

Votta, Mariano

Active Citizenship Network



Mariano Votta, EU Senior Public Affairs professional and journalist, is the Director of Active Citizenship Network (ACN), the international branch of the Italian NGO Cittadinanzattiva, where he is responsible for European Affairs.

Passionate about healthcare and consumer issues, he has 20 years of experience in the field of advocacy, stakeholder engagement, European projects, communication and civic information. Currently, Mariano is in charge of Public Affairs and Project Management at the EU level, but he began his career working in journalism as Communication Officer at Cittadinanzattiva. As Communication Officer, he was appointed for the first time to work at the international level by the United Nation Development Programme, which led him to work as consultant in Public Services and Communication in Colombia from 2010 to 2012, opening a citizen advisory center for the consumer protection in the city of Pasto, training citizen and writing the book “Gestión de un Centro Ciudadano de Asesoría en Servicios Públicos Domiciliarios y Salud”. In 2013, Mariano moved on to take up his current position within ACN. Since then, he has been very active, especially as ACN stepped up its advocacy activities at the European Institutions, which led in 2015 to the opening of a representative office in Brussels and, more important, to the launch of the MEP Interest Group “European Patients' Rights & Cross-Border Healthcare”, promoted with the support of almost 100 organizations across Europe, and to date active along its second term mandate (2019-2024). Furthermore, in 2016, Mariano won the Efhre International University Excellence Awards on patients' rights. Mariano Votta officially represents Cittadinanzattiva/Active Citizenship Network abroad with the European Commission DG Health, DG JUST & Consumers, DG Move, DG Migration and Home Affairs, DG Employment, social affairs & inclusion, in the framework of the European Joint Action on Vaccination (EU-JAV), European Joint Action on Antimicrobial Resistance and HealthCare-Associated Infections (EU-JAMRAI) and with all the other stakeholders. He is in the Board/Executive Committee of Cittadinanzattiva (since 2013), Pain Alliance Europe (since 2014), Societal Impact of Pain (since 2016), Health First Europe (since 2017), European Movement in Italy (since 2018), Honorary Member of the European Association of Educational and Preventive Health in Epigenetics

(since 2020). Since 2018 he is also Editorial Board Member of the international peer reviewed journal *Advances in Health and Behavior* (ISSN:2630-466X) and *Innovation News Network* (since 2021). For the Italian magazine "L'Ambiente", since many years he writes his fixed column "Attivi per l'ambiente", and in Italy he published the book "Occhio alle bollette" to increase the consumer protection on bills. In 2016 he was appointed by the European Commission to represent Italian Consumer Associations in the European Consumer Consultative Group, and in 2017 he was appointed as Secretary General at the European Consumer Union-ECU. Since years he is invited to the Citizen Energy Forum and all the relevant initiatives focused on consumer issues. He is also the promoter of the political initiative that aims to create the informal Inter-Institutional Group "SDGs for well-being and consumers' protection" at the EU Parliament since 2021. The Inter-Institutional Group represents the desire of the civil society to contribute to the SDGs and the Green New Deal, aiming to discuss and raise awareness on how the individual can give her/his contribution, putting citizen & consumer empowerment as the pillar of the transition towards a more inclusive and sustainable Europe.

Before joining *Cittadinanzattiva-ACN* in 2001, he worked in the credit sector for a multinational corporation. Moreover, he has volunteered in the post-communist Albania, and he has been a Boy Scout for more than ten years, becoming assistant leader of the youngest groups (7-12 years old). Mariano Votta holds a graduate degree in Political Science and two post-graduate degrees in European Public Relations and Corporate Social Responsibility.

He is a native speaker of the Italian language and is fluent in English and Spanish.