

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET – Interview Participants

You are being invited to take part in a research study. This kind of study is necessary to gain new, reliable scientific knowledge. **Your participation is completely voluntary.** Before you decide whether or not to take part, it is important that you understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully and discuss it with others if you wish. Please ask if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information. **You will be given a copy of this information sheet.**

STUDY TITLE:

Citizenship as Restitution – European passports as redress for past injustice and opportunity for future migration (CITREST)

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE STUDY?

Funded by the Spanish Ministry of Science, an international team of researchers led by Dr. Reinhard Schweitzer (Universitat Abat Oliba CEU, Barcelona) investigate the use that several EU member states are making of their citizenship as a form of restitution. Millions of people around the world are thereby given access to a second citizenship and a European passport. These can serve not only as redress for past injustice, but also insurance against present uncertainty, and opportunity for future migration. The *CITREST* project (2024-2027) specifically compares the cases of Austria and Spain, where recent legislation provides the descendants of the many people who had fled persecution under previous authoritarian regimes with privileged access to Austrian or Spanish citizenship. From a comparative perspective, the project will analyse how and why these two reforms have come about; how the new rules are being implemented in practice; and what motivates applicants from different parts of the world to use the resulting opportunities. To answer these questions the project team not only analyses the legal frameworks and official discourses but also draws on in-depth interviews (with policymakers, implementing and intermediary actors, and potential beneficiaries), and an online survey (among applicants for Austrian and Spanish citizenship). All of this is necessary for the project to contribute to a better understanding of, and more informed public and political debates about, the role of ancestral citizenship in and for contemporary Europe.

WHY HAVE I BEEN INVITED TO PARTICIPATE?

You have been selected based on your affiliation with a relevant organisation or institution, and/or your particular expertise, personal experience or specific knowledge in relation to the conferral or acquisition of citizenship on the basis of ancestral ties and/or historic injustice.

DO I HAVE TO TAKE PART?

No. It is completely up to you to decide whether or not to take part. If you do decide to take part you will be given this information sheet to keep and be asked to sign a consent form. If you decide to take part you are still free to withdraw at any time or refuse to answer certain questions, without giving a reason. There will be no negative consequences for you if you refuse to participate or withdraw from this study at any stage.

WHAT DOES MY PARTICIPATION IN THIS STUDY CONSIST OF?

If you agree to take part, we will arrange a location and time for an individual interview, either in-person or online. During this interview you will be asked about your experience or perception of ancestral citizenship policies and the way they are presented, implemented, and used in practice. You will certainly not incur any costs from participating in this study. Interviews will last approximately one hour, and – if you agree – will be audio recorded in order to save time and support subsequent analysis.

WHAT ARE THE POSSIBLE DISADVANTAGES AND RISKS OF TAKING PART?

No risks or disadvantages are anticipated by your taking part in the interview. Should any of the questions make you feel too uncomfortable or cause distress, you are free to leave it unanswered.

WHAT ARE THE POSSIBLE BENEFITS OF TAKING PART?

Whilst there are no immediate benefits for those people participating in the study, it is hoped that the study as a whole will contribute to a better and more nuanced understanding of ancestral citizenship policies and their implementation, as well as the opportunities they provide for individual beneficiaries and their families. Beyond academia, the results might be relevant to policy makers, practitioners working in this field, as well as civil society organisations.

HOW WILL THE DATA COLLECTED IN THIS STUDY BE USED?

All data will be handled and stored in accordance with the rules on data protection laid out by national legislation as well as the European Charter of Fundamental Rights. The audio recording of the interview will be used only for analysis within the framework of this specific project. No other use will be made of it without your written permission, and no one outside the project will be allowed access to the original recording. The recording will be stored safely and will be destroyed upon completion of the project. Once the interview has been transcribed (i.e., put into writing), you will receive a copy of the transcript and be asked to check and approve its content. At any time, you can also request and will be given insight into the anonymised and/or aggregated empirical data. You also have the chance to request the deletion of the data you provided, up until the moment they become part of a publication or other research output. You can do so by clearly expressing this wish, whether by phone, via email, or in person (see contact details below).

Only the staff working in this project will have access to the raw data, and they are strictly obliged to maintain secrecy. No personal data of participants will be kept beyond the end of the project. However, the research team is committed to help improve and maximise access to, and potential re-use of, empirical research data. This means that if you agree, the fully anonymised interview transcript can be made available to other researchers conducting similar studies in the future. On the consent form that you will be asked to sign you will also be able to indicate whether or not you agree to your data being made available in this way.

If you are interested in obtaining a copy of any publication or other research output that results from this study, you can visit the project website or contact the principal investigator.

CONTACTS FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Principal Investigator: **Dr. Reinhard Schweitzer**, Department of Law and Political Science, Universitat Abat Oliba CEU, Bellesguard 30 · 08022 Barcelona; email: rschweitzer@uao.es, phone: +34 93 254 09 00.

Project Website: <https://citrest.es>.

If you have any question or doubt regarding the processing or protection of your personal data, please contact the **Data Protection Officer (DPO):** dpd@ceu.es

THANK YOU FOR TAKING THE TIME TO READ THIS INFORMATION SHEET.
Your help makes our research possible!