

# Are you a European citizen resident in a EU country of which you are not national?

You have the right to **vote** and to **stand** as a **candidate** in **municipal** and **European** elections held in that country. The conditions are the same for you as for nationals.

If you want to vote in these elections, you need to ask to be put on the **electoral roll** in that country. If **voting in municipal and European elections is compulsory** in your new country and you are on the electoral roll of that country, you are **obliged to vote**.

In a European election, you can only **vote** and **stand** as a **candidate** in one country. If you opt to vote or to stand as a candidate in the country where you live, you cannot do the same in your home country.

## for more information

■ Visit our website [www.operationvote.eu](http://www.operationvote.eu)

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a project by



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## Enhancing participation of EU citizens in European Parliament and local elections.



With financial support from the Fundamental Rights and Citizenship Programme of the European Union.



## overview

Despite their growing numbers, **inclusion of EU movers in the political life** of their countries of residence is **limited**. This is especially evident during local and EU elections, but **participation** of non-national EU citizens in the activities of political parties, NGOs and trade unions is **quite low** as well.

'Operation vote' is a project which addresses the issue of insufficient political and social participation of EU citizens residing in member States of which they are not nationals. Its added value is to complement the initiatives undertaken by Member States and local authorities aimed at **raising awareness among EU movers about their electoral rights and to increase their political participation** through close cooperation between NGOs working with EU migrants and their organizations.

**from November 2012  
to October 2014**

**in Italy, Austria,  
Portugal, Spain,  
Sweden**

## activities

- A research in each partner country to map and analyse the political participation of resident EU movers
- A European study on the situation of participation in the partner countries, containing recommendations addressed to the Member states which indicates the most effective actions to be implemented in order to raise EU movers' involvement and improve their political participation in both EP and municipal elections
- Meetings with organisations of EU movers aimed at spreading information among them and their members and identifying the best ways to reach resident EU movers
- Meetings with local authorities and consular authorities of countries of origin aimed at exploring ways in which they can contribute as multipliers in the campaign
- Production of a video on the topic, to be used as a tool of the European campaign
- National campaigns aimed at informing EU citizens about their political rights and the requirements for registration to participate
- Creation of a website of the project
- A final European conference that will analyse the first results of the campaigns and disseminate the results of the entire project

## objectives

The overall **objective** of the project is **to improve and stimulate through campaigning the participation of EU citizens in the political and public life of the countries where they reside and of which they are not nationals**. Specific objectives are to understand better whether and to what extent EU movers are involved in the political life of their countries of residence, **to raise awareness among them of their electoral rights** in EP elections and local elections, **to increase their participation in the political life**, to promote interaction and cooperation between EU citizens' organizations, NGOs and local authorities in order to maximise the impact of the actions undertaken.

## beneficiaries

Beneficiaries will be **EU citizens living in partner countries of which they are not nationals** and who have electoral rights and their associations. Other beneficiaries will be public authorities at both local and national levels and other stakeholders that have an interest in higher levels of political participation by EU movers.

