

## Writing an “impact”

### Impact scientific (academic) level

Through the production of systematic datasets to compare and analyse citizenship, the setting-up of a conceptual framework for the comparison of problems, tensions, hindrances and solutions in different states, the development of a model including a categorisation and critical overview of economic, social, civil and political rights and cross-national studies, this project provides an in-depth analysis of the rights of EU citizens and the shortcomings of EU citizenship. Recent and future developments regarding the notion of citizenship, most notably as a result of the coming into force of the Lisbon Treaty, will also be taken into account. These theoretical models are accompanied by case studies, which look at the more specific rights of and barriers to citizens and at specific categories of citizens.

The project provides cross-national scientific knowledge about how to further enhance and expand EU citizenship, thereby building on past and on-going EU-level research. Each year, individual studies will then be assembled and combined into an annual academic conference with all partners. A specific impact is to boost academic research on EU citizenship by focusing on the interplay between rules and practices, which will be presented in academic journals, at seminars and at conferences.

### Impact policymakers

The second level of intended impact is that of policy at a European level and at national levels, including regional and local levels. Our empirical approach to citizenship will improve the knowledge on citizenship practices and the awareness of EU citizens as to their rights, and will lead to policy recommendations in the various domains of citizenship rights. This is crucial for contributing to the question as to how shortcomings in the exercise of citizenship rights can actually be overcome by the policymakers. The historical approach to citizenship aims to provide a long-term perspective on the issues facing modern policymakers in relation to citizenship in the multinational environment of the EU. It will allow us to compare various citizenship regimes and to connect their characteristics to economic performance and overall well-being.

### Impact for citizens

An important, if not crucial, aspect of the project will be to identify ways in which citizens become aware of and can be encouraged to exercise their rights. As concrete policies and practices in the Member States are analysed from a multidimensional perspective, further knowledge will be gained as to which obstacles exist for EU citizens to exercise their rights, how these obstacles can be removed and how citizens can be encouraged to exercise their rights. To this end, old and new social media will be used to maximise the effective communication and impact of ‘bEUCitizen’ and to animate and support publication of knowledge accumulated by the programme. Working papers will be published on the website, stakeholders will be actively involved in the dissemination of the results of our research.

Source: FP7 project „**Barriers towards EU citizenship**“, project proposal available at <http://beucitizen.eu/topic/>.

The project researches barriers that still exist to realise and exercise citizenship rights of EU citizens. The project aims to include all aspects of citizenship: How did it develop historically? How did people gain citizenship rights (and economic rights and in which order)? What about social, economic, political rights? Are there still barriers to these rights and do they sometimes clash? Do gender and generational differences play a role in realising and exercising rights as EU citizens? Are there different rights, different levels of realisation and exercising for minorities? How is this affected by migration?