citigen*z

DEMOCRACY

Why does democracy in the EU matter?

What does Democracy in the EU mean?

Democracy is a **fundamental value** of the EU. It applies to the countries who are members of the EU and to the European citizens.

EU countries **have to be representative democracies** to be in the club with free and fair elections.
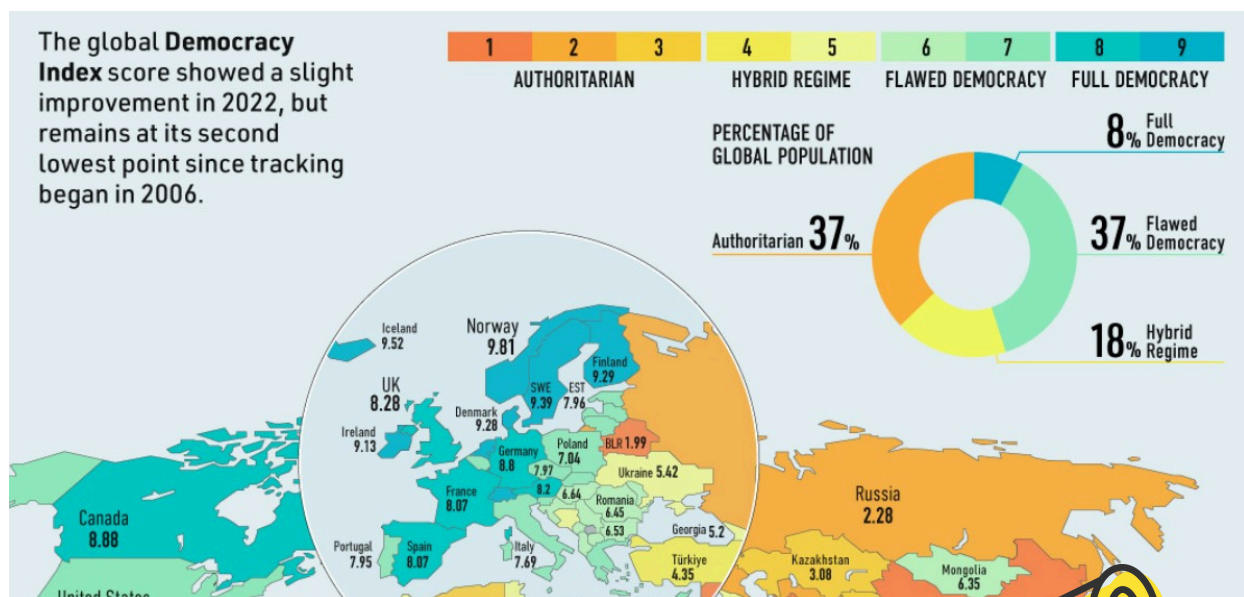
Being a European citizen gives **political rights and obligations.**

Democracy gives political and social rights

- All EU citizens have the **right to stand** in elections to the European Parliament
- All EU citizens have the **right to vote** in the European elections in their country of residence in the EU.
- **Petition the European Parliament**
- Launch a **European Citizen Initiative**
- **Non-discrimination** according to nationality
- **Move and reside freely** across the EU

State of democracy around the world in 2023

The global **Democracy Index** score showed a slight improvement in 2022, but remains at its second lowest point since tracking began in 2006.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
AUTHORITARIAN			HYBRID REGIME		FLAWED DEMOCRACY		FULL DEMOCRACY	

PERCENTAGE OF GLOBAL POPULATION

- **8%** Full Democracy
- **37%** Flawed Democracy
- **18%** Hybrid Regime
- Authoritarian **37%**

Iceland 9.52 · Norway 9.81 · Finland 9.29 · UK 8.28 · SWE 9.39 · EST 7.96 · Denmark 9.28 · Ireland 9.13 · Germany 8.8 · Poland 7.04 · BLR 1.99 · Ukraine 5.42 · 7.97 · 8.2 · France 8.07 · 6.64 · Romania 6.45 · 6.53 · Russia 2.28 · Canada 8.88 · Portugal 7.95 · Spain 8.07 · Italy 7.69 · Georgia 5.2 · Türkiye 4.35 · Kazakhstan 3.08 · Mongolia 6.35 · United States

Democratic backsliding in the EU

Several EU countries have engaged in democratic backsliding for years. It involves a **state-led elimination of the political institutions sustaining an** existing democracy.

It depends on the national government in power. Over the last decade, Hungary, Poland, Croatia, Czech Republic, Greece have all been criticised for undermining democratic values

The European Union is often criticized for its **democratic deficit**.
EU citizens discussed how to address it during the 2022 **Conference on the Future of Europe.**

Sources: https://www.visualcapitalist.com/state-of-democracy-around-the-world-2023/ and Winzen, T. How backsliding governments keep the European Union hospitable for autocracy: Evidence from intergovernmental negotiations. Rev Int Organ (2023). https://doi.org/10.1007/s11558-023-09518-z