



RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF EUROPEAN CITIZENS



INTRODUCTION

Citizenship of the Union was established by the Treaty of Maastricht in 1992 and the Treaty of Amsterdam in 1997. Citizenship establishes a link between the citizens and the EU and promotes the identification of EU citizens and the development of a European public opinion and European identity.

Citizenship is based on two criteria:

- European citizenship is reserved for people who belong to one of the Member States of the EU.
- Residents of non-EU origin (from a country that is not a member of the EU), even if they are settled in the EU, cannot enjoy European citizenship.

WHAT ARE THE RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF EUROPEAN CITIZENS?

- European citizens have the right to move and reside, work and study in any member State of the EU.
- They also have civil and political rights.
- They have the right to vote and the right to be elected in municipal elections and in elections to the European Parliament in the Member State where they reside.
- Students, professionals and workers can study or practice in the EU country of their choice.

SOCIAL RIGHTS

The citizens of the EU have civil, political, economic and social fundamental rights. The main fundamental rights are prohibition of slavery and forced labour, freedom of thought, conscience and religion, the right to education, the freedom to choose a job and the right to work, equality before the law, non-discrimination, cultural, religious and linguistic diversity, equality between men and women, workers' right to information, fair work conditions and the right to social security and social assistance.

THE CHARTER OF FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

The Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union was proclaimed at the Nice European Council on 7 December 2000.

The Charter contains 54 articles that define the fundamental rights of people within the EU.

The rights are divided into six values: dignity, freedom, equality, solidarity, citizenship and justice.

1.DIGNITY

Human dignity must be respected and protected. Everyone has the right to life and the right to respect for his or her physical and mental integrity. Slavery is prohibited.

2.FREEDOMS

Everyone has the right to liberty and security of person and the right to freedom of thought, conscience, religion, expression, peaceful assembly, association in political, trade union and civic matters, education and training and the freedom to work or run a company in any Member State.

3.EQUALITY

Everyone is equal before the law.

Any discrimination based on sex, race, colour, ethnic or social origin, genetic features, language, religion or belief, political or any other opinion, membership of a national minority, property, birth, disability, age or sexual orientation is prohibited. Equality between men and women must be ensured in all areas, including employment, work and pay.

Any discrimination, based on religion or beliefs, disability, age or sexual orientation, in employment and in training and discrimination on racial or ethnic origin, in employment and in other fields such as education, social security and social benefits – including in housing and healthcare – and access to goods and services are prohibited.

4.SOLIDARITY

Children have the right to protection and care and the right to maintain a personal relationship and direct contact with both parents. The employment of children is prohibited.

Every worker has the right to protection against unjustified dismissal and working conditions which respect his or her health, safety and dignity and the right to limitation of maximum working hours daily and weekly, rest periods and an annual period of paid leave.

Everyone has the right to protection from dismissal for a reason connected with maternity and the right to paid maternity leave and to parental leave following the birth or adoption of a child.

Everyone residing and moving legally within the European Union is entitled to social security benefits and social services providing protection in cases such as maternity, illness, industrial accidents, dependency or old age and the right of access to health care and benefit from medical treatment.

5.CITIZENS' RIGHTS

Every citizen of the Union has the right to vote and to stand as a candidate at elections to the European Parliament in the Member State in which he or she resides.

Every citizen of the Union can vote and stand as a candidate at municipal elections in the Member State in which he or she resides and have access to European Parliament, Council and Commission documents.

Every citizen of the Union has the right to move and reside freely within the territory of the Member States.

6.JUSTICE

Everyone whose rights and freedoms guaranteed by the law of the EU are violated has the right to an effective remedy before a court. Respect for the rights of the defence of anyone who has been charged is guaranteed .

OTHER RIGHTS

In addition to fundamental rights the citizens of the EU have many other rights.

Traders have the right to consider the entire European Union as a potential market and therefore to purchase in any of the Member States and sell anywhere in the Union without any import duties or quantitative restrictions.

Workers have the right to seek employment anywhere they wish in the EU, set up home with their family in the country where they are working and remain there even after they have lost job. They have the right to the same social benefits as the citizens of the Member State in which they reside.

Industrialists have the right to set up branches anywhere in the EU.

Members of the professions such as lawyers, architects and doctors have the right to work in any Member State.

The citizens have the right to purchase goods in any country of the Union at the conditions of that country and to take them to their country of origin without paying customs duties or any tax supplements. They have the right to use any banking, insurance, telecommunications and audiovisual service offered in the large European market. They also have the right to be treated by the administrative or judicial authorities in any country of the Union in the same way as the citizens of that country.

EU citizens can cross borders inside the EU countries without a passport or VISA. In the EU tourism or business travel is made easier by European laws and the use of a single currency facilitates travellers inside the Euro Zone countries.

Travellers can buy goods without any limits in the Member State visited and bring them home without paying extra duties. They can use the euro to buy anything in most EU countries and they can deposit money in a bank in any member country .Banks can establish branches anywhere in the EU.

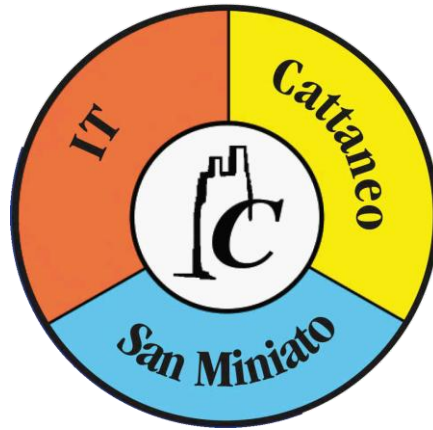
PROMOTING AN ACTIVE EUROPEAN CITIZENSHIP

The promotion of **active European citizenship** is an important means of strengthening the fight against racism, xenophobia and intolerance ,fostering cohesion and development of democracy. It is important in order to

- enable citizens to develop a feeling of European identity,
- improve mutual understanding among the citizens of Europe,
- encourage citizens to become actively involved in the process of European integration and
- bring the European Union closer to citizens.

“A Responsible European Citizenship” is an integrated concept of citizenship, which is tolerant and respectful of different cultures and traditions and open to dialogue, has attention for environmental matters, is concerned and aware of the events which occur domestically and abroad, in search of peace and social cohesion development and well-being, taking care and acting in favour of the disadvantaged, not forgetting the importance of the family in the education of basic values such as liberty, democracy, solidarity, respect for human rights, for fundamental freedoms and for the role of law.





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5 A RELAZIONI INTERNAZIONALI PER IL MARKETING

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