



# Helping the helpers: new trends on civic education

**PRACTICING  
POLITICAL PARTICIPATION AND  
ATTENTION**

# Simulation of Popular Initiative

- ▶ To do with youngsters the same that citizens has to do in order to **create new laws**.
  - ▶ Reproduce all the **same stages/steps**
- ▶ It can be related to situations at **schools/NGOs** or to policies focused on problems of the communities.
- ▶ It can be the replication at “petit committe” of **national or European popular initiatives**
- ▶ **It can be done with different partners in different countries**

# Simulation of Popular Initiative



- ▶ The European Citizens' Initiative (ECI): is a European Union mechanism aimed at increasing **direct democracy** by enabling the "EU citizens to participate directly in the development of EU policies", introduced with the Treaty of Lisbon in 2007.
- ▶ The initiative enables **one million citizens** of the European Union, who are nationals of at least **seven countries** of the member states, to call directly on the European Commission to propose a legal act in an area where the Member States have **conferred powers onto the EU level**. This right to request the Commission to initiate a legislative proposal puts citizens on the **same footing as the EP and the Council**, who enjoy this right according to Art. 225 and 241 TFEU, respectively.

# Simulation of Popular Initiative

- ▶ **A minimum number of signatories is required in each of those 7 member states.** The rules and procedures governing the citizens' initiative are set out in an EU Regulation adopted by the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union in February 2011.
- ▶ European Popular Initiative:
  - ▶ [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9XbbuKzXC5U&index=97&list=PLWzz1Z8eJpf5OixBaCYis-rJ1qVPuj\\_Wt](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9XbbuKzXC5U&index=97&list=PLWzz1Z8eJpf5OixBaCYis-rJ1qVPuj_Wt)



An opportunity to detect  
the democratic  
character of the  
European Union

# Simulation of Political Initiative

- ▶ Spain also has a national and regional system.

# Simulation of Participatory Budgeting



- ▶ To let youngsters decide what to do with **some amount of money** (in the school, in the office, in the club, in the NGO).
- ▶ It was born in **Porto Alegre (Brazil)** and it is used in cities such as Chicago, Madrid or Lisbon.
- ▶ It promotes the **political participation of youngsters in other spheres** and the political attention to **political news related to the use of money**

# Simulation of Participatory Budgeting

- ▶ **Advantage I:** youngsters realised that, in politics, it is not easy to generate ideas accepted by everyone.
- ▶ **Advantage II:** they can understand that the **use of money for public purposes** (many voices) is completely different to the use of money for private purposes (one or few voices)

# Simulation of Participatory Budgeting

▶ Situation in Chicago to obtain inspiration:

▶ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dLrPJghHlZg>