finland
se	Sweden
bg	Bulgaria
hr	Croatia

4. ADMINISTRATION INTERFACE

4.2. Access to the interface

When connecting to the administration interface of the system you are first presented with the login screen. A drop-down list on the top right hand corner of the page allows you to change the language of the interface at any time.

European Citizens' Initiative

English (en) 

Sign in

Username

Password

Challenge

20445977add129835e27bcede21d74b1097391199e9a64e56ac56805
2ac0b50d42ff6b427a1a304cdd1e6333ef573026431164661d2a25e37
def5da7fc861265430a607e3a7b9229be45d2773503f681a62f2ce208f
9d9478f26ba0855f28b60f5052e57658de6b4701266743f59fa0b7f346
ec5d71e285cae7bc2d7505b8e48c15805b4b7eb47910310f7fe2aef2cb
c7cc3178ecf052a107417bd95a3e99dc0fc5019d1df2d6bbbed16a9d916
2d800644487293fd61821d03509baf26e4c49a6db4364388abce9ddad
79a9863c21b8339c5d1b9ba682c912a13c2c450a483fe20429c58e385
b30b56bb07b11d85926d2cdcede077da9dfbb5d5cd7f5d3d97630cf63
50360d27abbbd578a71e8da238bf9e55b4aac149ddc13ee4ef01d383b
cdeae1ca65f5f00a64c0eff018a6d7f709779d059c96536af9dc8274b81
c463784679a302bb52420f687aa775321cbb19248bef814f00241a8cd
d9880a09d80e11f6284aa9cfc3b53b001343c2b2e23bdc4fbc301f9412
1e0190bb8672606662c12adaac23fd6660ea9c52c1e780a3a4d438ac6
37069bb27183e8413bf07b61a7efab0740ae7cfc7ca72178b9bfca1613
ffb3090bb8e2291401b68078ba77fcfb4e70bdf005521b941ea299f62bc
bae74b9146fd3f995a46be8f2cf14f4ae416db6358f1565d34ef64849c
98e425334aa5edb816b9d5eff300e31e6f6e9b1379d2

COPY TEXT

Figure 17: System login screen – Language selection.

The system uses a two-step authentication: it asks for the username and a password, but also for a response to a challenge string of hexadecimal characters as shown in **Figure 18** System login screen.

Sign in

Username

Password

Challenge

```
20445977add129835e27bcde21d74b1097391199e9a64e56ac56805
2ac0b50d42ff6b427a1a304cdd1e6333ef573026431164661d2a25e37
def5da7fc861265430a607e3a7b9229be45d2773503f681a62f2ce208f
9d9478f26ba0855f28b60f5052e57658de6b4701266743f59fa0b7f346
ec5d71e285cae7bc2d7505b8e48c15805b4b7eb47910310f7fe2aef2cb
c7cc3178ecf052a107417bd95a3e99dc0fc5019d1df2d6bbbed16a9d916
2d800644487293fd61821d03509baf26e4c49a6db4364388abce9ddad
79a9863c21b8339c5d1b9ba682c912a13c2c450a483fe20429c58e385
b30b56bb07b11d85926d2cdcede077da9dfbb5d5cd7f5d3d97630cf63
50360d27abbbd578a71e8da238bf9e55b4aac149ddc13ee4ef01d383b
cdeae1ca65f5f00a64c0eff018a6d7f709779d059c96536af9dc8274b81
c463784679a302bb52420f687aa775321cbb19248bef814f00241a8cd
d9880a09d80e11f6284aa9cfc3b53b001343c2b2e23bdc4fbc301f9412
1e0190bb8672606662c12adaac23fd6660ea9c52c1e780a3a4d438ac6
37069bb27183e8413bf07b61a7efab0740ae7cfc7ca72178b9bfca1613
ffb3090bb8e2291401b68078ba77fcfb4e70bdf005521b941ea299f62bc
bae74b9146fd3f995a46be8f2cf14f4ae416db6358f1565d34ef64849c
98e425334aa5edb816b9d5eff300e31e6f6e9b1379d2
```


 COPY TEXT

Figure 18 System login screen.

To access the system, proceed as follows:

1. Enter your username
2. Enter your password

Please refer to section **Security Tool** installation in the Installation Guide on how to generate the username and password.

3. Click *Copy text* link on the right side of *Challenge* window
4. Open the Security Tool and identify yourself with your master password
5. Choose the *Decrypt Sample Text* functionality (Figure 20: Sample text decryption window.)



Figure 19: Security Tool – Decrypt Sample Text screen.

The following window will open:

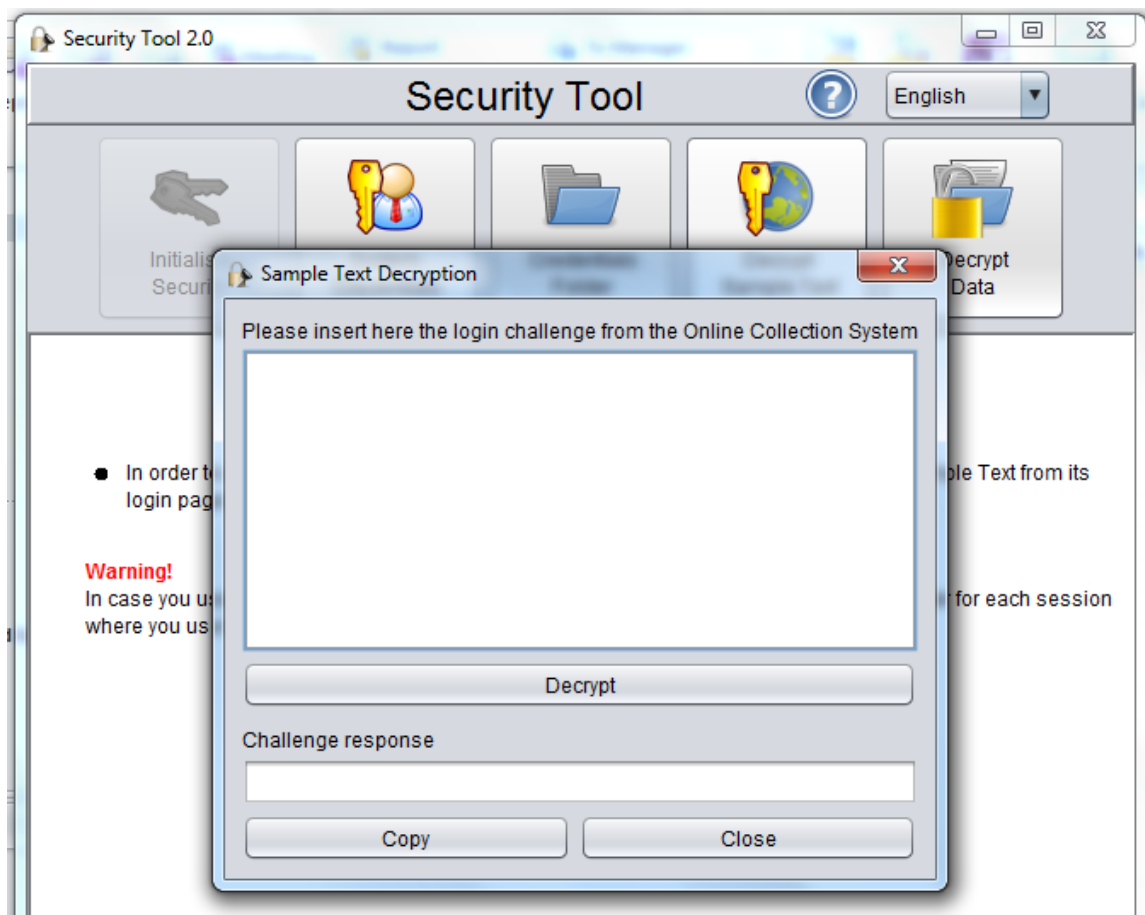


Figure 20: Sample text decryption window.

6. Paste – by right clicking and selecting *paste* – the copied character set for decryption and click on *Decrypt*

7. Copy the result of the decryption – by using the *Copy* button beneath the decrypted text – and go back to the system login page. Place the cursor on the result field and paste the copied result into the field
8. Press the *Login* button
9. If the login is successful, the system displays the administration home page (Figure 21: Set up your Online Collection System page.)
10. If the login fails, the system will display the applicable error message. In this case you need to repeat steps 1 to 8 to attempt a new login

By default, your system is in **offline mode**. In this mode, the public interface of your system is password-protected to prevent public access. This mode therefore allows you to prepare your system in view of its certification prior to starting the collection.

In offline mode it is possible to test the public interface and all the functionalities provided in the online mode. Once your system is online, you may officially start collecting statements of support via the public interface. In order to do so, you will need to setup the initiative content uploading the XML file retrieved from the ECI organiser account and the conformity PDF certificate issued by the competent national authority. For more details please refer to section 4.4.1 Transition to the online mode (irreversible).

In addition, by default, the statement of support form in the public interface is enabled ("Collection ON"). For more information on the activation/de-activation of the form, see section 4.4.2 Collection mode: ON/OFF.

A drop-down list on the top right hand corner of the page allows you to change the language of the interface at any time.

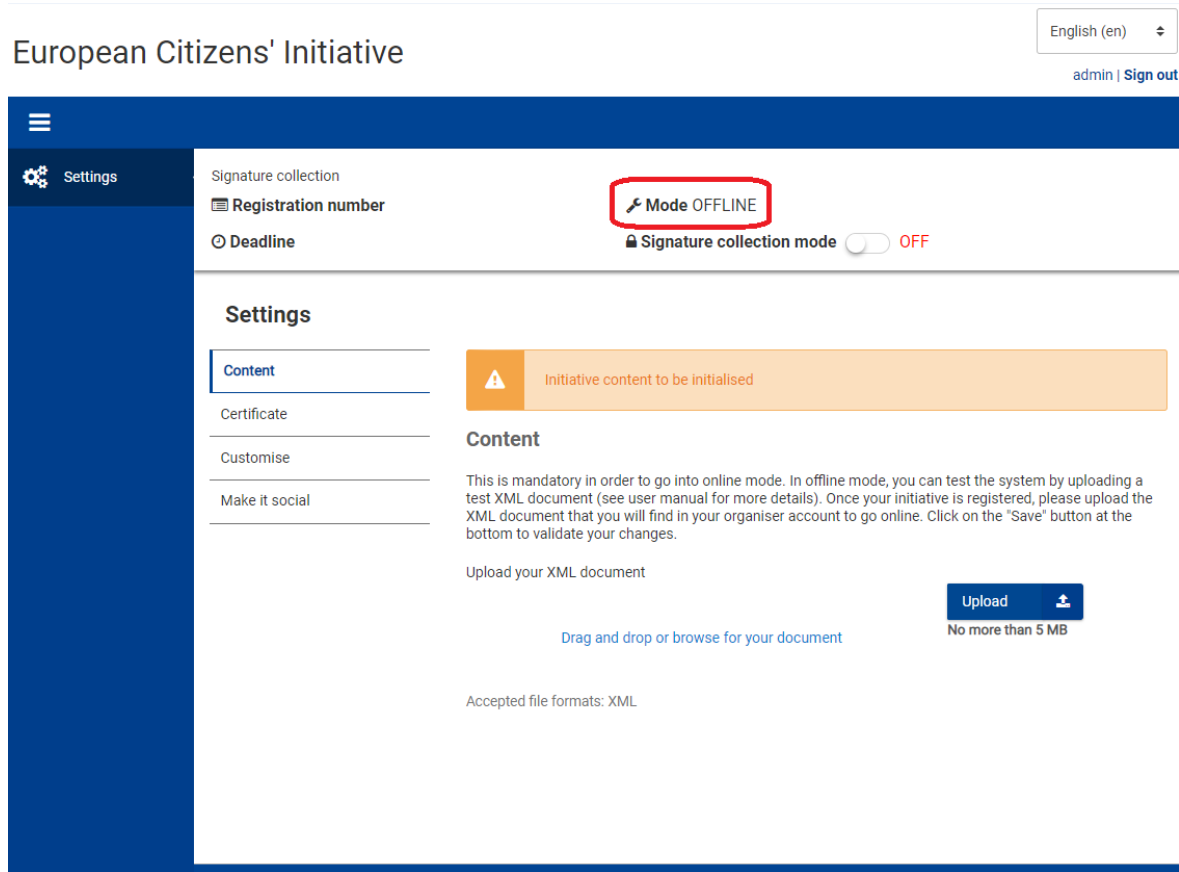


Figure 21: Set up your Online Collection System page.

4.3. Set up your Online Collection System (OCS) for your proposed citizens' initiative

In order to configure your system for your proposed citizens' initiative, you have to Sign in to administration page. This section will guide you how to set up you Online Collection System.

NOTE: you will only be able to put the system in online mode after you

- upload the XML file of your registered initiative

- upload the certificate received from the relevant national certification authority

Having uploaded the XML file of registered initiative will ensure that the data used in your online collection system corresponds exactly to the information registered in the ECI register.

4.3.1.Content - Upload initiative description XML file

In order to do so, you have to:

1. Go to your organiser account (<https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/citizens-initiative/organisers>) in the ECI register.
2. Download the XML file available in the *Manage your initiative* menu (*Set up your online collection system* entry) and save it on your local drive.
3. Access the OCS administration interface, click on the *Content* link(you need to be logged in first)

Signature collection

Registration number

Deadline

Mode OFFLINE

Signature collection mode ON

Settings

- Content
- Certificate
- Customise
- Make it social

Initiative content to be initialised

Content

This is mandatory in order to go into online mode. In offline mode, you can test the system by uploading a test XML document (see user manual for more details). Once your initiative is registered, please upload the XML document that you will find in your organiser account to go online. Click on the "Save" button at the bottom to validate your changes.

Upload your XML document

Drag and drop or browse for your document

Accepted file formats: XML

Upload

No more than 5 MB

System managed by the organisers of the proposed initiative | ECI Online Collection Software 3.0.0

Figure 22: Content - initiative XML upload.

- Click on the *Upload your XML document* link to locate the file on your computer and click on the *Open* button
- Click on the *SAVE* button.
- System will display preview of uploaded XML file
- Review the contents of the XML document and click *CONFIRM* button.

Once you confirm your initiative data will be saved. (Figure 23: Content - initiative XML uploaded)

Settings

- Content
- Certificate
- Customise
- Make it social

Review the content of the XML document and click save to confirm

Content

This is mandatory in order to go into online mode. In offline mode, you can test the system by uploading a test XML document (see user manual for more details). Once your initiative is registered, please upload the XML document that you will find in your organiser account to go online. Click on the "Save" button at the bottom to validate your changes.

Upload your XML document

Drag and drop or browse for your document

Accepted file formats: XML

Upload

No more than 5 MB

Registration language: EN

Registration number: ECI(2020)000000

Deadline:

Date of registration: 2020-01-01+01:00

Web address in the European Commission's register: http://www.test.url.com

Initiative languages


Deutsch (de) English (en) Gaeilge (ga)

Malti (mt) Nederlands (nl) dansk (da)

Figure 24: Content - initiative XML uploaded

Settings

- Content**
- Certificate
- Customise
- Make it social




Content

This is mandatory in order to go into online mode. In offline mode, you can test the system by uploading a test XML document (see user manual for more details). Once your initiative is registered, please upload the XML document that you will find in your organiser account to go online. Click on the "Save" button at the bottom to validate your changes.

Upload your XML document

Drag and drop or browse for your document

Upload 
No more than 5 MB

Registration language: EN

Registration number: ECI(2020)000000

Deadline:

Date of registration: 2020-01-01+01:00

Web address in the European Commission's register: <http://www.rest.test.url.com>

Figure 24.1 Content - initiative XML Successfully uploaded

NOTE: once you go into online mode, the data on your proposed initiative cannot be altered anymore. You will then only be able to add new language versions of your proposed initiative by repeating the same operation as described above.

4.3.2. Upload certificate issued by national certification authority

Once you have registered initiative and received certificate for your system you have to upload it via the Administration interface.

In order to do so

1. Access the Administration interface and select *Certificate it* link on Set up your Online Collection System page.
2. In the *Certificate* page, click on the *Upload the certificate document* link and select the certificate file you received from the national certification authority as shown below.

Signature collection
 Registration number ECI(2020)000000
 Deadline 01/01/2021

Mode ONLINE
 Signature collection mode ON

Settings

Content
Certificate
 Customise
 Make it social

Certificate

This is mandatory in order to go into online mode. Click on the "Save" button at the bottom to validate your changes.

Upload the certificate

Upload a copy of the certificate (in PDF format) issued by the competent national authority confirming the conformity of your system with the Regulation on the citizens' initiative (Regulation (EU) 2019/788 on the European citizens' initiative). This is mandatory in order to go into online mode

Drag and drop or browse for your document

Upload

No more than 5 MB

Accepted file formats: PDF, PNG, JPG, GIF

Figure 25: Certificate upload

3. System will display uploaded certificate filename below the link.
4. Click on the *SAVE* button.
5. System saves uploaded certificate file.

European Citizens' Initiative

English (en) admin | Sign out

Settings

Signature collection
 Registration number
 Deadline

Mode OFFLINE
 Signature collection mode ON

Settings

Content
Certificate
 Customise
 Make it social

Certificate

This is mandatory in order to go into online mode. Click on the "Save" button at the bottom to validate your changes.

✓ Your certificate has been successfully saved

Download the current certificate

Download the current certificate

Upload the certificate

Upload a copy of the certificate (in PDF format) issued by the competent national authority confirming the conformity of your system with the Regulation on the citizens' initiative (Regulation (EU) No 211/2011). This is mandatory in order to go into online mode

Drag and drop or browse for your document

Upload

No more than 5 MB

Accepted file formats: PDF, PNG, JPG, GIF

System managed by the organisers of the proposed initiative | ECI Online Collection Software 3.0.0

Figure 26: Certificate uploaded.

4.3.3. Add the language versions published in the ECI register for your proposed initiative

To add the language versions you have provided and that have been published on the ECI register, you have to make a new download from your organiser account of the

initiative description XML file containing the information on your proposed citizens' initiative and upload this new file in the software, as described above in 4.3.1. Content - Upload initiative description XML file. The file contains all language versions published for your proposed initiative at the time of its download, including the registration language.

You can therefore repeat the operation each time new language version(s) are added in the ECI register.

NOTE You do not need to stop the collection in the public interface to upload a new file for your proposed initiative.

In offline mode the XML file upload will delete all the signatures inserted for testing. All operations on languages and contacts are permitted (delete, update, insert).

In online mode it is allowed only the new translations insertion. All other operations on already present information will be blocked by the system.

4.3.4. Optional customisation of your initiative before going online

Still in the offline mode, you have the possibility to set the options of your initiative for customising (refer to 4.5 Customise) or making social (refer to 4.6 Make it social) your initiative. This way when you will decide to go online, your initiative will contain already your preferred options.

Note however that you can decide to perform the steps customise and/or make it social later after you have set your initiative online.

4.4. Manage your system (System status options)

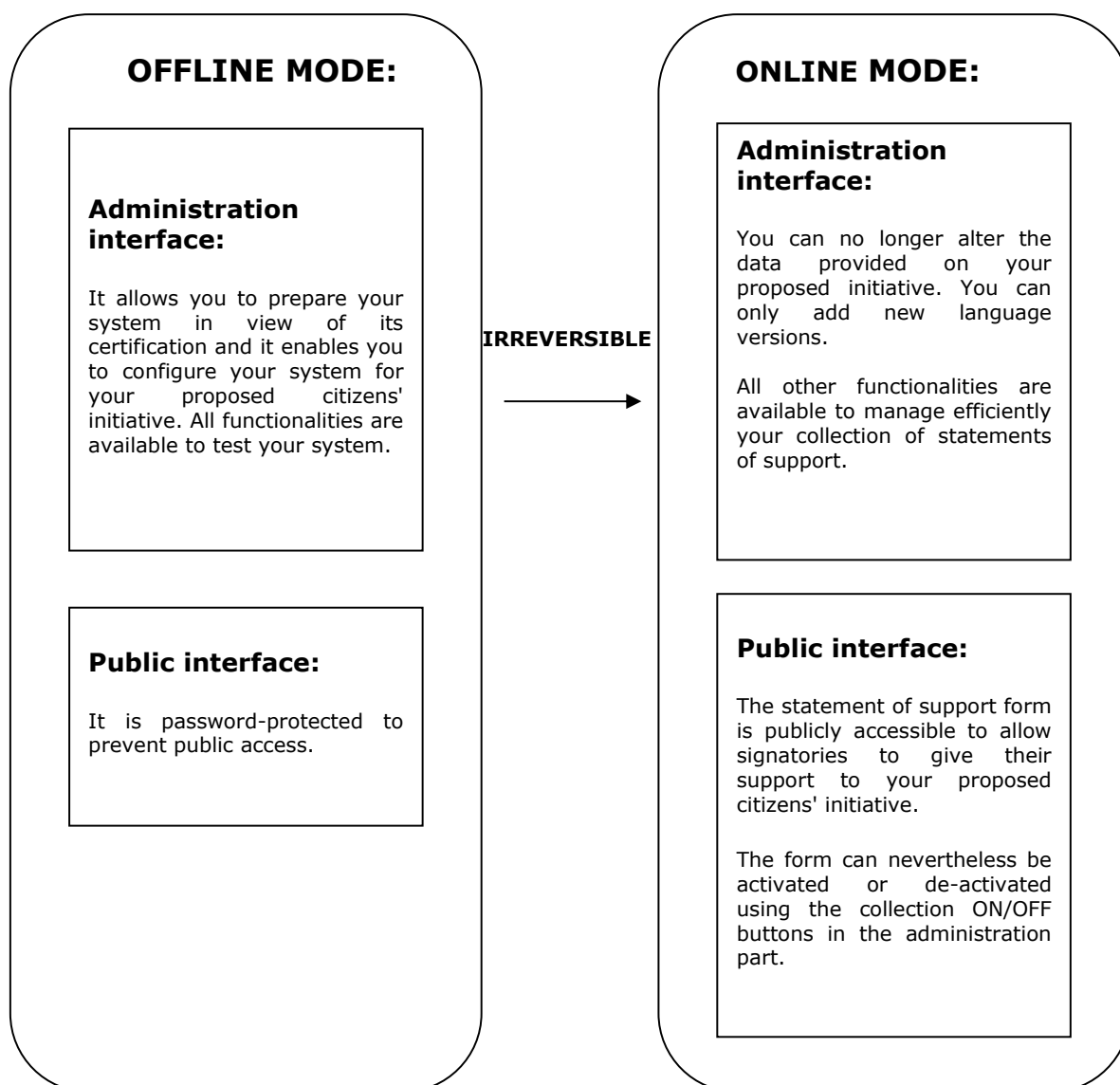
The section refers to the *System status* entry in the menu.

4.4.1. Transition to the online mode (irreversible)

The OCS can be in two different modes:

1. **Offline mode:** this mode enables the organisers/administrators to prepare and test the system prior to starting the collection campaign. In this mode, the public interface is password protected to prevent access from the general public.
2. **Online mode:** this mode refers to the state of the system once it has been set up. This mode allows organisers to start collecting statements of support for their proposed citizens' initiative.

By default, the system is in offline mode. The transition to online mode is under the control of the organisers/administrators. In order to go into online mode, the organiser/administrator is required to finalise the setup of the system using the initiative data registered on the European Commission register for the Citizens' Initiative (hereafter 'ECI register') and to have uploaded the conformity certificate issued by the competent national authority. Transition to online mode has the effect of disabling the password protection of the public interface so that actual collection of statements of support can start.



Once your system is ready and has been certified by the competent national authority and once the registration of your proposed citizens' initiative has been confirmed by the Commission, you can go into online mode in order to start collecting statements of support from signatories.

In order to do so, you first have to:

1. Finalise the initiative setup of the system by uploading the file you will have previously downloaded in your organiser account in the ECI register as described in section 4.3.1.Content - Upload initiative description XML file.
2. Upload, via **Certificate** entry in the menu, the certificate of conformity of your system you will have received from the competent authority as described in section 4.3.2 Upload certificate issued by national certification authority.
3. Then, you press GO ONLINE mode and click on Continue as seen on Figure 27: Set up your OCS - Transitions to Online mode (irreversible).

European Citizens' Initiative

English (en)
 admin | Sign out

Signature collection

Registration number ECI(2018)000000

Mode OFFLINE

Deadline 01/02/2019

Signature collection mode ☒ ON

GO ONLINE

Settings

Content

Certificate

Customise

Make it social

Content

This is mandatory in order to go into online mode. In offline mode, you can test the system by uploading a test XML document (see user manual for more details). Once your initiative is registered, please upload the XML document that you will find in your organiser account to go online. Click on the "Save" button at the bottom to validate your changes.

Upload your XML document

Upload

No more than 5 MB

Drag and drop or browse for your document

Registration language: EN

Registration number: ECI(2018)000000

Deadline: 01/02/2019

Date of registration: 01/01/2018

Web address in the European Commission's register: <http://www.ECI-official-register-url.eu>

Figure 27: Set up your OCS - Transitions to Online mode (irreversible).

4. System will open *Switch to online mode* dialog

European Citizens' Initiative

English (en)
 admin | Sign out

Settings

Signature collection

Registration number ECI(2018)000000

Mode OFFLINE

Deadline 01/02/2019

Signature collection mode ☒ ON

GO ONLINE

Settings

Content

Certificate

Customise

Make it social

Switch to online mode

⚠ Please be aware that by pressing GO ONLINE button below

- The information on your initiative including the different language versions will be considered as final and you will not be able to modify it anymore
- However you will be able to update your initiative content with any new language versions added to the ECI register
- All test signature data you may have used in offline mode will be erased
- By default, the system will automatically enable the statements of support form on the public interface (if the collection is currently OFF, it will automatically be turned ON)

Cancel **GO ONLINE**

Date of registration: 01/01/2018

Web address in the European Commission's register: <http://www.ECI-official-register-url.eu>

Figure 28: Switch to online mode.

5. Click on GO ONLINE Button

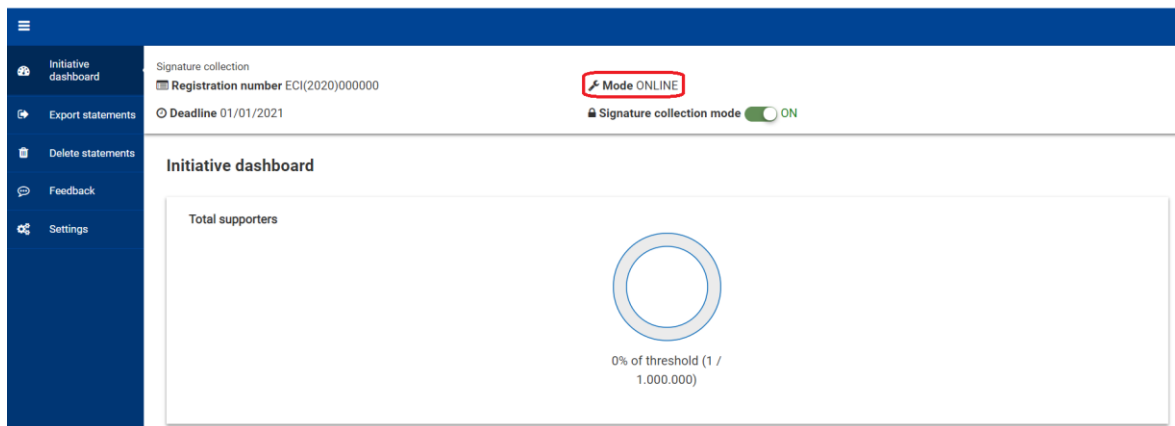


Figure 29: System online

Be aware that going into online mode is **IRREVERSIBLE** and it implies that:

1. The information on your initiative including the different language versions is considered as final and you will not be able to modify it anymore. However you will be able to update your initiative setup with any new language versions you add to the ECI register.
2. In addition, by default, the system will automatically enable the statement of support form on the public interface (if the collection is at that time OFF, it will automatically be turned ON). See the section 4.4.2 Collection mode: ON/OFF below for more information.
3. Going ONLINE also removes all signatures collected during the "Offline mode".

4.4.2. Collection mode: ON/OFF

In both offline and online modes, you can choose to activate or de-activate the statement of support form in the public interface. This enables you to allow or prevent the submission of statements of support via the public interface.

When the collection is OFF, the public interface page is still accessible but not the form itself as seen on **Figure 30: Public interface - Collection mode OFF**.



In order to change the collection mode, select ON or OFF by ticking the corresponding box in the *Initiative Dashboard* page and click on *SIGNATURE COLLECTION* link and select desired option.



4.5. Customise

Directorate-General for Informatics
European Citizens' Initiatives

This section is available in both offline and online modes.

4.5.1. Logo

You can always add your own initiative logo that will be displayed on your public interface as seen in the example below:

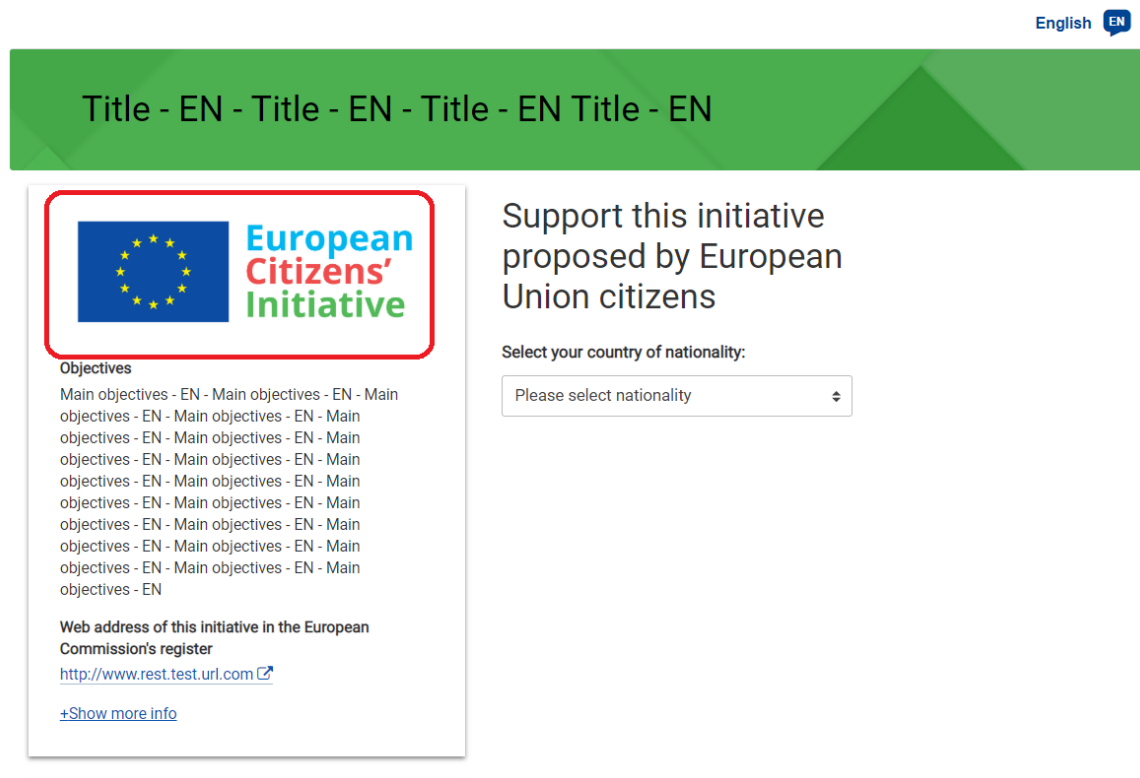


Figure 32: Public interface – initiative logo.

In order to add logo you need to

1. Select *Upload image* button in the *Customise* subpage of the *Set up your OSC* page.
The system will open the File upload window.
2. Select your logo file from your local drive and select the *Open* button.
The system will close the File upload window.
3. Select the *SAVE* button at the bottom of the page.
The system will display the *Set up your OCS* page again and your logo will be saved and displayed in the public interface.

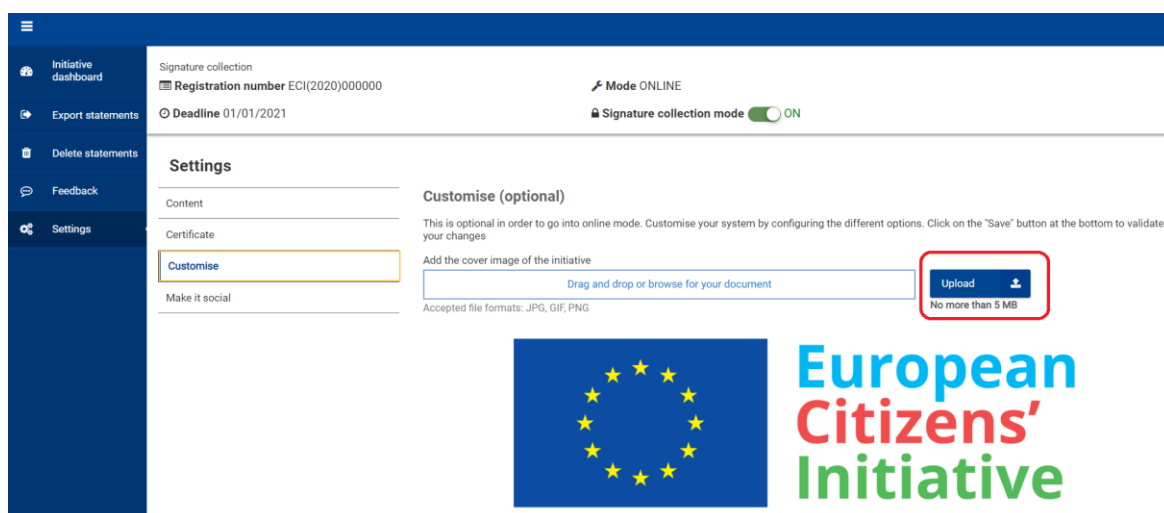


Figure 33: Customise – logo.

Your custom logo file should be of type JPEG, PNG or GIF. The logo will be displayed in the maximum resolution of 300 x 185 pixels. If you upload a bigger or a smaller logo it will thus be resized, while respecting the proportions of the image. The application will accept the maximum custom logo file size of 5 MB.

4.5.2. Primary colour

You can customise initiative header primary colour of the public interface. The admin interface is not affected by customisations.

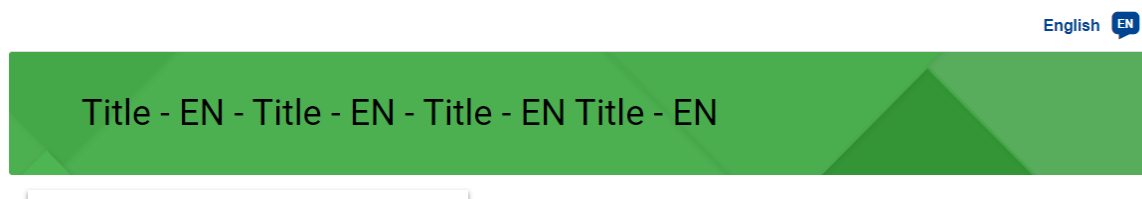
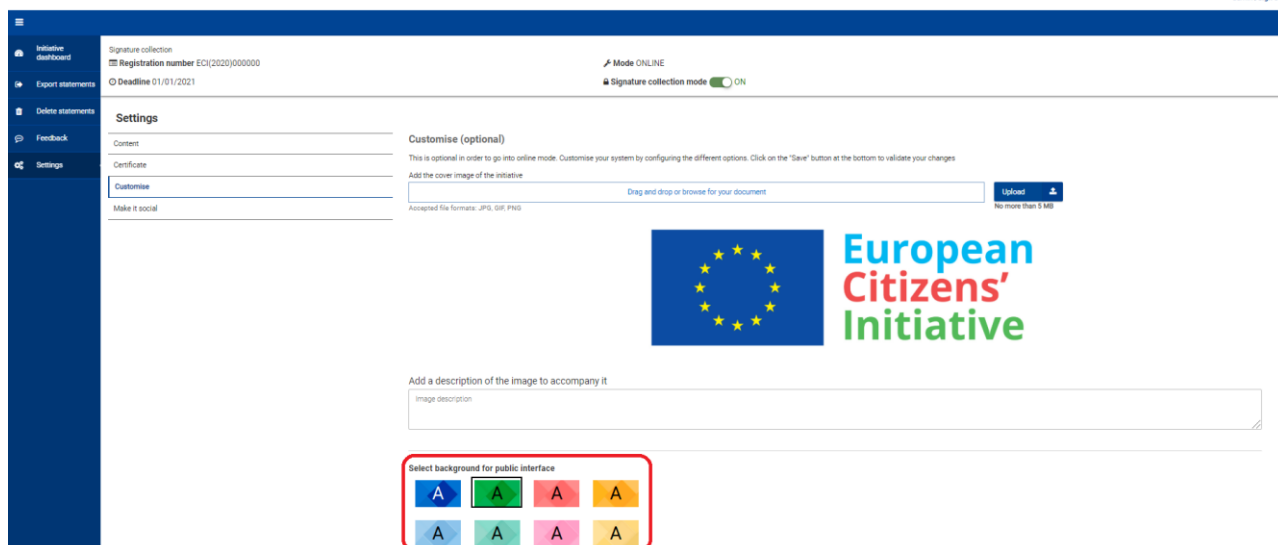


Figure 34 : Public interface - primary colour.

In order to do so you need to use colour picker in administration interface in *Customise* page. Once you select your colour you have to select *SAVE* button at the bottom of the page.



Signature collection
Registration number ECI(2020)000000
Deadline 01/01/2021
Mode ONLINE
Signature collection mode ON

Settings

Content
Certificate
Customise
Make it social

Customise (optional)
This is optional in order to go into online mode. Customise your system by configuring the different options. Click on the "Save" button at the bottom to validate your changes.

Add the cover image of the initiative
Drag and drop or browse for your document
Upload
No more than 5 MB

Accepted file formats: JPEG, GIF, PNG

Add a description of the image to accompany it
Image description

Select background for public interface

A	A	A	A
A	A	A	A

Figure 35: Customise - primary colour.

4.5.3. Progress bar

You can display a progress bar on your public interface showing how close you are to a target number of signatories of support needed for your initiative as seen in the example below:

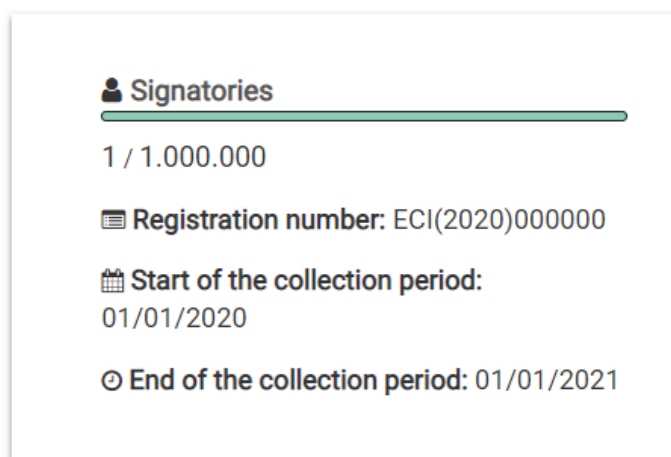


Figure 36: Public interface – Progress bar.

In order to enable this option, simply tick select *SHOW PROGRESS BAR*, enter a *Signatures goal* value and click on the *SAVE* button at the bottom of the page as seen

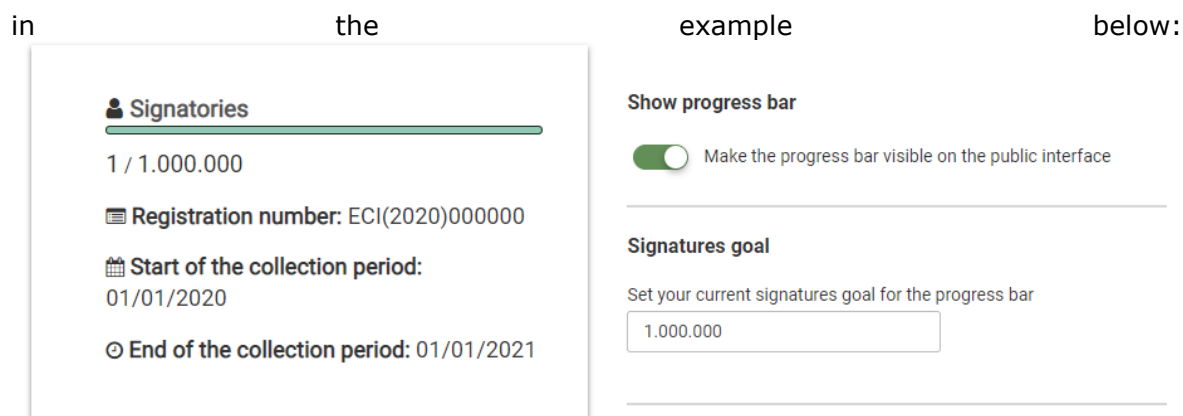


Figure 37: Customise – Progress bar.

This option can be modified at any time. Therefore value can be set to display lower target value at the beginning of the collection process, for example 1000. This will allow a proper visualisation of progress.

4.5.4. Signature distribution map

You can enable or disable the distribution map on your public interface as seen in the example below:

Title - EN - Title - EN - Title - EN Title - EN

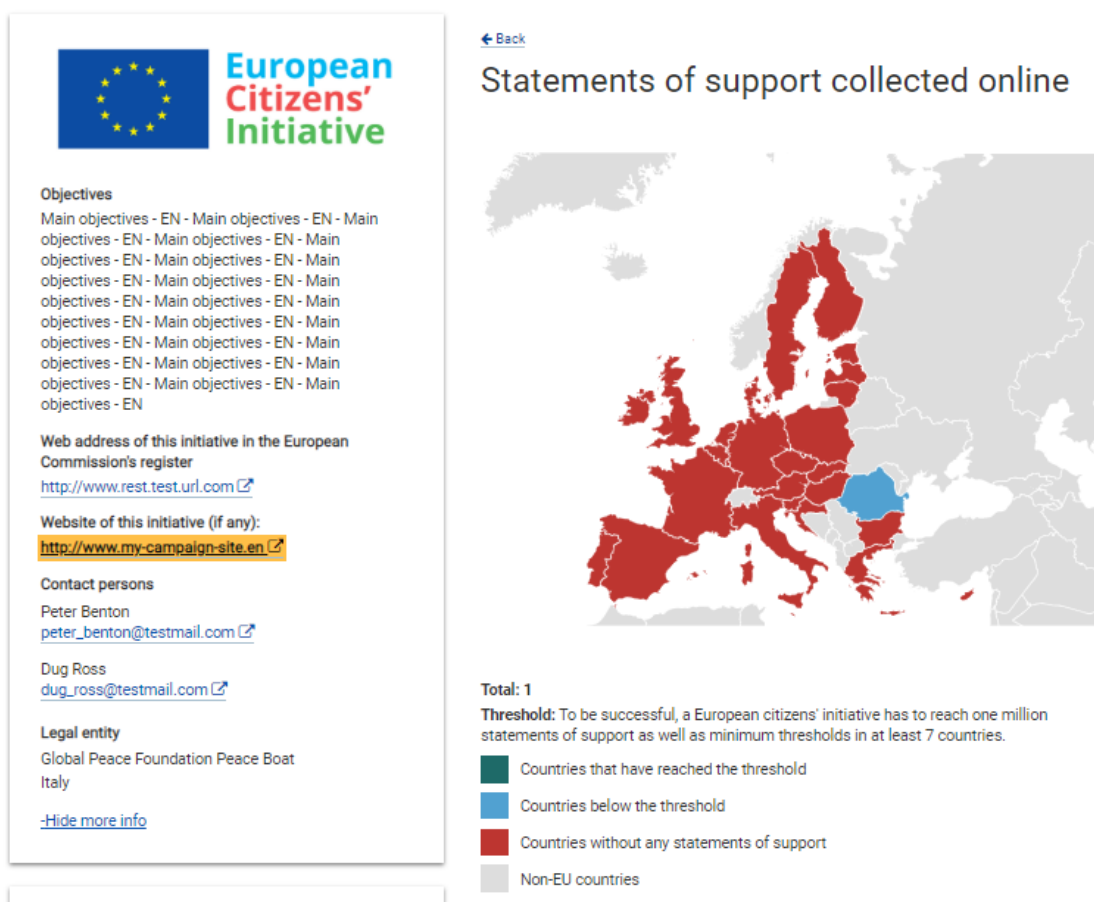


Figure 38: Public interface – Signature distribution map.

In order to enable distribution map display in public interface select **SHOW DISTRIBUTION MAP** option and click the **SAVE** button as shown in the example below:

Show distribution map



Make the distribution map visible on the public interface

Figure 39: Customise – Signature distribution map.

If you select **HIDE DISTRIBUTION MAP** option no such map will be accessible in the Public interface. This option can be modified at any time.

4.5.5. Show recent signatories

You can set up OCS public interface to display list of countries of recent supporters of your initiative in public interface as seen below.

Recent signatories			
 +1	From	CYPRUS	24/07/2020
 +1	From	NETHERLANDS	24/07/2020
 +1	From	NETHERLANDS	24/07/2020
 +1	From	GERMANY	24/07/2020
 +1	From	GERMANY	23/07/2020

Figure 40: Public interface - Recent signatories.

To enable this option select *SHOW LAST SIGNATURES* option in OCS administration interface on *Customise* page and select *SAVE* button at the bottom of the page.

Show recent supporters



Make last signatures (country and date only) visible on the public interface

Figure 41: Customise - Recent signatories.

4.5.6. Call-back URL

You can enter the URL of your website for the link that signatories can see at the end of the signing-up process.

Objectives

Main objectives - EN - Main objectives - EN - Main
objectives - EN - Main objectives - EN - Main
objectives - EN - Main objectives - EN - Main
objectives - EN - Main objectives - EN - Main
objectives - EN - Main objectives - EN - Main
objectives - EN - Main objectives - EN - Main
objectives - EN - Main objectives - EN - Main
objectives - EN - Main objectives - EN - Main
objectives - EN

Web address of this initiative in the European Commission's register

<http://www.rest.test.url.com>

Website of this initiative (if any):

<http://www.my-campaign-site.eu>

Contact persons

Peter Benton
peter_benton@testmail.com

Dug Ross
dug_ross@testmail.com

Legal entity

Global Peace Foundation Peace Boat
Italy

[Hide more info](#)

Figure 42: Public interface – Call-back URL.

Callback URL

URL to go back to the organisers' website (displayed in the confirmation page)

Figure 43: Customise – Call-back URL.

4.5.7. Validation rules on the data provided by signatories

Your country of nationality
Belgium

Please provide the following data, as required by [Regulation \(EU\) 2019/788 on the European citizens' initiative](#).

Personal identification

Document type *

Numéro de Registre national / Rijksre...

Number

Personal information

Full first names

ewre

Family names

rwe

Enter the characters you see in the picture *

zk38

☒ I hereby certify that the information that I have provided in this form is correct and that I have not already supported this initiative.

☒ I have read the [Privacy statement](#) and the content of this [citizens' initiative](#).

☐ The format of my personal identification (document) number and/or postal code is correct
Please ignore this error and continue

Support

Figure 44: Public interface – Validation rules of the data provided by signatories – Deactivated.

In order to deactivate validation, simply select *DEACTIVATE* option and click on the *SAVE* button in *Customise* page of OCS administration interface as shown in the figure below.

Validation rules on the data provided by signatories

☒ Activate the possibility to bypass the validation rules (Postcode, ID number, etc)

Save Cancel

Figure 45: Customise – Validation rules on the data provided by signatories.

This option can be modified at any time.

NOTE: Enabling this option is not recommended, since it may decrease the quality of the data collected and increase the chance that mistakes have been made by signatories, which may result in the invalidation of their statements of support by the member state authorities.

4.6. Make it social

4.6.1. Social media links

If you have any social media pages, you can enable or disable display of social media links on your public interface. System allows configuring links to:

- Facebook
- Twitter (including default twitter message text that can be customised by the signatory before sharing on Twitter)

as seen in the example below:



Figure 46: Public interface – social media links.

In order to do so, for the given social media, enter the URL and click on the *SAVE* button as shown in the example below. You can see the social network URL's in the congratulation page (in the public interface)

Make it social (optional)

This is optional in order to go into online mode. Customise your system by configuring the different options. Click on the "Save" button at the bottom to validate your changes

Please write down the message that you want to display as a call for action that the user will see on the congratulations page after he has supported your initiative

Language

English (en)

Tell your friends 22fgdsg

Save message

Add social network URLs you have created for this initiative. Links to these pages will be shown in the public interface.

Facebook:

Twitter:

Save URLs

Please write down the message that you want to display as the default message when users select "Twitter it" after having given their support to your initiative.

English (en)

Figure 47: Make it social – Social media.

This option can be modified at any time. You can also specify default Twitter message for given initiative language by selecting given language from the drop down selection field and selecting *SAVE MESSAGE* button

4.7. Initiative dashboard

This page allows you to monitor the collection of statements of support submitted through the public interface of the system. You can view current statistics in OCS administration interface on *Initiative Dashboard* page. The below screen shows number of all currently gathered statements of support.

European Citizens' Initiative

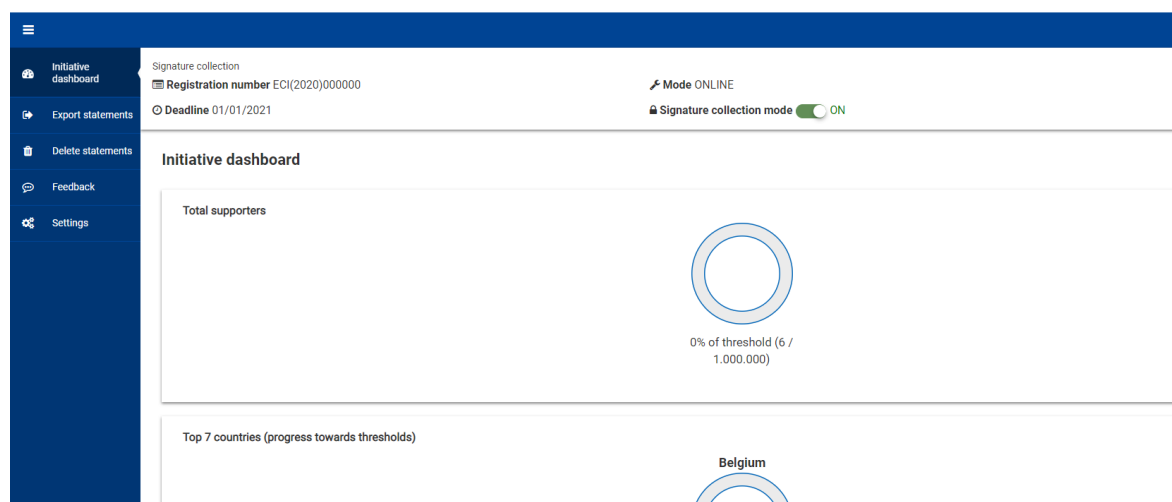


Figure 48: Initiative dashboard - Statements of support.

You can also view top 7 supporting countries (progress towards thresholds).

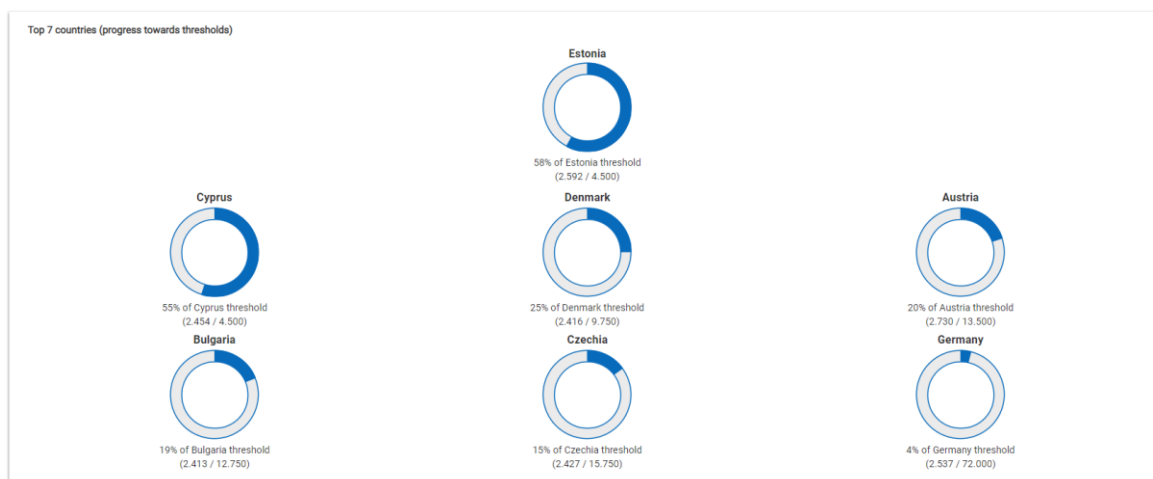


Figure 49: Initiative dashboard - Top 7 countries (progress towards thresholds).

You can also see evolution of signatories in time

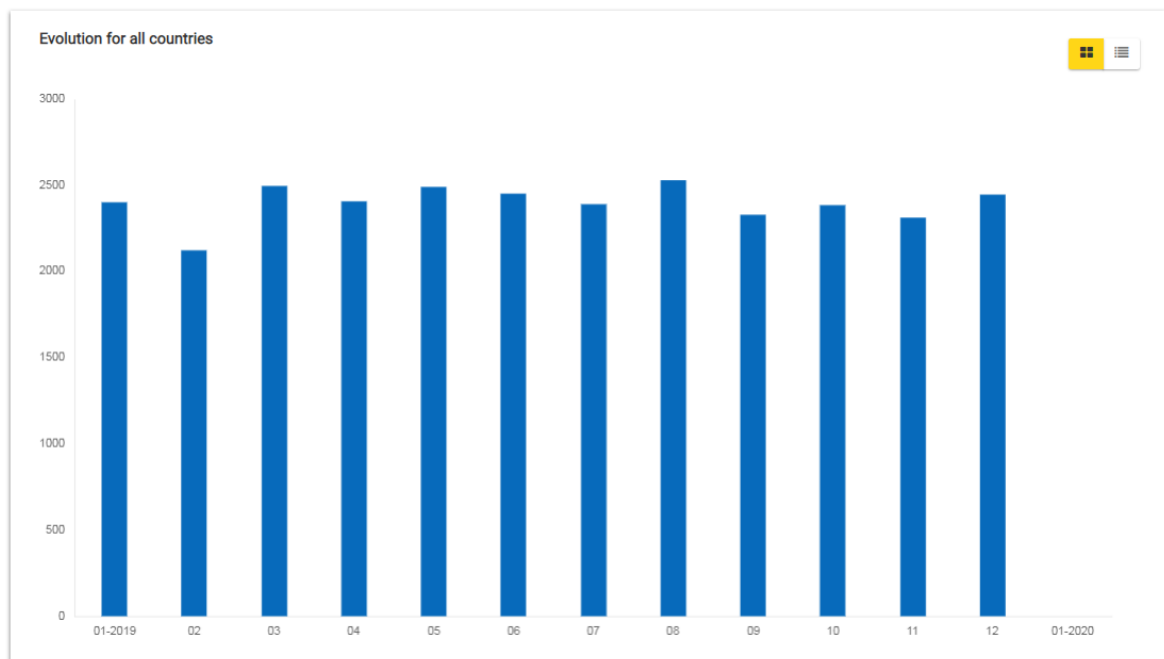


Figure 50: Initiative dashboard - Statements of support evolution.

Or total number of supporters from selected country with most active month information.

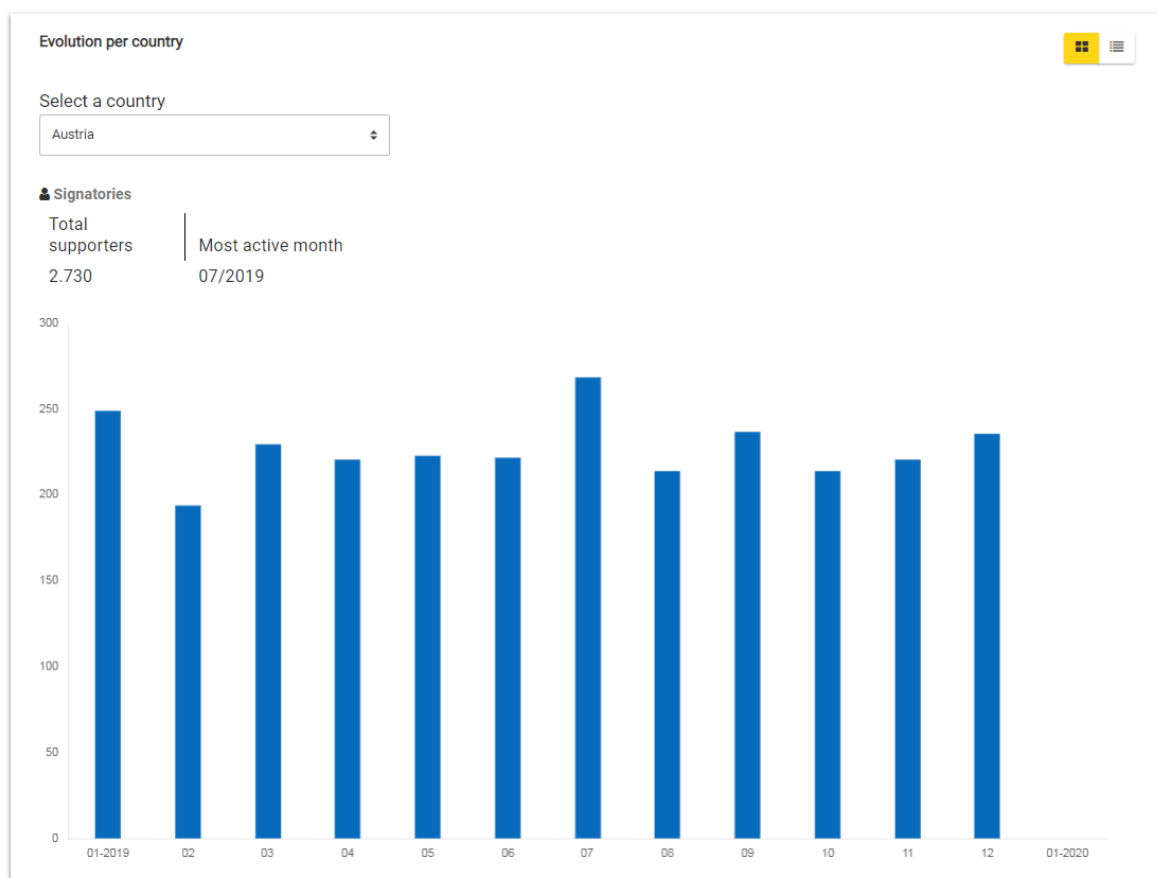


Figure 51: Initiative dashboard - Support for selected country.

4.7.1. Export signatures data

You can export all statements of support collected at any time by selecting *Select all countries* option and clicking **EXPORT** button. You can also export signatures collected in specified period by providing *From* and *To* parameters and clicking **EXPORT** button.

European Citizens' Initiative

Signature collection
Registration number ECI(2020)000000
Deadline 01/01/2021
Mode ONLINE
Signature collection mode ON

Export statements of support

Select period

From: dd/mm/yyyy To: dd/mm/yyyy

[Select entire period of the initiative](#)

Select countries below to export statements of support

Country	Number of statements
<input type="checkbox"/> Austria	0
<input type="checkbox"/> Belgium	0
<input type="checkbox"/> Bulgaria	0
<input type="checkbox"/> Croatia	0
<input type="checkbox"/> Cyprus	0
<input type="checkbox"/> Czechia	0
<input type="checkbox"/> Denmark	0
<input type="checkbox"/> Estonia	0

Export History

Date	Countries	Date range	Duration	Status
28/07/2020	BE CY	28/01/2020 - 28/07/2020	00:00:01	Completed
28/07/2020	AT BE BG HR CY CZ DK EE FI FR DE GR HU IE IT LV LT LU MT NL PL PT RO SK SI ES SE	01/01/2020 - 28/07/2020	00:00:03	Completed

If any export was completed its record is displayed in *Export History* section of the page.

Figure 52: Manage collection – export statements of support.

Once the export is completed, the exported file will be stored at server in Commission Data Centre. The exported files will be automatically classified by country and, for each country, by language version of the initiative selected by the signatory. The folder names are based on the country codes and language codes you will find in **Annexes II and III** respectively.

You should notify EC-ECI-OCS@ec.europa.eu that an export has been made to receive the encrypted DVD with your export content.

4.7.1.1. How to decrypt the exported data

1. Start the Security Tool using the master password entered during the initialisation phase as described in the Installation Guide. Click on *Decrypt Data*



Figure 53: Security tool - data decryption.

The following window will open:

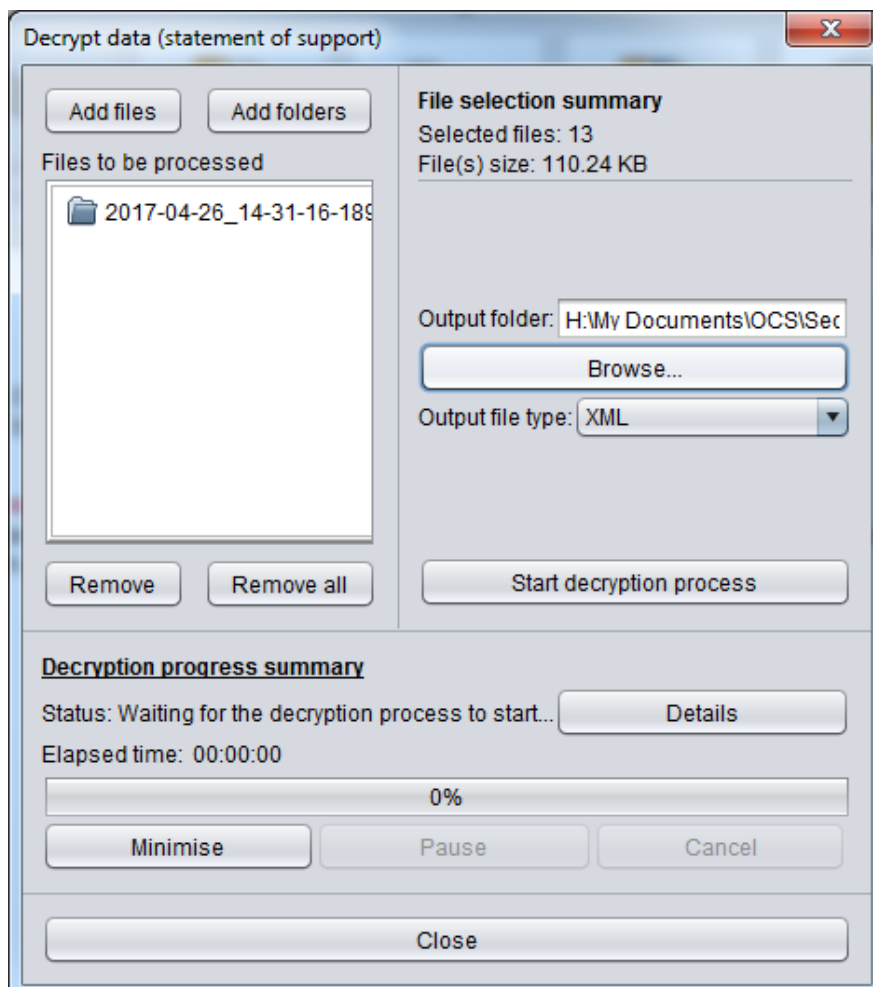


Figure 54: Browsing and selecting folders or files to be decrypted.

2. Add the individual files or folders to be decrypted

On the left side-up you can find the buttons for adding new individual files or folders to be processed (*Add files / Add folders*).

When adding files, multiple files can be selected with XML file type. When adding folders, multiple folders can be selected. When going with the mouse over an item from the list of selected files, the full path to that item is displayed.

For removing files/folders there are two possibilities: *Remove all* – which clears the selection of files and folders and *Remove* which removes selected entries individually. For removing multiple files/folders, hold the Control key pressed and click on the files/folders that need to be removed. Once the selection is made, you can click the *Remove* button or right click the mouse which opens a selection menu from where you can choose *Remove*. Both actions will remove the selected files/folders.

On the right side-up you can find the File selection summary. This part provides you with a summary of all files that will be processed. This is particularly useful when folders are selected. The summary will display the total number of XML files detected on all the folders and sub-folders and files of the selection, together with the total size of those files.

3. Choose the output file.

In order to do so, click on the *Browse* button next to the *Output folder* label and select the folder where you would like to have the decrypted files written.

4. Choose the output file type from one of the two options: XML or PDF

5. Click on *Start decryption process* button in order to proceed with the decryption of the XML files.

After the decryption process has been started, the upper part becomes inaccessible. The *Decryption progress summary* displays the current status of the decrypt process and the elapsed time. Once the decryption process has been started, you can *minimize* the window, *pause* the process, *cancel* the process or see more *details* about it by clicking the appropriate button.

Pause will put the process on a pause state once the file processing is finished. That is why, after *Pause* has been pressed, it can take some time until you see that no more progress is done.

On the other side, if you cancel the decryption process, the process gets interrupted immediately and no more files are written to the output.

In order to see the details about a decryption process, press the *Details* button and the below window opens showing in black the total number of files processed, in green the number of files successfully processed and in red the number of files that failed to be processed.

Decryption files details

Overall progress
 Processed files: 7
 Successful: 6
 Failed: 1

File name	Exec time (seconds)	Success	Additional message
C:\Users\kurpio\Desktop\2015-03-12...	7.41	true	Decrypted data: 5
C:\Users\kurpio\Desktop\2015-03-12...	8.07	true	Decrypted data: 27
C:\Users\kurpio\Desktop\2015-03-12...	1.14	true	Decrypted data: 4
C:\Users\kurpio\Desktop\2015-03-12...	9.05	true	Decrypted data: 20
C:\Users\kurpio\Desktop\2015-03-12...	1.89	true	Decrypted data: 9
C:\Users\kurpio\Desktop\2015-03-12...	14.70	true	Decrypted data: 72
C:\Users\kurpio\Desktop\2015-03-12...	0.05	false	Decryption interrupted!

Buttons: Hide, Move to bottom

Figure 55: Decryption progress and statistics.

For each file processed, a line is added in a table showing the name of the file, the time spent on processing that individual file, the success of the process (true/false) and an additional message as it can be seen on the image above.

4.7.2. Withdraw user signatures

OSC admin interface allows you to select one or more statements of support – using the signature identifier – in order to delete them. To delete a statement of support you need to enter signature identifier and select *REMOVE* button.

On successful deletion system will display information informing about deletion success.

(When a signatory has successfully submitted his/her statement of support via the public interface, he/she is informed of the signature identifier of his/her statement of support. You can also find, in the XML file, the signature identifier corresponding to each statement of support once exported and decrypted.)

Optionally you can delete multiple statements of support by selecting Add new row link and providing more signature identifiers before selecting *REMOVE* button.

4.7.3. Feedbacks

All signatories have an option to provide feedback on their OCS experience. You can view comments gathered in OCS administration interface on *Initiative dashboard* in *Feedbacks* section as seen below.

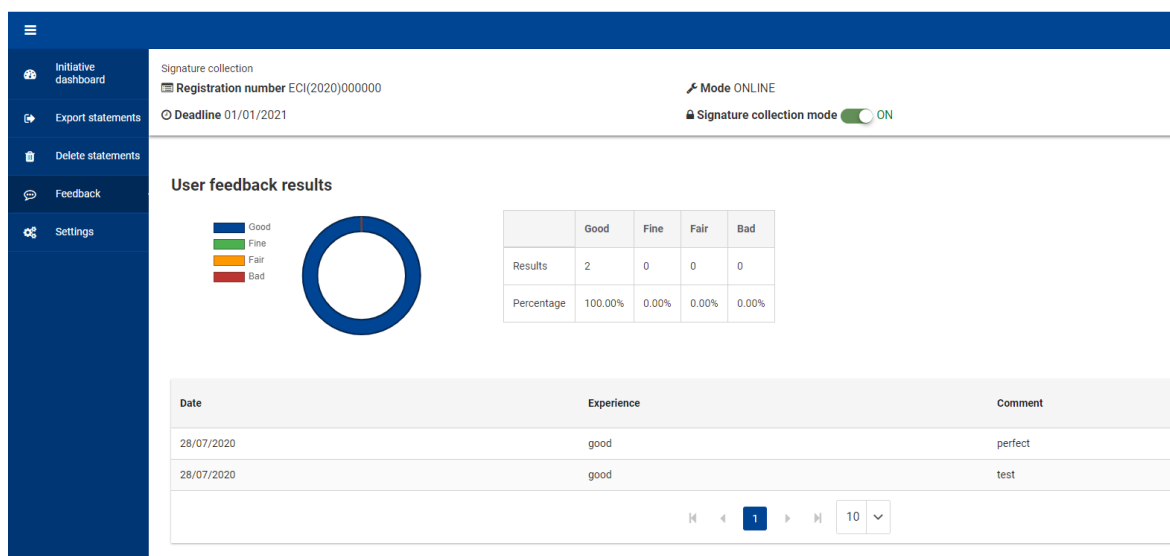


Figure 56: Initiative dashboard – Feedbacks.

ANNEX I

Country codes

Short name, source language(s) (geographical name)	Short name in English (geographical name)	Country code
Belgique/België	Belgium	BE
България	Bulgaria	BG
Česká republika	Czech Republic	CZ
Danmark	Denmark	DK
Deutschland	Germany	DE
Eesti	Estonia	EE
Éire/Ireland	Ireland	IE
Ελλάδα	Greece	EL
España	Spain	ES
France	France	FR
Italia	Italy	IT
Κύπρος	Cyprus	CY
Latvija	Latvia	LV
Lietuva	Lithuania	LT
Luxembourg	Luxembourg	LU
Magyarország	Hungary	HU
Malta	Malta	MT
Nederland	Netherlands	NL
Österreich	Austria	AT
Polska	Poland	PL
Portugal	Portugal	PT
România	Romania	RO
Slovenija	Slovenia	SI
Slovensko	Slovakia	SK
Suomi/Finland	Finland	FI
Sverige	Sweden	SE

ANNEX II

Language codes

Source language title	English title	ISO code
български	Bulgarian	bg
español	Spanish	es
čeština	Czech	cs
dansk	Danish	da
Deutsch	German	de
eesti keel	Estonian	et
ελληνικά	Greek	el
English	English	en
français	French	fr
Gaeilge	Irish	ga
italiano	Italian	it
latviešu valoda	Latvian	lv
lietuvių kalba	Lithuanian	lt
magyar	Hungarian	hu
Malti	Maltese	mt
Nederlands	Dutch	nl
polski	Polish	pl
português	Portuguese	pt
română	Romanian	ro
slovenčina (slovenský jazyk)	Slovak	sk
slovenščina (slovenski jezik)	Slovenian	sl
suomi	Finnish	fi
svenska	Swedish	sv

ANNEX III

Threshold: minimum number of statements of support to be reached in a country

The thresholds applied for this version are the ones applicable from 01/02/2020:

https://europa.eu/citizens-initiative/thresholds_en#Minimum-numbers-of-signatories-for-initiatives-registered-since-01022020

Make sure there has not been a new threshold update:

<https://europa.eu/citizens-initiative/thresholds>