

The Institute for European Integration Research  
kindly invites you to an

## **EIF Lunchtime Seminar**

*The European Citizens' Initiative:*

*The case of 'right2water'*

*Input Statement by **Jakob Luger***

AND

*The reintroduction of border controls:*

*Schengen as a sacrifice for 'national security'?*

*Input Statement by **Stefanie Rieder***

---

***Tuesday, 16 June 2015, 12h30***

Sandwiches and drinks will be offered if you register beforehand at:  
[eif@univie.ac.at](mailto:eif@univie.ac.at)

## **Abstract: The European Citizens' Initiative: The case of 'right2water'**

This master's thesis analyses the participatory potential of the European Citizens' Initiative (ECI) in comparison to other channels of political participation of citizens at European level. For this purpose the theoretical concept of "Opportunity Structures for Citizens' Participation" (OSCP) by Michael Nentwich is used. This concept allows the comparative characterization of all means that enable citizens to participate in EU-politics. Based on this theoretical analysis the thesis reveals the current state of the "political opportunity structure" (POS) within the EU and it shows in how far the European Citizens' Initiative changes the POS. Basically, using the ECI citizens can set the formal agenda at EU-level and on different levels they can intervene in the EU-policy-process. However, the POS of the EU stays strongly exclusive. Given the high financial and logistic efforts it takes to organize a European Citizens' Initiative, it seems rather likely that civil society organizations will take over the initiation and implementation of an ECI.

In the second part of this thesis the case study of "right2water" makes clear that the core objectives of an ECI are hard to be implemented. However, some political impact can be seen at European as well as at national level. Among further initiatives the European Commission has undertaken a public consultation concerning the "Drinking Water Directive". Another example is the referendum in the Greek city of Thessaloniki, where the population voted against the privatization of the public water service company. This referendum was mainly organized by trade unionists of the "right2water" coalition and implemented against the will of the Greek government and the Troika. "right2water" clearly shows the importance of civil society organizations – like trade unions or NGOs – to support an ECI as they often have the resources to organize a successful campaign.

## **Abstract: The reintroduction of border controls: Schengen as a sacrifice for 'national security'?**

The purpose of this work is to investigate, whether the legal conditions for reintroducing internal border controls within the safety clause have been restricted or extended through the Schengen-Reform by the end of 2013. This paper therefore not only examined the development of the safety clause, but also compared the reform demands of the involved players with the achieved end results by illustrating two case studies on the reintroduction of border controls. The result showed that on the one hand legal possibilities to reintroduce internal border controls have been extended by adding a new safety clause; but on the other hand have been restricted by procedural requirements – which in total may not be qualified as a spill-back in the European integration process.