



Brussels, 19.4.2021  
C(2021) 2583 final

**COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION**

**of 19.4.2021**

**on the financing of the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme and the  
adoption of the multiannual work programme for 2021-2022**

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### on the financing of the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme and the adoption of the multiannual work programme for 2021-2022

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 July 2018 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union, amending Regulations (EU) No 1296/2013, (EU) No 1301/2013, (EU) No 1303/2013, (EU) No 1304/2013, (EU) No 1309/2013, (EU) No 1316/2013, (EU) No 223/2014, (EU) No 283/2014, and Decision No 541/2014/EU and repealing Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012<sup>1</sup>, and in particular Article 110 thereof,

Having regard to [Regulation (EU) of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1381/2013 and Regulation (EU) No 390/2014]<sup>2</sup>, and in particular Article 13 thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) In order to ensure the implementation of the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme, it is necessary to adopt a multiannual financing decision, which constitutes the multiannual work programme, for 2021-2022. Article 110 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 ('the Financial Regulation') establishes detailed rules on financing decisions.
- (2) The multiannual financing decision should be adopted before the adoption of the basic act in order to guarantee a timely implementation of the programme, whereby (potential) beneficiaries will receive support for actions within its scope.
- (3) It is appropriate to authorise the award of grants without a call for proposals and to provide for the conditions for awarding those grants.
- (4) It is necessary to allow for the payment of interest due for late payment on the basis of Article 116(5) of the Financial Regulation.
- (5) In order to allow for flexibility in the implementation of the work programme, it is appropriate to allow changes which should not be considered substantial for the purposes of Article 110(5) of the Financial Regulation.
- (6) In accordance with Articles 7(10) and 24 of [Regulation (EU) of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme] and point (a) of the second subparagraph of Article 193(2) of the Financial Regulation and by derogation from Article 193(4) of the Financial Regulation, where duly justified, activities and costs regarding grants financed under this Decision may be eligible from the beginning of the 2021 financial year, even if implemented and incurred before the grant application was submitted.

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 193, 30.7.2018, p.1.

<sup>2</sup> OJ L [...], [date], p. [...].

- (7) The measures provided for in this Decision are in accordance with the opinion of the Committees established by Article 10 of Regulation (EU) No 1381/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council and Article 9 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 390/2014 of the Council.
- (8) The work programme was submitted to those committees for informal consultation.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

*Article 1*  
*The work programme*

The multiannual financing decision, constituting the multiannual work programme for the implementation of the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme for the years 2021-2022, as set out in the Annex, is adopted.

*Article 2*  
*Union contribution*

The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the programme for the years 2021-2022 is set at EUR 91 169 287<sup>3</sup> for 2021 and EUR 200 901 193 for 2022, and shall be financed from the appropriations entered in the following lines of the general budget of the Union:

- (a) budget line 07 06 01: EUR 27 324 300<sup>3</sup> for 2021 and EUR 39 860 945 for 2022;
- (b) budget line 07 06 02: EUR 13 977 154<sup>3</sup> for 2021 and EUR 39 671 295 for 2022;
- (c) budget line 07 06 03: EUR 19 189 700<sup>3</sup> for 2021 and EUR 29 581 401 for 2022;
- (d) budget line 07 06 04: EUR 30 678 133<sup>3</sup> for 2021 and EUR 91 787 552 for 2022.

The appropriations provided for in the first paragraph may also cover interest due for late payment.

The implementation of this Decision is subject to:

- (a) the final adoption of [Regulation (EU) European Parliament and of the Council establishing the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme] by the legislative authority and its entry into force without significant modifications;
- (b) a positive opinion by the programme committee established by [Regulation (EU) European Parliament and of the Council establishing the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme];
- (c) the availability of the appropriations provided for in the draft general budget of the Union for 2022, following the adoption of that budget by the budget authority or as provided for in the system of provisional twelfths.
- (d) the approval of transfers between lines for 2021 by the budgetary authority.

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<sup>3</sup> This is a slightly different total budget and repartition compared to the voted budget for 2021 (equal to EUR 92 592 152, a higher amount of EUR 1 422 865) which will be corrected via a transfer between lines in 2021. This is due to the increase in support expenditures (translating into a decrease of - EUR 2 782 865 for operational lines) and the increase of funding available from the inclusion of pilot projects and preparatory actions (+ EUR 1 360 000).

*Article 3*  
*Flexibility clause*

Cumulated changes to the allocations to specific actions not exceeding 20% of the maximum Union contribution set in the first paragraph of Article 2 of this Decision shall not be considered to be substantial for the purposes of Article 110(5) of the Financial Regulation, where those changes do not significantly affect the nature of the actions and the objective of the work programme. The increase of the maximum Union contribution set in the first paragraph of Article 2 of this Decision shall not exceed 20%.

The authorising officer responsible may apply the changes referred to in the first paragraph. Those changes shall be applied in accordance with the principles of sound financial management and proportionality.

*Article 4*  
*Grants*

Grants may be awarded without a call for proposals to the body selected in accordance with points 3.14 and 3.15 of the Annex.

Done at Brussels, 19.4.2021

*For the Commission*  
*Didier REYNDEERS*  
*Member of the Commission*



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ANNEX

**ANNEX**

**to the**

**Commission Implementing Decision**

**on the financing of the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values programme and the  
adoption of the multiannual work programme for 2021-2022**

## ANNEX

### **Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values multiannual work programme for 2021-2022**

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

### **Citizens,**

*“I want Europe to strive for more in nurturing, protecting and strengthening our democracy. I want Europeans to build the future of our Union. They should play a leading and active part in setting our priorities and our level of ambition.”*

### **Equality,**

*“A prosperous and social Europe depends on us all. We need equality for all and equality in all of its senses.”*

### **Rights**

*“We must give women and men equal legal rights across all life decisions.”*

### **& Values**

*“We must defend our common values and uphold the rule of law. And we must give ourselves the resources we need to achieve our ambitions, notably through our next long-term budget.”*

- President Ursula von der Leyen

Political Guidelines

Article 2 of the Treaty on the European Union states that ‘the Union is founded on the values of respect for human dignity, freedom democracy, equality, the rule of law and the respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities. These values are common to the Member States in a society where pluralism, non-discrimination, tolerance, justice, solidarity and equality between women and men prevail’.

These rights and values must continue to be actively developed, protected, promoted, enforced and shared among people in the EU and be at the heart of the EU project; deterioration in their enjoyment and protection in any one Member State will be harmful to the EU as a whole.

The Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values programme<sup>1</sup> provides funding for citizens’ engagement, promoting equality for all and implementing EU rights and values. As highlighted by President Ursula von der Leyen in her political guidelines, these will be key policy priorities of the Commission's work in upcoming years.

At a time when European societies are confronted with extremism, radicalism and divisions and a shrinking space for independent civil society, it is more important than ever to promote, strengthen and defend justice, rights and EU values: human rights, respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality and non-discrimination, and the rule of law. This will have profound and direct implications for political, social, cultural and economic life in the EU.

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<sup>1</sup> [Regulation (EU) of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values programme]

The Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values programme ('the programme') brings together the former Rights, Equality and Citizenship<sup>2</sup> and Europe for Citizens programmes<sup>3</sup>.

Its general objective is to protect and promote the rights and values enshrined in the Treaties, the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union and in the applicable international human rights conventions. The programme does this in particular by supporting civil society organisations and other stakeholders active at local, regional, national and transnational level, and by encouraging civic and democratic participation, in order to sustain and further develop open, rights-based, democratic, equal and inclusive societies based on the rule of law. It pays particular attention to encouraging the participation of regional and local civil society organisations.

In particular, the programme supports the following specific objectives, which correspond to its strands of activity:

- to protect and promote Union values (Union values strand);
- to promote rights, non-discrimination and equality, including gender equality, and to advance gender mainstreaming and the mainstreaming of non-discrimination (equality, rights and gender equality strand);
- to promote citizens' engagement and participation in the democratic life of the Union and exchanges between citizens of different Member States, and to raise awareness of their common European history (citizens' engagement and participation strand);
- to prevent and combat gender-based violence and violence against children (Daphne strand).

In accordance with the Financial Regulation, the programme provides for the possibility to set up multiannual work programmes and financing decisions. Multiannual work programmes make it possible to define the political objectives of a programme with a longer-term perspective and to give more transparency to (potential) beneficiaries as regards the programme's priorities. Potential beneficiaries thus have more time to develop their actions and to build partnerships. A two-year approach also improves stability, while still allowing for the necessary flexibility, periodic changes and the introduction of new ideas, taking into account emerging policy priorities.

The work programme for 2021-2022 presents how funding will support the implementation of the Commission's many initiatives on the ground, translating policies into action. It provides financial assistance for training activities, workshops, conferences, mutual learning and cooperation, capacity building, town twinning, media campaigns, awareness raising and dissemination activities. In this context, the work programme aims to finance civil society organisations as well as public authorities, European-level networks and think tanks.

## **1.1. Union values**

Full respect and promotion of fundamental rights, the rule of law and democracy are key to building people's trust in the EU and ensuring mutual trust among Member States. The programme will contribute to building a more democratic EU, respect for the rule of law,

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<sup>2</sup> Regulation (EU) No 1381/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 establishing a Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme for the period 2014 to 2020 (OJ L 354, 28.12.2013, p. 62).

<sup>3</sup> Council Regulation (EU) No 390/2014 of 14 April 2014 establishing the 'Europe for Citizens' programme for the period 2014-2020 (OJ L 115, 17.4.2014, p.3).

fundamental rights and democratic dialogue, transparency and good governance, including in cases of shrinking space for civil society.

Funding under the programme will support entities that contribute to making the EU's common values, rights and equality and rich diversity alive and vibrant. The ultimate objective is to nurture and sustain a rights-based, equal, open, pluralist, inclusive and democratic society. This includes a strong and empowered civil society that fosters people's democratic, civic and social participation and inclusiveness, and further develops the diversity of European society, based on our common values, history and memory. Actions will contribute to implementing EU priorities, in particular in the area of fundamental rights, the rule of law and democracy, as highlighted in the Rule of Law report<sup>4</sup>, the European democracy action plan<sup>5</sup> and the strategy to strengthen the application of the Charter of Fundamental Rights in the EU<sup>6</sup>.

## 1.2. Equality, rights and gender equality

The work programme aims to support a comprehensive and intersectional approach and specific actions to promote equality, tackle discrimination and improve responses to racism and xenophobia in the form of hate speech and hate crime, both on- and offline. It also aims to address the vulnerabilities of specific groups and communities particularly affected by discrimination, such as Roma, Jews, Muslims, migrants, people of colour and people of African descent. It will support the implementation of the EU anti-racism action plan for 2020-2025<sup>7</sup>, the LGBTIQ Equality Strategy 2020-2025<sup>8</sup>, the EU Roma strategic framework on equality, inclusion and participation<sup>9</sup>, and the forthcoming EU Strategy on combating antisemitism.

Funding priorities also include promoting diversity management, monitoring and enforcing non-discrimination and hate crime legislation, strengthening stakeholder dialogue on Roma equality and inclusion at European and national levels, and advancing the work of the Commission's coordinators on combating racism, antisemitism and anti-Muslim hatred. Funding will be used to complement the activities of Member States and equality bodies on promoting and protecting rights and implementing the EU anti-discrimination legislation, including the Commission Recommendation on standards for equality bodies<sup>10</sup>, and on improving the collection of equality data.

The work programme will also continue to address the worrying phenomenon of online hate speech and improve Member State capacity to: (i) develop national and local strategies and action plans against racism, (ii) develop a common methodology for collecting data on hate crimes and hate speech, (iii) promote a comprehensive training strategy for law enforcement to effectively prosecute instances of hate crime and speech, and (iv) provide support services for victims of hate crime.

The Commission promotes gender equality based on the Gender Equality Strategy for 2020-2025<sup>11</sup>, for a Europe where women and men, girls and boys, in all their diversity<sup>12</sup> are equal.

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<sup>4</sup> European rule of law mechanism - [2020 Rule of Law report](#)

<sup>5</sup> [European democracy action plan](#)

<sup>6</sup> [Strategy to strengthen the application of the Charter of Fundamental Rights in the EU](#)

<sup>7</sup> A Union of Equality: [EU anti-racism Action Plan 2020-2025](#)

<sup>8</sup> Union of Equality: [LGBTIQ Equality Strategy 2020-2025](#)

<sup>9</sup> A Union of Equality: [EU Roma strategic framework on equality, inclusion and participation](#)

<sup>10</sup> [Commission Recommendation](#) on standards for equality bodies

<sup>11</sup> A Union of Equality: [Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025](#)

In this context, the work programme will support awareness raising and other policy activities for the promotion of equal participation/representation of women and men in political and economic decision making. It will also continue to tackle gender stereotypes, including with a focus on youth, as well as in advertising and the media.

Gender equality is one of the key principles of the European Pillar of Social Rights<sup>13</sup>, which is the EU's compass to build a fairer Europe and to promote better living and working conditions for all. In particular, its Principle 2 calls for equality of treatment and opportunities between women and men in the labour market, terms and conditions of employment, career progression and the right to equal pay. The European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan<sup>14</sup> will play a key role in this context.

Funding for protecting children's rights will respond to the current situation and address children's needs arising from the impact of COVID-19, as well as generally promoting mechanisms to safeguard children's rights in time of crisis. The activities funded under this work programme will further support the implementation of recommendations made under the EU Strategy on the rights of the child<sup>15</sup> at the EU, national and local level.

To achieve further progress in ensuring the full participation of people with disabilities and enjoyment of their rights on equal basis with others, and in line with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD)<sup>16</sup>, funding is being allocated to actions aiming to promote and protect the rights of people with disabilities. Such actions will support the Strategy for the rights of persons with disabilities 2021-2030<sup>17</sup> that intends to tackle the diverse challenges and barriers that people with disabilities face. This work programme aims to support members of civil society active in the disability field, and to improve knowledge and share experiences on achievements at European and national level and on meeting commitments deriving from the UNCRPD.

Further efforts are needed to increase the EU citizens' awareness of rights conferred by EU citizenship, including the right to move and reside freely on the territory of the Member States (including understanding the conditions that apply to this)<sup>18</sup>. The work programme includes activities aiming to strengthen and nurture democracy in the EU, including through building knowledge and raising awareness on the rights of EU citizenship and the associated EU common values, and by fostering the successful inclusion and political participation of EU citizens, including mobile EU citizens, in civic and political life.

The General Data Protection Regulation<sup>19</sup>, which entered into application in May 2018, strengthened citizens' rights and cut costs and red tape for European business. In order to support the implementation of this legislation at national level, funding will continue to be provided to national Data Protection Authorities for reaching out to stakeholders. The work programme will also continue to support awareness-raising campaigns, complementing those

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<sup>12</sup> With reference to the [Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025](#), the expression 'in all their diversity' is used to express that, where women or men are mentioned, these are a heterogeneous groups including in relation to their sex, gender identity, gender expression or sex characteristics.

<sup>13</sup> [European Pillar of Social Rights](#)

<sup>14</sup> [European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan](#)

<sup>15</sup> EU strategy on the [rights of the child](#)

<sup>16</sup> UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities [A/RES/61/106](#)

<sup>17</sup> Union of Equality: [Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021-2030](#)

<sup>18</sup> Article 21(2) of the [Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union](#)

<sup>19</sup> [Regulation \(EU\) 2016/679](#) as GDPR on the protection of personal data (General Data Protection Regulation)

carried out at national level, studies and reports supporting the implementation of the data protection framework.

### **1.3. Citizens' engagement and participation**

It is important to give people the opportunity to take part in the debate on Europe and to play a strong role in developing the EU. Through the 'Citizens' engagement and participation' strand, the work programme will help people make their voices heard and increase inclusion and democratic participation, in line with the Commission's political priorities, including those specified in the EU Citizenship Report 2020<sup>20</sup> and the European democracy action plan<sup>21</sup>. It will also contribute to building a more democratic EU by supporting the activities of civil society organisations and other relevant entities active in promoting rights and values at local, regional and national level. This will be part of the common effort to uphold rights and values including by reinforcing a rule of law culture in the EU.

Activities will also promote cultural diversity and the knowledge of shared history. They will encourage EU citizens' responsible, democratic civic participation in shaping the future of the EU and will foster their feeling of belonging in the EU.

In the area of European remembrance, the Commission will support projects that commemorate defining events in modern European history, including the causes and consequences of authoritarian and totalitarian regimes. It will also support projects on Holocaust remembrance, as well as research and education that is in line with the upcoming EU strategy on combating antisemitism and the EU Roma strategic framework on equality, inclusion and participation. Activities will aim to raise awareness among Europeans of their common history, culture, cultural heritage and values, improving their understanding of the EU, its origins, purpose, diversity and achievements and of the importance of mutual understanding and tolerance.

In the area of citizen participation, the Commission will promote civic and democratic participation, giving EU citizens and representative associations the possibility to take part in and contribute to the EU's democratic and civic life. Activities will look in particular at the European Parliament elections of 2024, European Citizens' Initiative and innovative approaches and tools to help citizens make their voices heard and publicly exchange views on all areas of EU action, including via digital tools (e-democracy).

In the area of town twinning and networks of towns, the Commission will promote exchanges between people of different countries, to reinforce mutual understanding and tolerance and give them the opportunity to broaden their perspective and develop a sense of European belonging and identity. While maintaining a bottom-up approach, the programme will also provide, in particular to networks of towns, an opportunity to focus on EU priorities, to for example improve local knowledge of the EU Charter on Fundamental Rights, contribute to increasing the turnout and inclusive candidacy at the European Parliament elections, and increase awareness of discrimination and racism and its consequences.

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<sup>20</sup> [EU Citizenship Report 2020](#) - Empowering citizens and protecting their rights

<sup>21</sup> [European democracy action plan](#)

#### **1.4. Daphne: preventing and combatting gender-based violence and violence against children**

The work programme will finance activities on preventing and combating gender-based violence, including online violence. Violence against children<sup>22</sup> will also be addressed, to contribute to the strengthening of child protection systems. The specific objectives of the Daphne strand are the following:

- preventing and combating at all levels all forms of gender-based violence against women and girls and domestic violence, including by promoting the standards laid down in the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence;
- preventing and combating all forms of violence against children, young people and other groups at risk, such as LGBTIQI persons and persons with disabilities;
- supporting and protecting all direct and indirect victims of the forms of violence referred to in points (1) and (2), such as the victims of domestic violence perpetrated within the family or within intimate relationships, including children orphaned as a result of domestic crimes, and supporting and ensuring the same level of protection throughout the Union for victims of gender-based violence.

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<sup>22</sup> Violence, as defined in Article 19 of the [UN Convention on the rights of the child \(1989\)](#): “all forms physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse” and in [General comment No 13](#) of the UN Committee on the rights of the child (2011) on the right of the child to freedom from all forms of violence.

## 2. BUDGET OVERVIEW FOR 2021-2022

Based on the objectives given in [Regulation (EU) of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values programme], this work programme presents the actions to be financed and the budget breakdown for 2021-2022 as indicated in the table below.

<b>Budget lines</b>	<b>2021 (€)</b>	<b>2022 (€)</b>
Budget line 07 06 04: Protect and promote Union values	30 678 133	91 787 552
Budget line 07 06 01: Promote equality and rights	27 324 300	39 860 945
Budget line 07 06 02: Promote citizens' engagement and participation in the democratic life of the Union	13 977 154	39 671 295
Budget line 07 06 03: Daphne	19 189 700	29 581 401
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>91 169 287</b>	<b>200 901 193</b>

Funds committed in the work programme are deployed via grants and procurement and by awarding prizes, in compliance with the rules set out in the Financial Regulation.

Procurement is the acquisition of a service by the Commission from an economic operator<sup>23</sup>, selected following a 'call for tenders' procedure.

Grants are financial contributions by way of donation by the Commission in order to finance one of the following: (i) an action intended to help achieve an EU policy objective (action grants), or; (ii) the functioning of a body which has an objective forming part of, and supporting, an EU policy (operating grants)<sup>24</sup>. The award of a grant follows, in general, a call for proposals' procedure.

Prizes are financial contributions given by the Commission as a reward following a contest. They promote the achievement of policy objectives of the Union<sup>25</sup>.

<b>Funding</b>	<b>2021 (€)</b>	<b>allocation</b>	<b>2022 (€)</b>	<b>allocation</b>
Grants	73 020 135	80.1%	176 571 295	87.9%
Prizes	350 000	0.4%	350 000	0.2%
Procurement	17 149 152	18.8%	23 129 898	11.5%
Other expenditures	650 000	0.7%	850 000	0.4%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>91 169 287</b>	<b>100 %</b>	<b>200 901 193</b>	<b>100 %</b>

<sup>23</sup> Article 2(49) of the Financial Regulation

<sup>24</sup> Article 2(33) and 180(2) of the Financial Regulation

<sup>25</sup> Article 2(48) and 206(1) of the Financial Regulation

The implementation of actions will be directly managed by the Commission's Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers (DG JUST), unless specified otherwise. One particular exception is the implementation of actions under the specific objective to protect and promote the rights of persons with disabilities, which will be managed by the Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion (DG EMPL).

The Commission delegates powers<sup>26</sup> to implement actions in the Citizens' engagement and participation strand and the Union values strand to the European and Culture, Executive Agency (EACEA)<sup>27</sup>.

All activities implemented under this work programme must respect and be implemented in line with the rights and principles enshrined in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union. They must promote and support gender mainstreaming, the mainstreaming of children's rights and the mainstreaming of non-discrimination. The budget allocation per specific objective is presented in the table below.

<b>Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values specific objectives</b>	<b>2021 (€)</b>	<b>2022 (€)</b>
	<b>91 169 287</b>	<b>200 901 193</b>
<b>Union values strand</b>	<b>30 678 133</b>	<b>91 787 552</b>
<b>Equality, rights and gender equality strand</b>	<b>27 324 300</b>	<b>39 860 945</b>
Equality and non-discrimination	8 441 300	10 710 000
Gender equality	4 050 000	10 050 000
Combating racism, xenophobia and all forms of intolerance	6 700 000	8 965 000
Rights of the child	2 560 000	3 560 000
Rights of persons with disabilities	2 073 000	2 005 945
EU citizenship rights	2 000 000	2 810 000
Data protection	1 500 000	1 760 000
<b>Citizens' engagement and participation strand</b>	<b>13 977 154<sup>28</sup></b>	<b>39 671 295</b>
European remembrance	4 515 000	7 000 000
Citizens participation	-	19 971 295
Town-Twinning and Networks of Towns (European Citizens' Initiatives)	6 945 135	11 000 000
	1 867 019	1 700 000
<b>Daphne</b>	<b>19 189 700</b>	<b>29 581 401</b>
Combating gender-based violence	4 899 400	24 581 401
Combating violence against children and other groups at risk	815 000	5 000 000
Supporting and protecting all direct and indirect victims of such violence	13 475 300	-

At present, the countries participating in the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values programme are EU Member States. Should any non-EU countries conclude an agreement with the EU on

<sup>26</sup> Article 69 of the Financial Regulation

<sup>27</sup> Implementation by the European Education and Culture Executive Agency is subject to the applicability of the establishment and delegation acts entrusting the agency with the management of the Programme and will only become effective subject to and from the moment of adoption of the Programme's basic act.

<sup>28</sup> Includes also EUR 650 000 in support of proposals' evaluation and monitoring by external experts

their participation in the programme, this will be announced in the relevant call for proposals<sup>29</sup>.

The programme will finance actions with European added value<sup>30</sup>. This added value, including that of small-scale and national actions, will be assessed in the light of criteria such as: (i) contribution to the consistent implementation of EU law, values and policies, and to increasing public awareness of related rights and benefits; (ii) contribution to the reinforcement of a culture based on the rule of law, democracy and fundamental rights; (iii) potential to develop mutual trust among Member States and to improve cooperation across borders; (iv) contribution to the development and dissemination of good practices, and; (v) potential to contribute to the creation of minimum standards and solutions addressing challenges across borders or EU-wide.

Activities implemented under this work programme will ensure consistency, complementarity and synergies with funding programmes supporting policy areas with close links to the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values programme. These include: the Justice programme, the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund, the European Regional Development Fund the Creative Europe programme and Erasmus+, which realise the potential of cultural crossovers in the fields of culture, media, arts, education and creativity; the European Social Fund+ in the fields of employment and the fight against social exclusion, and the Horizon Europe programme in the field of research on democracy, governance, EU values and social and economic transformations.

In the area of external action, complementary programmes include the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance and the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument. Coordination within the EU's legal and policy framework on trafficking in human beings under the mandate of the EU Anti-trafficking Coordinator will also be ensured.

## 2.1. Essential eligibility, selection and award criteria for action grants

The essential **eligibility** criteria for action grants are specified in the calls for proposals.

Grant applicants and partners must meet the following **selection criteria**:

- (a) applicants and partners must have stable and sufficient sources of funding to maintain their activity throughout the duration of the grant and to participate in its funding ('financial capacity');
- (b) applicants and partners must have sufficient operational and professional capacities to implement the activities for which co-funding is requested ('operational capacity').

Organisations participating in several projects must have sufficient financial and operational capacity to implement multiple projects.

The verification of financial capacity does not apply to international organisations and public bodies<sup>31</sup>.

Proposals will be assessed based on the following **award criteria**:

- (a) relevance to the priorities of the call for proposals;

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<sup>29</sup> Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values programme on the 'Funding & tender opportunities' portal

<sup>30</sup> Recital 25 of [Regulation (EU) of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values programme]

<sup>31</sup> Article 198(5)(6) of the Financial Regulation.

- (b) quality of the proposed action;
- (c) impact of the proposed action.

Grants will involve co-financing<sup>32</sup>. The maximum possible rate of EU co-financing is 90% of the total eligible costs of the action.

All actions are implemented on the legal basis of [Regulation (EU) of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values programme].

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<sup>32</sup> Article 190(1) of the Financial Regulation

### 3. GRANTS

The budget reserved for grants under this work programme is EUR 73 020 135 in 2021 and EUR 176 571 295 in 2022.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE	2021 (€)	2022 (€)
<b>Protect and promote Union values</b>	<b>29 700 000</b>	<b>88 000 000</b>
<i>Protecting, promoting and raising awareness of rights by providing financial support to civil society organisations which are active at local, regional, national and transnational level in promoting and cultivating those rights, thereby also strengthening the protection and promotion of Union values and respect for the rule of law and contributing to the construction of a more democratic Union, democratic dialogue, transparency and good governance</i>		
Operating grants	26 700 000	32 500 000
Action grants	3 000 000	55 500 000
<b>Promote equality and rights</b>	<b>14 160 000</b>	<b>26 100 000</b>
<i>Promoting equality and preventing and combating inequalities and discrimination based on sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation and respecting the principle of non-discrimination on the grounds provided for in Article 21 of the Charter</i>	<b>5 100 000</b>	<b>7 440 000</b>
Action grants	3 900 000	6 240 000
Operating grants to EQUINET	1 200 000	1 200 000
<i>Supporting, advancing and implementing comprehensive policies to promote women's full enjoyment of rights, gender equality, including work-life balance, women's empowerment and gender mainstreaming</i>	-	<b>6 800 000</b>
Action grants	-	6 800 000
<i>Supporting, advancing and implementing comprehensive policies to combat racism, xenophobia and all forms of intolerance including homophobia, biphobia, transphobia and interphobia and intolerance on the basis of gender identity, both online and offline</i>	<b>6 000 000</b>	<b>7 900 000</b>

Action grants	6 000 000	7 900 000
<i>Supporting, advancing and implementing comprehensive policies to protect and promote the rights of the child</i>	<b>2 160 000</b>	<b>3 010 000</b>
Action grants	2 160 000	3 010 000
<i>Supporting, advancing and implementing comprehensive policies to protect and promote the rights of persons with disabilities</i>	-	-
<i>Protecting and promoting the right to the protection of personal data</i>	<b>900 000</b>	<b>950 000</b>
Action grants	900 000	950 000
<b>Promote citizens' engagement and participation in the democratic life of the Union</b>	<b>11 460 135</b>	<b>35 471 295</b>
<i>Supporting projects aimed at commemorating defining moments in modern European history, such as the coming to power of authoritarian and totalitarian regimes, including the causes and consequences thereof, and projects aimed at raising awareness among European citizens of their common history, culture, cultural heritage and values, thereby enhancing their understanding of the Union, of its origins, purpose, diversity and achievements and of the importance of mutual understanding and tolerance</i>	<b>4 515 000</b>	<b>7 000 000</b>
Action grants	4 515 000	7 000 000
<i>Promoting citizens' and representative associations' participation in and contribution to the democratic and civic life of the Union by enabling them to make known and publicly exchange their views in all areas of Union action</i>	-	<b>17 471 295</b>
Action grants	-	17 471 295
<i>Promoting exchanges between citizens of different countries, in particular through town-twinning and networks of towns, so as to afford them practical experience of the richness and diversity of the common heritage of the Union and to make them aware that such richness and diversity constitute a solid foundation for a common future</i>	<b>6 945 135</b>	<b>11 000 000</b>
Action grants	6 945 135	11 000 000

<p><b>Daphne</b></p> <p><i>(1) preventing and combating at all levels all forms of gender-based violence against women and girls and domestic violence, including by promoting the standards laid down in the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence;</i></p> <p><i>(2) preventing and combating all forms of violence against children, young people and other groups at risk, such as LGBTQI persons and persons with disabilities;</i></p> <p><i>(3) supporting and protecting all direct and indirect victims of the forms of violence referred to in points (1) and (2), such as the victims of domestic violence perpetrated within the family or within intimate relationships, including children orphaned as a result of domestic crimes, and supporting and ensuring the same level of protection throughout the Union for victims of gender-based violence.</i></p>	<p><b>17 700 000</b></p>	<p><b>27 000 000</b></p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Action grants</p>	<p>17 700 000</p>	<p>27 000 000</p>
<p><b>TOTAL</b></p>	<p><b>73 020 135</b></p>	<p><b>176 571 295</b></p>

### 3.1. Call for proposals on protecting and promoting Union values

#### BUDGET LINE

Budget line 07 06 04: Protect and promote Union values

#### OBJECTIVES

*Protecting, promoting and raising awareness of rights by providing financial support to civil society organisations which are active at local, regional, national and transnational level in promoting and cultivating those rights, thereby also strengthening the protection and promotion of Union values and respect for the rule of law and contributing to the construction of a more democratic Union, democratic dialogue, transparency and good governance.*

Policy initiatives supported: European democracy action plan, EU Citizenship Report 2020, Rule of law report, Strategy to strengthen the application of the Charter of Fundamental Rights in the EU, Gender Equality Strategy, EU anti-racism action plan, EU Roma strategic framework on equality, inclusion and participation, LGBTIQ Equality Strategy, Strategy for the rights of persons with disabilities 2021-2030, EU Strategy on the rights of the child, EU strategy on combating antisemitism.

#### TYPE OF APPLICANTS TARGETED

Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) active in promoting and protecting the rule of law, fundamental rights and democracy.

#### POLICY PRIORITIES

##### 2022

The EU's aim is to promote peace and the well-being of its people. The EU is founded on the values of respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, including gender equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights, including the rights of people belonging to minorities.

Civil society has a key role to play in upholding the common values on which the EU is founded: the rule of law, fundamental rights and democracy. In particular, civil society organisations act as watchdogs to monitor the upholding of democratic values in the EU and contribute to checks and balances, together with independent courts and media.

The EU aims to create a supportive environment for civil society organisations that are engaged in the promotion and protection of EU values across the Member States, in full compliance with the values and rights enshrined in the Treaties and in the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights.

Many civil society organisations face growing difficulties in securing the necessary funding to develop and perform their activities independently and effectively<sup>33</sup>. Moreover, the COVID-19 crisis has worsened these difficulties as it impacted some traditional means of revenues.

<sup>33</sup> [European Parliament resolution of 19 April 2018](#) on the need to establish a European Values Instrument to support civil society organisations that promote fundamental values within the EU at local and

Recent developments in some Member States have shown that respect for EU values cannot be taken for granted. For some Member States, infringement procedures under Article 258 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union<sup>34</sup> have been launched. The procedure under Article 7(1) of the Treaty on the European Union<sup>35</sup> has also been triggered for some Member States in order to protect the EU's fundamental values. Moreover, for some Member States, the Council has recommended, in the context of the European semester, to strengthen judicial independence or the anti-corruption framework, or to improve access to public information and ensure effective public consultations.

The Commission also monitors respect of the rule of law, including the framework for civil society, in its annual rule of law report and the respect of fundamental rights in its annual report on application of the Charter. Dedicated measures to strengthen the resilience of European democracies are included in the European democracy action plan, including measures on protecting journalists and civil society from lawsuits against public participation (SLAPP).

Not addressing persisting gaps and new challenges could jeopardise the rule of law, fundamental rights and democracy.

The aim of the call is to encourage and facilitate active and inclusive participation in building a more democratic EU, as well as raising awareness on rights and values through support to civil society organisations. This would also strengthen the protection and promotion of Union values and the respect of the rule of law, and contribute to democratic dialogue, transparency and good governance, including in cases of shrinking space for civil society.

Financial support will be provided to civil society organisations active at local, regional, national and transnational level in promoting and cultivating these values, and active in the fields covered by the programme.

EU funding should contribute to support, empower and build the capacity of independent civil society organisations active in the promotion of values and rights, whose activities help the strategic enforcement of rights under EU law and the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights, including through advocacy and watchdog activities, as well as to promote, safeguard and raise awareness of the Union's values at local, regional, national and transnational level.

The call will finance a limited number of transnational, national or regional actors/intermediaries which will build the capacities of and re-grant (i.e. further disburse the grant) to civil society organisations active at local, regional, national level.

## DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES

Activities must integrate the principles of the rule of law, fundamental rights and democracy. The following list of activities is not exhaustive and other relevant and innovative activities may be considered:

- Support and capacity building for CSOs through funding (i.e. financial support to third parties), including the publication of calls for proposals, the definition of selection and award criteria, the evaluation of applications and the monitoring of

national level (2018/2619(RSP)) and [Regulation (EU) of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values programme]

<sup>34</sup> [Treaty](#) on the Functioning of the European Union

<sup>35</sup> [Treaty](#) on European Union

implementation;

- technical and methodological support in the preparation and implementation of activities of CSOs (for instance helpdesk during application phase, support on monitoring and reporting, etc);
- training and building the capacity and sustainability of CSOs (for instance with coaching aimed at strengthening strategic thinking and managerial capacities of CSOs, fundraising training sessions, seminars on communication including through social media and video-making, or strengthening policy research and analysis);
- thematic training for CSOs on EU law and policies to promote and protect rights and values as enshrined in the Treaties, the Charter and in the applicable international human rights conventions;
- awareness-raising for CSOs on the rule of law culture in the EU and its Member States;
- promoting and facilitating networking among CSOs and with relevant stakeholders.

#### EXPECTED RESULTS

- (a) strengthened capacity of CSOs that aim to protect and promote EU rights and values;
- (b) more supportive environment for CSOs;
- (c) more effective, accountable and sustainable CSOs;
- (d) a better developed advocacy and watchdog role for CSOs;
- (e) increased public participation in civic activities;
- (f) increased involvement of CSOs in policy and decision-making processes with local, regional, and national governments;
- (g) increased public awareness of EU rights and values;
- (h) empowerment of vulnerable groups;
- (i) strengthened regional cooperation within civil society.

#### INDICATIVE TIMETABLE OF THE PUBLICATION OF THE CALL AND INDICATIVE AMOUNT

Call topic	Date	Budget
CERV-2021-CITIZENS-VALUES	Q4 2021	EUR 50 500 000

#### ESSENTIAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

To be eligible, grant applications must comply with all of the following criteria:

- a) the applicant **and** potential partner(s) must fulfil all of the following:
  1. be a legal person;
  2. be non-profit-making;
  3. be independent from government, public authorities, political, religious or commercial interests;
  4. be a civil society organisation; and
  5. be established in a Member State of the European Union

b) the applicant **or** at least one partner, if any, must fulfil all of the following:

1. have recent proven experience of at least 3 years in implementing CSO capacity building activities;
2. have recent proven experience in awarding and managing grants to CSOs;
3. the duration of the action is 36 months;
4. the EU grant applied for cannot be lower than EUR 2 500 000 or higher than EUR 4 000 000.

#### **IMPLEMENTATION**

Direct management by EACEA.

### 3.2. Call for proposals to promote capacity building and awareness on the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights and activities on strategic litigation relating to democracy, the rule of law and fundamental rights breaches

#### BUDGET LINE

Budget line 07 06 04: Protect and promote Union values

#### OBJECTIVES

*Protecting, promoting and raising awareness of rights by providing financial support to civil society organisations which are active at local, regional, national and transnational level in promoting and cultivating those rights, thereby also strengthening the protection and promotion of Union values and respect for the rule of law and contributing to the construction of a more democratic Union, democratic dialogue, transparency and good governance.*

Policy initiatives supported: European democracy action plan, Rule of law report, Strategy to strengthen the application of the Charter of Fundamental Rights in the EU.

#### TYPE OF APPLICANTS TARGETED

Civil society organisations, National Human Rights Institutions, Equality bodies, Ombuds Institutions.

#### POLICY PRIORITIES

##### 2022

##### **1. Capacity-building and awareness raising on the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights**

To contribute to the effective and coherent application of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights (the Charter), in line with the Strategy to strengthen the application of the Charter in the EU and to foster a culture of fundamental rights in the Member States.

##### **2. Activities on strategic litigation**

To strengthen the knowledge and ability of practitioners, legal professionals, civil society organisations and independent human rights bodies to effectively engage in litigation practices at national and European level, and to improve access to justice and enforcement of rights under EU law, including the Charter, through training, knowledge sharing and exchange of good practices.

#### DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES

The following activities can be covered:

- capacity building and awareness raising activities aiming to increase the knowledge and the use of the EU Charter;
- facilitating cooperation between key actors in enforcing the Charter, such as civil society organisations, National Human Rights Institutions, Equality bodies, Ombuds Institutions and Member State authorities (at national, regional and local level);
- training and train-the-trainer activities for professionals (such as experts, lawyers and

legal advisers, communicators, policy and advocacy advisers), including through operational guidance and learning tools;

- mutual learning, exchange of good practices, development of working and learning methods, including mentoring programmes that may be transferable to other countries;
- analytical activities, such as data collection and research, and the creation of tools or data bases (e.g. thematic databases of jurisprudence);
- communication activities, including dissemination of information and awareness raising about rights and redress mechanisms, relevant to the priorities of the call.

#### EXPECTED RESULTS

- increased awareness and better use of the Charter by CSOs, NHRIs, equality bodies, Ombuds Institutions and Member State authorities;
- improved knowledge about available redress mechanisms and how to make the best use of them for the benefit of rights holders;
- improved cooperation between CSOs, NHRIs, Equality bodies, Ombuds Institutions and Member State authorities on Charter-related issues;
- increased ability of CSOs, NHRIs, equality bodies and Ombuds Institutions to develop a litigation strategy, and communicate and advocate around it, and to bring strategic litigation cases before national courts and the European Court of Justice.

#### INDICATIVE TIMETABLE OF THE PUBLICATION OF THE CALL AND INDICATIVE AMOUNT

Call topic	Date	Budget
CERV-2022-CHAR-LITI	Q4 2021	EUR 2 000 000

#### ESSENTIAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

To be **eligible**, grant applications must comply with all of the following criteria:

- a) applicants must be public entities or private organisations, duly established in a Member State of the European Union, or international organisations;
- b) the project can be either national or transnational;
- c) the EU grant applied for cannot be lower than EUR 75 000.

#### IMPLEMENTATION

Direct management by EACEA.

### 3.3. Call for proposals to promote equality and to fight against racism, xenophobia and discrimination

#### BUDGET LINE

Budget line 07 06 01: Promote equality and rights

#### OBJECTIVES

*Promoting equality and preventing and combating inequalities and discrimination on grounds of sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation and respecting the principle of non-discrimination on the grounds provided for in Article 21 of the Charter.*

*Supporting, advancing and implementing comprehensive policies to combat racism, xenophobia and all forms of intolerance, including homophobia, biphobia, transphobia and interphobia and intolerance on the basis of gender identity, both online and offline.*

Policy initiatives supported: EU anti-racism action plan, LGBTIQ Equality Strategy, EU Strategy on combating antisemitism, EU Roma strategic framework on equality, inclusion and participation, EU Strategy on victims' rights.

#### TYPE OF APPLICANTS TARGETED

Member States' public authorities, at all levels, including equality bodies and civil society organisations, such as community-based organisations.

#### POLICY PRIORITIES

##### **2021 and again in 2022**

The objective is to support a comprehensive and intersectional approach and specific actions to prevent and fight against intolerance, racism, xenophobia, and discrimination, in particular on grounds of racial or ethnic origin, colour, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, including when this manifests in the form of antigypsism, antisemitism, anti-Muslim hatred, Afrophobia and LGBTIQ phobia, offline and online<sup>36</sup>. In this context, the call for proposals can cover actions addressing the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic affecting these groups in terms of intolerance, racism, xenophobia, discrimination and hate. With this aim, the following priorities will be financed:

##### **1. Fighting against intolerance, racism, xenophobia, discrimination, hate speech and hate crimes**

Having reference to the policy framework set out in the Commission staff working document (2019)110 on 'Countering racism and xenophobia in the EU. Fostering a society where pluralism, tolerance and non-discrimination prevail', the EU anti-racism action plan for 2020-2025, the EU Roma strategic framework for equality, inclusion and participation and the forthcoming EU Strategy on combating antisemitism, this priority entails activities providing holistic responses to intolerance, discrimination in particular

<sup>36</sup> Taking into account also other relevant instruments such as the European Convention on Human Rights and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

on grounds of racial or ethnic origin, colour and religion, as well as racism, xenophobia in the form of hate crimes, hate speech, including their manifestations on the ground and from an intersectional perspective.

The call will support projects aiming to respond to the vulnerabilities of specific groups and communities particularly affected by intolerance, racism, xenophobia and discrimination, such as Roma, Jews, Muslims, migrants, people of colour and people of African descent.

In this context, the call will finance projects contributing to the implementation of the EU Roma strategic framework on equality, inclusion and participation, namely addressing antigypsyism, including hate speech and hate crime and discrimination of Roma in (access to) inclusive education, employment, health and housing, fostering rights awareness and reporting of discrimination, promoting societal support for Roma inclusion, and promoting political, social and cultural participation of Roma people. The priority will also cover the diversity of Roma, with a specific focus on Roma women, youth, children and EU mobile Roma.

The call will also support actions to prevent and combat all forms of antisemitism by raising awareness of antisemitism, supporting victims of antisemitism, improving the collection of antisemitic incident data, encouraging reporting of such incidents, educating the public about the diversity of Jewish life, supporting intercultural and interreligious dialogue, and strengthening the resilience of Jewish communities.

Moreover, the call will support the fight against anti-Muslim racism and discrimination, to raise awareness of public authorities, foster reporting by victims, address negative stereotypes, intolerance and hate speech against Muslims, and tackle the intersectional discrimination affecting Muslim women and communities belonging to socially and economically disadvantaged sectors of society.

Furthermore, the call will include activities to prevent and fight xenophobia and anti-migrant intolerance as well as to respond to the structural forms of racism faced by people of colour and people of African descent, including by building trust between communities and national authorities and increased reporting.

Finally, the priority will include initiatives aiming to empower and support the role of civil society organisations, activists and community leaders and improve reporting, rights-awareness, protection and interest representation of victims, thus contributing to the effective implementation of the Racial Equality Directive (Council Directive 2000/43/EC) and the Framework Decision on combating racism and xenophobia (Council Framework Decision 2008/913/JHA).

*Indicative budget: EUR 5 400 000 in 2021 and EUR 7 740 000 in 2022.*

## **2. Promoting diversity management and inclusion at the workplace, both in the public and private sector**

This entails increasing the number of Diversity Charters in EU Member States, their number of signatories and the specific actions that promote diversity and inclusion at the workplace, with regard in particular to the six grounds for discrimination listed in Article 19 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union or their intersectionality.

*Indicative budget: EUR 500 000 in 2021 and EUR 500 000 in 2022.*

### **3. Fighting discrimination against LGBTIQ people and promoting LGBTIQ equality through the implementation of the LGBTIQ Equality Strategy**

This entails actions to implement the key policy objectives set out in the LGBTIQ Equality Strategy 2020-2025. It includes in particular initiatives that aim to address intersectional discrimination and inequality experienced on grounds of sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics in the area of employment, education and health. The focus is on the most vulnerable parts of the LGBTIQ community, such as transgender and intersex people, and includes the training of relevant professionals. This priority also encompasses actions that seek to tackle gender and sexuality stereotypes in and through education, provide support to rainbow families and raise awareness of the challenges they face, and prevent and combat LGBTIQ-phobic hate crimes and hate speech.

*Indicative budget: EUR 1 000 000 in 2021 and EUR 1 000 000 in 2022.*

### **4. Preventing, reporting and countering hate speech online**

This entails actions to: (i) foster systematic reporting and recording of hate speech cases and incidents online, (ii) strengthen cooperation between public authorities, civil society organisations and IT companies, in particular in the area of prevention, education and awareness raising about tolerance and against hatred online (targeting in particular young people), and (iii) increase public awareness of online hate speech, including through the promotion of positive narratives and online campaigns.

*Indicative budget: EUR 1 500 000 in 2021 and EUR 1 500 000 in 2022.*

### **5. Restricted to public authorities to improve their responses to (intersectional) discrimination, racism and xenophobia, in particular, based on racial or ethnic origin, religion, or colour as well on sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression or sex characteristics**

This priority targets public authorities at national, regional and local level and helps them improve implementation on the ground of the Racial Equality Directive, the Framework Decision on combating racism and xenophobia and Commission Recommendation C(2018) 3850 on standards for equality bodies. Activities could include: issuing action plans or strategies against racism; training of law enforcement officials and/or authorities at national, regional or local level; improving recording and data collection practices in Member States, in particular building on the work of the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights work on equality data and the recording and collection of data on hate crimes; improving support for victims of (intersectional) discrimination, in particular on the basis of racial or ethnic origin, religion or colour, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression or sex characteristics, as well as racist or xenophobic hate crime and hate speech at national, regional or local level; addressing underreporting; building trust between communities and public authorities.

*Indicative budget: EUR 1 500 000 in 2021 and EUR 1 500 000 in 2022.*

## **DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES**

Activities shall include:

1. coalition and capacity building, training of professionals and victims of (intersectional)

discrimination, hate speech and hate crimes;

- mutual learning, exchange of good practices, cooperation, including identifying best practices which may be transferable to other participating countries;
- 2. dissemination and awareness-raising, including social media or press campaigns;
- 3. studies and analytical activities;
- 4. promotion of digital skills and critical thinking;
- 5. data recording, data collection, surveys, monitoring and reporting of incidents of discrimination, hate speech and hate crime, including analysis of trends, triggers and ecosystem of online hatred;
- 6. victim empowerment and support;
- designing and implementing strategies or plans of action;
- 7. capacity building and training activities for national, regional and local authorities.

*N.B.: activities that support specific political parties will not be funded, regardless of their grounds for applying or objectives.*

## EXPECTED RESULTS

### **1. Fighting against any form of intolerance, racism, xenophobia, discrimination, hate speech and hate crimes:**

- increased knowledge of EU and national non-discrimination legislation as well as administrative practices in the non-discrimination field, including practices and policies covering multiple discrimination;
- increased knowledge of EU and national hate crime and hate speech legislation as well as national actions to enhance the capacity of law enforcement aimed at enhancing and effective detection of bias indicators, including in multi-stakeholder cooperation;
- reduced episodes of discrimination, in particular based on racial or ethnic origin, religion, or colour (possibly intersecting with other grounds of discrimination), of racism, xenophobia and other forms of intolerance and their manifestations on the ground, in particular hate crime and hate speech;
- increased rights-awareness, protection and interest representation of victims of hate crime and discrimination based on racial or ethnic origin, religion or colour (possibly intersecting with other grounds for discrimination);
- more effective implementation and enforcement of the legislation on non-discrimination, hate speech and hate crimes, as well as improved independent monitoring and reporting;
- increased knowledge and awareness of biases and stereotypes, in particular among school staff and journalists;
- empowered and increased protection for groups, communities and individuals affected by manifestations of intolerance, including hate crime and hate speech, with a particular focus on antigypsyism, antisemitism, anti-Muslim hatred, homophobia, transphobia and Afrophobia.

## **2. Promoting diversity management and inclusion:**

- increased number of Diversity Charters and of companies affiliated to a charter;
- increased diversity in business, supported by strengthened links between the academic/research community and the business world;
- more inclusive workplaces and societies;
- increased Europe-wide tools measuring diversity and inclusion at the workplace.

## **3. Fighting discrimination against LGBTIQ people and promoting LGBTIQ equality through the implementation of the LGBTIQ equality strategy:**

- improved knowledge and awareness of the intersectional discrimination and inequality experienced by LGBTIQ people, in particular by transgender and intersex people, in employment, education and health, as well as of best practices and solutions on how to tackle this;
- increased awareness and improvement of skills of relevant professionals, including health, media and business professionals and school staff, to counter stereotyping, stigmatisation, pathologisation, discrimination, harassment and bullying affecting LGBTIQ people;
- increased support for LGBTIQ people and their families, including through information campaigns, support groups, counselling and other means, and improved knowledge and awareness of the challenges they face;
- more actions that prevent and combat LGBTIQ-phobic hate crimes and hate speech;
- better guidance for national authorities and schools on how to prevent and combat school violence and bullying against LGBTIQ students, include positive representations of LGBTIQ diversity in education, tackle gender and sexuality stereotypes in education and accommodate the needs of transgender, intersex and non-binary children in educational settings.

## **4. Preventing, reporting and countering hate speech online:**

- increased knowledge on the phenomenon of hate speech online, gathered in particular through systematic reporting and recording of hate speech cases and incidents online;
- strengthened cooperation between public authorities, civil society organisations and internet companies, in particular in the area of prevention, reporting, education and awareness raising about tolerance and against hatred online, targeting young people;
- increased public awareness of online hate speech, including through the promotion of positive narratives and online campaigns.

## **5. Restricted to public authorities to improve their responses to (intersectional) discrimination, racism and xenophobia, in particular based on racial or ethnic origin, religion or colour:**

- improved skills of public authorities to effectively investigate, prosecute and

adequately sentence incidents of discrimination and hate crime;

- improved support to victims, better public awareness of rights and increased number of reported incidents;
- improved cooperation and exchange of information among public authorities (in particular municipal and regional administrations), as well as between public authorities and other actors such as civil society organisations and community representatives, to improve responses to discrimination, racism, xenophobia and other forms of intolerance;
- improved knowledge and awareness among public and law enforcement authorities of the impact of discrimination, racism, xenophobia and other forms of intolerance and current trends, and better understanding of the various forms of intolerance and of the legal framework;
- improved system of recording discrimination and hate crimes and collecting data, an improved methodological approach and better inter-institutional cooperation on data collection;
- effective development and implementation of comprehensive frameworks, strategies or plans of action to prevent and combat, racism, xenophobia and other forms of intolerance.

#### INDICATIVE TIMETABLE OF THE PUBLICATION OF THE CALL AND INDICATIVE AMOUNT

Call topic	Date	Budget
CERV-2021-EQUAL	Q2 2021	EUR 9 900 000
CERV-2022-EQUAL	Q2 2022	EUR 12 240 000

#### ESSENTIAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

To be eligible under the **first, second, third and fourth priority**, grant applications must comply with all of the following criteria:

- a) applicants and partners must be public entities or private organisations, duly established in one of the countries participating in the programme, or an international organisation; organisations which are profit-oriented must submit applications in partnership with public entities or private non-profit organisations;
- b) the project can be either national or transnational;
- c) the application must involve at least two organisations (applicant and partner);
- d) the EU grant applied for cannot be lower than EUR 75 000.

To be eligible under the **fifth priority**, grant applications must comply with all of the following criteria:

- a) applicants must be public authorities of one of the countries participating in the programme; partners must be public entities or private organisations, duly established in one of the countries participating in the programme, or international organisations;
- b) the project can be either national or transnational;

- c) the application must involve at least two organisations (applicant and partner);
- d) the EU grant applied for cannot be lower than EUR 75 000.

### 3.4. Call for proposals to National Roma Contact Points for Roma equality, inclusion and participation

#### BUDGET LINE

Budget line 07 06 01: Promote equality and rights

#### OBJECTIVE

*Promoting equality and preventing and combating inequalities and discrimination on grounds of sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation and respecting the principle of non-discrimination on the grounds provided for in Article 21 of the Charter.*

Policy initiative supported: EU Roma strategic framework on equality, inclusion and participation.

#### TYPE OF APPLICANTS TARGETED

National Roma Contact Points.

#### POLICY PRIORITIES

##### 2022

The aim is to support the setting up reinforcing of national consultation processes in the Member States, through National Roma Platforms convened and managed by National Roma Contact Points (NRCPs).

National Roma Platforms aim to promote and facilitate dialogue, mutual learning, cooperation and policy review among all national stakeholders. They are also expected to boost the representation of Roma people in the platform structures, particularly women and youth, including by nominating a Roma representative to ensure a link between National and the European Roma Platforms. National Roma Platforms aim to:

- empower National Roma Contact Points in the process of Roma equality, inclusion and participation;
- mobilise and ensure the continued engagement of all relevant stakeholders (i.e. high level public authorities, Roma and non-Roma communities, civil society organisations, entrepreneurs, trade unions, employers' and child rights organisations, academia, etc.), in particular by providing a forum and encouraging self-mobilisation and cooperation of Roma and pro-Roma civil society organisations;
- strengthen multi-stakeholder accountability, commitment to and ownership and transparency of the process of Roma equality, inclusion and participation;
- boost the commitment to and effective implementation of measures promoting Roma equality, inclusion and participation at the local level, improving equal access of Roma to mainstream services and opportunities and strengthening community building between Roma and non-Roma;
- complement and increase synergies with other EU and/or national initiatives, such as the European Roma Platform and the Roma civil monitor project (ensuring a regular forum for presentation, discussion and debate on its results and recommendations for

policy review);

- address gaps and challenges in the implementation of National Strategies for Roma equality, inclusion and participation specific to the national context, and to report at national and EU level, including data collection and evaluation studies;
- whenever necessary, use the means of the platform to generate immediate responses to challenging situations, such as the COVID-19 pandemic;
- promote participation of Roma women and Roma youth in the design and implementation of the national Roma platform, for example through dedicated internship schemes.

#### **DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES**

Activities shall include:

8. mapping of all relevant stakeholders working on Roma equality inclusion and participation and assessing the need and opportunity to include them in the National Roma Platform in order to increase representation and accountability;
9. actions to set up and reinforce national Roma platforms, involving all relevant stakeholders, with a focus on implementing and monitoring National Strategies for Roma equality, inclusion and participation;
10. meetings, working groups, seminars, events at national, regional or local levels, with discussion on topics such as education, employment, health, housing and representation;
11. awareness-raising, dedicated discussion of the results of civil monitoring of the implementation of National Strategies for Roma equality, inclusion and participation;
12. evaluation and review of National Strategies for Roma equality, inclusion and participation; and Roma integration measures, exchange and transfer of practices that proved effective at the local level;
13. transnational exchange between different National Roma Platforms to promote policy learning and transfer of good practices;
14. exchange and participation of the nominated representative of the National Roma Platform in preparatory meetings on the European Roma Platform.

#### **EXPECTED RESULTS**

- increased number of national Roma platforms seen as an integral component of coordination and monitoring activities carried out by the national Roma contact points to foster stakeholder dialogue, cooperation and coordination;
- increased capacity of national experts and stakeholders to address issues related to Roma equality, inclusion and participation, including legislative and administrative practises;
- strengthened cooperation and exchange of information between competent national authorities in relation to Roma equality, inclusion and participation;
- increased sustainability of Roma participation in policy processes.

**INDICATIVE TIMETABLE OF THE PUBLICATION OF THE CALL AND INDICATIVE AMOUNT**

<b>Call topic</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Budget</b>
CERV-2022-NRCP	Q4 2021	EUR 1 900 000

**ESSENTIAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

To be eligible, grant applications must comply with all of the following criteria:

- (a) applicants must be National Roma Contact Points, with only one application per Member State being accepted;
- (b) the application must involve only the National Roma Contact Point (no partners);
- (c) the duration of the project should not exceed 24 months;
- (d) the EU grant applied for cannot be higher than EUR 200 000.

### 3.5. Call for proposals to promote gender equality

#### BUDGET LINE

Budget line 07 06 01: Promote equality and rights

#### OBJECTIVE

*Supporting, advancing and implementing comprehensive policies to promote women's full enjoyment of rights, gender equality, including work-life balance, women's empowerment and gender mainstreaming.*

Policy initiative supported: Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025.

#### TYPE OF APPLICANTS TARGETED

Member State governments, local and regional authorities and their associations, equality bodies, civil society organisations, in particular women's rights organisations.

#### POLICY PRIORITIES

##### 2022

#### **1. Equal participation and representation of women and men in political and economic decision making**

The aim of the priority is to promote equal participation and representation of women and men in political decision making (including the equal representation of women and men and in the 2024 European Parliament elections) and in management and leadership positions in the corporate sector. Indeed, women continue to be under-represented in decision-making positions in political and economic life in many EU Member States<sup>37</sup>. In line with its Gender Equality Strategy<sup>38</sup> and to contribute to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals<sup>39</sup>, the Commission will support Member States and relevant stakeholders in developing and implementing effective strategies to increase the representation and participation of women in decision making in politics and in the corporate sector.

To address the remaining challenges to achieving equal participation/representation of women and men in political and economic life, co-ordinated action is required in a wide range of areas, with fundamental changes, policies, measures and targeted actions that remove both societal and structural obstacles bearing in mind the need to strengthen women's leadership and participation in the COVID-19 recovery.

Projects should take into account in their objectives and activities women in all their diversity<sup>40</sup>.

#### **2. Tackling gender stereotypes, including with a focus on youth, and in advertising and the media**

This priority focuses on actions that raise awareness, at local, national or EU level, to tackle gender stereotypes, including in all spheres of life of young people (particularly schools,

<sup>37</sup> Gender Statistics Database of the European Institute for Gender Equality

<sup>38</sup> A Union of Equality: [Gender Equality Strategy](#) 2020-2025

<sup>39</sup> See [Sustainable Development Goal 5](#): Achieving gender equality and empower all women and girls

<sup>40</sup> Women are a heterogeneous group and may face intersectional discrimination based on several personal characteristics.

sports, online gaming, social media and other activities), and in advertising and the media. This will include promoting positive messages and portrayals of equality between, and equal chances for, girls and boys, women and men, in order to encourage behavioural change in the society.

This priority will accompany an EU-wide campaign on tackling gender stereotypes, with a particular focus on youth, and other gender equality initiatives that address stereotypes and intersectionalities.

Projects should propose methods and activities that directly involve the target groups, in particular girls and boys, in a creative and innovative way, using positive and progressive messages to promote behaviour change.

## DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES

Activities shall include:

### **1. Equal participation and representation of women and men in political and economic decision making:**

- development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of comprehensive national strategies by Member States' responsible authorities to achieve equal participation/representation of women and men in politics and economic life;
- mutual learning and identification/exchange of good practices between Member States' responsible authorities and/or between relevant stakeholders, such as equality bodies, civil society organisations, in particular women's organisations, and the media; development and/or dissemination of high-quality tools and/or successful strategies aiming to achieve equal participation/representation of women and men in politics and in economic life;
- awareness-raising activities, such as seminars, conferences, campaigns, publications, press activities and social media campaigns, which can include awareness raising about the business benefits of balanced participation of women and men in corporate leadership positions;
- developing/strengthening cooperation/networking between key stakeholders, such as national and/or regional/local authorities and/or their associations, equality bodies, civil society organisations, in particular women's organisations, and increased coalition building.

*Activities supporting individual political parties will not be funded by the Commission.*

### **2. Tackling gender stereotypes, including with a focus on youth, and in advertising and the media:**

- awareness-raising and empowerment activities;
- capacity building and training for relevant professionals;
- exchange of good practices, mutual learning.

*Practical projects that develop and implement specific measures and involve the target group are preferred.*

## EXPECTED RESULTS

### **1. Equal participation and representation of women and men in political and economic decision making:**

- contribution to the implementation of the Commission's Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025, in particular its objectives under the 'leading equally throughout society' pillar and to the EU's achievement of Sustainable Development Goal number five on gender equality;
- contribution to the achievement of equal representation of women and men in the European Parliament after the 2024 elections;
- design, development and/or monitoring of national, regional or local policies to promote equal representation of women and men in decision-making positions and processes in politics, public debates and in management and leadership positions in the corporate sector;
- increased capacity of national, regional and local authorities and their associations, civil society organisations, in particular women's organisations, and the media to address the remaining obstacles related to the under-representation of women in all their diversity in politics, public debates and in management and leadership positions in the corporate sector;
- strengthened cooperation, increased networking and exchange of information between Member State governments, local and regional authorities and their associations, equality bodies, civil society organisations, in particular women's organisations, the media, and academics.

### **2. Tackling gender stereotypes, including with a focus on youth, as well as in advertising and the media:**

- tackling gender stereotypes and negative gender roles through awareness raising and training of those who are in daily contact with the target groups, especially young people;
- changed attitudes towards and behaviours concerning the role of women and men, boys and girls, among the general population and particular groups, e.g. relevant professionals, witnesses and bystanders, vulnerable groups, etc.;
- girls and boys, women and men feeling valued and empowered, freed from negative expectations, through identification with progressive gender portrayal and positive messaging.

## INDICATIVE TIMETABLE OF THE PUBLICATION OF THE CALL AND INDICATIVE AMOUNT

<b>Call topic</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Budget</b>
CERV-2022-GE	Q4 2021	EUR 6 800 000

## ESSENTIAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

To be eligible, grant applications must comply with all of the following criteria:

- a) applicants and partners must be public entities or private organisations, duly established in one of the countries participating in the programme, or an international organisation; organisations which are profit-oriented must submit applications in partnership with public entities or private non-profit organisations;
- b) the project can be either national or transnational;
- c) the application must involve at least two organisations (applicant and partner);
- d) the EU grant applied for cannot be lower than EUR 75 000.

### 3.6. Call for proposals to protect and promote the rights of the child

#### BUDGET LINE

Budget line 07 06 01: Promote equality and rights

#### OBJECTIVE

*Supporting, advancing and implementing comprehensive policies to protect and promote the rights of the child.*

Policy initiatives supported: EU strategy on the rights of the child.

#### TYPE OF APPLICANTS TARGETED

National and local authorities, civil society organisations, including international and civil society organisations and academia whose work is relevant in the area of the rights of the child.

#### POLICY PRIORITIES

##### 2021

This call for proposals will contribute to the response to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic by promoting ways to mainstream and embed children's rights in responses to this and any other emergency situations.

##### 2022

This call for proposals will contribute to the implementation of recommendations of the EU Strategy on the rights on the rights of the child.

#### DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES

##### 2021

Activities shall include:

- evaluating lessons learned from the COVID-19 situation in the context of its impact on children's rights, providing recommendations for mainstreaming children's rights and putting them at the centre of policy responses in emergency situations at national and/or local level;
- establishing, strengthening and evaluating protocols and cooperation mechanisms between relevant authorities and services at local and national level, and providing support to children most affected by the COVID-19 situation;
- building capacity of local and national authorities, and increasing their awareness about children's rights and needs.

##### 2022

Activities shall include:

- mutual learning, trainings, exchange of good practices, cooperation, including identifying good practices;
- dissemination and awareness raising, including social media or press campaigns;

- capacity building and training activities of national, regional and local authorities.

#### EXPECTED RESULTS

1. increased knowledge about the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on children, as well as of the public policy responses taken, and lessons learnt for the future;
2. establishment of protocols that ensure the mainstreaming and safeguarding of children's rights and support children in emergency situations in the future;
3. implementation of the recommendations of the upcoming EU Strategy on the rights of the child.

#### INDICATIVE TIMETABLE OF THE PUBLICATION OF THE CALL AND INDICATIVE AMOUNT

Call topic	Date	Budget
CERV-2021-CHILD	Q2 2021	EUR 2 160 000
CERV-2022-CHILD	Q4 2021	EUR 3 010 000

#### ESSENTIAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

To be eligible, grant applications must comply with all of the following criteria:

- e) applicants and partners must be public entities or private organisations, duly established in one of the countries participating in the programme, or an international organisation; organisations which are profit-oriented must submit applications in partnership with public entities or private non-profit organisations;
- f) the project can be either national or transnational;
- g) the application must involve at least two organisations (applicant and partner);
- h) the EU grant applied for cannot be lower than EUR 75 000.

### 3.7. Call for proposals to national Data Protection Authorities on reaching out to stakeholders in data protection legislation

#### BUDGET LINE

Budget line 07 06 01: Promote equality and rights

#### OBJECTIVE

*Protecting and promoting the right to the protection of personal data.*

#### TYPE OF APPLICANTS TARGETED

European Data Protection Authorities.

#### POLICY PRIORITIES

##### **2021**

The report<sup>41</sup> on the first two years of application of Regulation (EU) 2016/679 (General Data Protection Regulation - GDPR) issued on 24 June 2020 highlights that the GDPR is an important component of an area of justice and fundamental rights based on mutual trust and of the human-centric approach to technology in the twin green and digital transitions.

Since the GDPR entered into application on 25 May 2018, the Commission has been working with European Economic Area data protection authorities and stakeholders to assess the evolving context and needs of the various actors involved.

Building on experience gained from the calls for proposals launched in 2017, 2019 and 2020, and in view of implementing the conclusions of the above-mentioned report on the GDPR, actions under this priority should aim to further support activities carried out by national data protection authorities to facilitate the implementation of GDPR obligations by small and medium-sized enterprises, and to raise awareness about the GDPR among the general public.

#### DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES

Helping national Data Protection Authorities reach out to businesses and the general public by:

- supporting activities carried out by national data protection authorities to facilitate the implementation of GDPR obligations by small and medium-sized enterprises; these activities can in particular include providing practical guidance, templates, and digital tools aimed at small and medium-sized enterprises that can be replicated in other Member States;
- supporting activities carried out by data protection authorities to raise awareness of the GDPR among the general public.

<sup>41</sup> Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council - Data protection as a pillar of citizens' empowerment and the EU's approach to the digital transition - two years of application of the General Data Protection Regulation, COM/2020/264 final

## EXPECTED RESULTS

- further development of practical guidance, templates and digital tools facilitating the implementation of GDPR obligations by small and medium-sized enterprises;
- increased awareness of data protection among the general public.

## INDICATIVE TIMETABLE OF THE PUBLICATION OF THE CALL AND INDICATIVE AMOUNT

Call topic	Date	Budget
CERV-2021-DATA	Q2 2021	EUR 1 850 000 (EUR 900 000 + EUR 950 000)

## ESSENTIAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

To be eligible, grant applications must comply with all of the following criteria:

- applicants must be national Data Protection Authorities within the meaning of Article 51 of Regulation (EU) 2016/679; partners must be public entities or private organisations, duly established in one of the countries participating in the programme;
- the project can be either national or transnational;
- the application may involve one or more organisations (applicant and partner(s));
- the EU grant applied for cannot be lower than EUR 75 000.

### 3.8. Call for proposals on European remembrance

#### BUDGET LINE

Budget line 07 06 02: Promote citizens' engagement and participation in the democratic life of the Union

#### OBJECTIVE

*Supporting projects aimed at commemorating defining events in modern European history, including the causes and consequences of authoritarian and totalitarian regimes, and at raising awareness among European citizens, of their common history, culture, cultural heritage and values, thereby enhancing their understanding of the Union, its origins, purpose, diversity and achievements and of the importance of mutual understanding and tolerance.*

Policy initiatives supported: EU Strategy on combating antisemitism, EU anti-racism action plan for 2020-2025, EU Roma strategic framework on equality, inclusion and participation.

#### TYPE OF APPLICANTS TARGETED

Public local/regional authorities or non-profit organisations, including civil society organisations, survivors' associations, and cultural, youth, educational and research organisations.

#### POLICY PRIORITIES

##### **2021 and again in 2022**

##### **1. Commemoration of and research and education about crimes committed under totalitarian regimes**

Reconciliation with the legacy of the crimes committed by totalitarian regimes requires continuous sharing and promoting of this memory as well as research to curb distortion. Education targeting all generations, though in particular younger people, on the importance of safeguarding democracy and fundamental rights should draw on the lessons from crimes committed by totalitarian regimes, in particular the Holocaust.

The programme aims to foster a common culture of remembrance and mutual understanding between people from different countries. This is done notably by supporting projects that reflect on historical turning points and changes in regimes in 20<sup>th</sup> century Europe and on their continuous importance for today's Europe, and projects that promote the role of Europe's cultural heritage as a pivotal element of cultural diversity, and intercultural dialogue and local heritage linked to European memory.

In this context, priority will be given to Holocaust remembrance, research and education, in light of rising Holocaust denial and distortion, including online. 76 years after the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau and other Nazi death camps, public knowledge about the Holocaust is declining. Due to the disappearing number of eyewitnesses, it is essential to find new ways of remembering and educating about the Holocaust to protect society against resurging threats of hatred, discrimination and all forms of antisemitism, as highlighted in the EU Strategy on combating antisemitism and EU anti-racism action plan for 2020-2025.

Projects under this priority can focus on the European dimension of the Holocaust, its root

causes and consequences, as well as on transforming research and testimonies into practical educational tools. Furthermore, projects can aim to tackle the rising challenge of Holocaust denial and distortion and all other forms of antisemitism. In line with the EU Roma strategic framework on equality, inclusion and participation, projects can also focus on commemorating the Roma Holocaust.

## **2. Resistance, democratic transition and democratic consolidation in the EU**

The suppression of basic freedoms such as freedom of speech, assembly, thought, conscience and religion is an integral characteristic of totalitarian regimes, which triggered resistance. Organised opposition and/or ad-hoc resistance from within society have contributed to overcoming totalitarian rule and enabled transition into democracy.

For Member States that experienced in their recent history a transition to democracy, accession to the EU played an important role in supporting and consolidating democratisation. For example, through the system of 'democratic conditionality', membership preparations encouraged political changes and structural reforms, strengthened administrative capacity and improved the protection of minorities.

Projects under this priority should analyse and highlight resistance and/or organised opposition to totalitarian rule leading up to democratic transition, looking into democratic consolidation in the EU. They should focus on how the idea of EU accession influenced democratic standards and practices of the new democracies throughout the accession process, and how it does so today.

While taking stock of the enlargements that took place in the last decades, the projects could also offer the opportunity to discuss future enlargements or other kinds of partnerships with countries of the EU neighbourhood.

## **DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES**

This call supports activities that concern defining moments and developments in recent European history. The aim of these activities is to reflect on European diversity and values to encourage tolerance and respect, mutual understanding, intercultural dialogue and reconciliation. Projects are expected to: (i) include different organization types (local authorities, civil society organisations, research and archival institutes, cultural organisations, memorial and learning sites, etc.), (ii) develop different types of activities (training activities, publications, online tools, (provenance) research, non-formal education, public debates, exhibitions, awareness-rising, collection and digitisation of testimonies, innovative and creative actions, etc.), and; (iii) involve people from different target groups. Projects should have a European dimension and preferably be implemented on a transnational level (involving the creation and operation of transnational partnerships and networks).

## **EXPECTED RESULTS**

- raised awareness of European historical memory and remembrance, including through the development of activities linking remembrance with civic participation and democracy in the broadest sense;
- in the area of projects relating to the Holocaust and other genocides, exchange of views across national boundaries and promotion of a European approach to history, as well as the digitisation of the testimonies of survivors to preserve the memory;
- addition of a European dimension to relevant debates on important historical events

and moments of recent European history;

- contribution to creating lasting changes in participants' attitudes towards the EU and its history, values and culture;
- countering historical distortion, including distortion and denial of the Holocaust;
- identification, safeguarding and making available in particular online, archival material, testimonies and authentic sites for education purposes, commemoration and research.

#### INDICATIVE TIMETABLE OF THE PUBLICATION OF THE CALL AND INDICATIVE AMOUNT

Call topic	Date	Budget
CERV-2021-CITIZENS-REM	Q2 2021	EUR 4 515 000
CERV-2022-CITIZENS-REM	Q4 2021	EUR 7 000 000

#### ESSENTIAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

To be eligible, grant applications must comply with all of the following criteria:

- a) applicants/partners must be either a public body or a non-profit organisation with legal personality, established in an eligible country participating in the programme;
- b) organisations must be: public local/regional authorities or non-profit organisations, including civil society organisations, survivors' associations, or cultural, youth, educational and research organisations;
- c) the project must involve at least two organisations (applicant and partner(s)), with preference given to transnational projects;
- d) activities must take place in any of the eligible countries;
- e) the maximum duration of the project is 24 months.

#### MAXIMUM POSSIBLE RATE OF CO-FINANCING OF THE ELIGIBLE COSTS

Lump sum funding.

#### IMPLEMENTATION

Direct management by EACEA (DG JUST will publish the call for 2021).

### 3.9. Call for proposals on Citizens' engagement and participation

#### BUDGET LINE

Budget line 07 06 02: Promote citizens engagement and participation in the democratic life of the Union

#### OBJECTIVE

*Promoting citizens' and representative associations' participation in and contribution to the democratic and civic life of the Union by making known and publicly exchanging their views in all areas on Union action*

Among the policy initiatives supported: European democracy action plan, EU Citizenship report 2020, Strategy to strengthen the application of the Charter of Fundamental Rights in the EU.

#### TYPE OF APPLICANTS TARGETED

Non-profit organisations, including civil society organisations, educational, cultural or research institutions. Partners can also be public local/regional authorities.

#### POLICY PRIORITIES

##### **2022**

This call aims to support projects promoted by transnational partnerships and networks directly involving citizens. These projects will gather a diverse range of people from different backgrounds in activities directly linked to EU policies, giving them an opportunity to actively participate in the EU policymaking process in areas related to the programme's objectives.

The call provides an opportunity to broadly cover a variety of policy areas, and to contribute to the promotion of EU values, the rule of law, fundamental rights and democracy. While maintaining a bottom-up approach, there will be a specific focus on:

- **the 2024 European Parliament elections**, which are central to strengthening and nurturing democracy in the EU, with further efforts needed to promote the participation of citizens in the elections. This priority could also promote EU citizenship rights and contribute to the implementation of the European democracy action plan and the EU Citizenship Report 2020;
- exploring **how the COVID-19 crisis has affected the democratic debate and the enjoyment of fundamental rights**;
- **innovative democratic approaches and tools** to help citizens make their voices heard and publicly exchange views on all areas of EU action, notably digital tools ('e-democracy');
- **countering disinformation and other forms of interference in the democratic debate**, empowering citizens to make informed decisions by helping them identify disinformation and promoting media literacy, with journalists' involvement;
- engaging citizens and communities in **discussions and action related to our climate and environment**; there is a growing interest of civil society and associations in discussing climate and green issues and proposing solutions to decision makers.

Projects should support democratic participation, including by stimulating and organising

reflection, debates or other activities related to these priorities. They should also propose practical solutions that can be implemented through cooperation or coordination at European level, support the sharing of good practices, and ensure a practical link with the policy-making process. All projects shall both, at design and implementation stage, allow for equal participation and promote gender-sensitive approaches.

## DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES

Projects should gather people from different countries in activities directly linked to EU policies, to provide an opportunity for direct participation in the policymaking process and thus create the conditions for a stronger bottom-up approach and a more inclusive policymaking process, and foster civic and democratic engagement. Projects should include events such as debates, conferences, seminars, campaigns, workshops and cultural activities.

This call for proposals supports activities contributing to fostering democracy, inclusion and democratic participation in the EU by for example: (i) promoting societal engagement through debates, campaigns, awareness-raising, conferences, workshops etc. on the themes relevant to call priorities and providing a link to the European political agenda and policy making process, and; (ii) gathering the opinions of individuals through a bottom-up approach (including use of social networks, webinars etc.) and media literacy; and (iii) promoting exchanges between EU citizens on EU-related topics to foster a better understanding of different perspectives.

## EXPECTED RESULTS

- boosting citizens' awareness of rights and values and increasing their degree of engagement in society and with the EU;
- enabling people to deepen their knowledge of the EU institutions and policies, and better understand the EU's achievements and benefits;
- strengthening democratic participation, with a special focus on inclusion of younger and older people, women in all their diversity, mobile EU citizens and people with disabilities;
- stimulating reflection and debates related to the call priorities;
- strengthening the European character of the elections to the European Parliament;
- reaching large numbers of people through events, information material, and (social) media, making best use of new technologies and strengthening media literacy;
- reaching those citizens not active in civic participation in their everyday life;
- making it possible for members of the EU public to communicate their main concerns to the Commission so that these can be addressed through political commitment.

## INDICATIVE TIMETABLE OF THE PUBLICATION OF THE CALL AND INDICATIVE AMOUNT

Call topic	Date	Budget
CERV-2022-CITIZENS-CIV	Q4 2021	EUR 17 471 295

## **ESSENTIAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

To be eligible, grant applications must comply with all of the following criteria:

- a) the applicant must be a private non-profit organisation with legal personality, and the partner must be either a public body or non-profit organisation with legal personality, established in an eligible country participating to the programme;
- b) applicants are non-profit organisations, including civil society organisations, educational, cultural or research institutions; partners: other organisations involved in the project, can also be public local/regional authorities;
- c) the project must involve organisations from at least three different eligible countries participating in the programme;
- d) activities must take place in any of the eligible countries;
- e) the maximum duration of the project is 24 months.

## **MAXIMUM POSSIBLE RATE OF CO-FINANCING OF THE ELIGIBLE COSTS**

Lump sum funding.

## **IMPLEMENTATION**

Direct management by EACEA.

### 3.10. Call for proposals for Town-Twinning and Networks of Towns

#### BUDGET LINE

Budget line 07 06 02: Promote citizens engagement and participation in the democratic life of the Union

#### OBJECTIVE

*Promoting exchanges between citizens of different countries, in particular through town twinning and networks of towns, to give them practical experience of the wealth and diversity of the common heritage of the Union and to make them aware that these constitute the foundation for a common future*

Policy initiatives supported: European democracy action plan, EU Roma strategic framework on equality, inclusion and participation, Strategy to strengthen the application of the Charter of Fundamental Rights in the EU, EU Citizenship Report 2020.

#### TYPE OF APPLICANTS TARGETED

Towns/municipalities or their twinning committees or networks; other levels of local/regional authorities; federations/associations of local authorities; non-profit organisations representing local authorities.

#### POLICY PRIORITIES

##### **2021 and again in 2022**

##### **I. Town-Twinning**

The programme contributes to promoting intercultural dialogue by bringing people of different nationalities and different languages together and giving them the opportunity to participate in common activities. In this context, Town-Twinning projects will raise awareness of the richness of Europe's cultural and linguistic environment and promote mutual understanding and tolerance, contributing to the development of a respectful, dynamic and multifaceted European identity and the respect of common values, democracy and fundamental rights.

The EU is built on solidarity: solidarity between its citizens, solidarity across borders between its Member States, and solidarity through support actions inside and outside the EU. Solidarity is a shared value that creates cohesion and responds to societal challenges. Town-Twinning projects will contribute to overcoming national perceptions by fostering mutual understanding and by creating fora where common solutions can be discussed in a constructive way. Their aim should be to raise awareness of the importance of reinforcing the European integration process based on solidarity and common values.

At the same time, Town-Twinning projects will give citizens the opportunity to express what kind of Europe they want. Debates supported under the Town-Twinning measure should be based on the EU's specific achievements and on lessons learnt from history. They should also reflect on current trends, and enable participants to challenge euroscepticism and to suggest possible actions that the EU could take to foster a sense of belonging to Europe, to increase understanding of the benefits of the EU and to reinforce

the EU's social and political cohesion.

The COVID-19 pandemic has not only challenged our health and economy, but influenced the ways in which our democracies and civic participation function. The need to prevent the spread of the contagion led to the imposition of strong restrictions on individual and collective freedoms. Civic space under lockdown conditions has been narrowed but at the same time shown a high level of dynamism. Citizens have found creative ways to be useful to their communities, to offer social and cultural tools against isolation, to volunteer for providing support to the weak and vulnerable trying to respond to people's needs.

Town-Twinning projects (as well as Networks of Towns projects) are encouraged to reflect on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the life within and the functioning of local communities as well as on the forms civic participation takes under the COVID-19 crisis.

*Indicative budget: EUR 2 745 135 in 2021 and EUR 4 500 000 in 2022.*

## **II. Networks of Towns**

Networks of Towns will give towns and municipalities the possibility to deepen and intensify their cooperation and debate, develop sustainable networks and outline their long-term vision for the future of European integration.

The Commission expects Networks of Towns to reflect on a new narrative for Europe, one that is people-oriented, forward-looking and constructive, and that would be more engaging for the younger generation in particular. Projects may be based on the outcome of citizens' consultations and may lead to debates about specific ways to create a more democratic EU, to encourage citizens to re-engage with the EU and help them develop a stronger sense of ownership of the European project.

While maintaining a bottom-up approach, there could be a specific focus on:

### **2021**

- promoting awareness and building knowledge of EU citizenship rights and associated European common values and common democratic standards, ensuring the provision of information to mobile EU citizens, including those in a precarious situation and EU citizens with a migrant background, and their family members, and encouraging the inclusion and democratic participation of mobile EU citizens and under-represented groups;
- promoting awareness, building knowledge and sharing best practice concerning the benefits of diversity as well as effective measures on how to tackle discrimination and racism, at local level;
- promoting awareness and building knowledge of the role of minorities, such as people with a minority racial or ethnic background (for instance Roma), in European society, and their contribution to Europe's cultural development;
- promoting awareness and exchanging best practice concerning the EU Charter on Fundamental Rights and its application at local level.

*Indicative budget: EUR 4 200 000.*

### **2022**

- identifying ways to further strengthen the European dimension and democratic legitimacy of the EU decision-making process and fostering free, open and healthy democratic governance in an era of low turnout in elections, populism, disinformation and challenges facing civil society, by supporting citizens' active

- involvement in European political life and the exercise of their electoral rights;
- supporting the integrity of free and fair elections in Europe, preserving the EU's democratic institutions and citizens' participation in them; coordination within and among relevant networks could lead in particular to the establishment of common working methods, capacity building to detect and address threats to elections, best practices and guidelines.

*Indicative budget: EUR 6 500 000.*

## **DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES**

Activities related to Town-Twinning and Networks of Towns may include workshops, seminars, conferences, training activities, expert meetings, webinars, awareness-raising activities, data gathering and consultation, development, exchanges and dissemination of good practices amongst public authorities and civil society organisations, development of communication tools and the use of social media.

### **I. Town-Twinning**

This measure aims to support projects that bring together a wide range of people from twinned towns around topics related to the programme's objectives. By mobilising members of the public at the local and EU levels to debate specific issues on the European political agenda, this measure will seek to promote mutual understanding, inclusion and cultural diversity and develop opportunities for civic engagement at the EU level.

### **II. Networks of Towns**

Under this measure, municipalities or regions and associations working together in a long-term perspective are invited to develop networks of towns to make their cooperation more sustainable and to exchange good practice.

Networks of Towns are expected to integrate a range of activities around subjects of common interest related to the programme's objectives, to involve community members active in the subject area and to aim for sustainability.

## **EXPECTED RESULTS**

### **I. Town-Twinning:**

- increase in and encouragement of mutual understanding and friendship between citizens at a local level;
- helping citizens from local communities to experience and recognise the added value that the EU provides through a grassroots approach;
- an increased sense of belonging to the EU.

### **II. Networks of towns**

- an opportunity for towns and municipalities to develop larger-scale projects with the aim of increasing their projects' impact and sustainability;
- possibility for beneficiaries to develop more thematic and policy-related projects;
- lasting links with partner organisations;
- raised awareness of the benefits of diversity and the tackling of discrimination and racism;
- increase in and encouragement of mutual understanding and acceptance of European minorities, such as Roma;
- raised awareness on the EU Charter on Fundamental Rights and its application, and

- promotion of a culture of fundamental rights;
- better information on the rights conferred by EU citizenship and their improved implementation in Member States;
- raised awareness and better provision of information to mobile EU citizens and their family members on their EU citizenship rights.

#### INDICATIVE TIMETABLE OF THE PUBLICATION OF THE CALL AND INDICATIVE AMOUNT

Call topic	Date	Budget
CERV-2021-CITIZENS-TOWN (CERV-2021-CITIZENS-TOWN-TT & CERV-2021-CITIZENS-TOWN-NT)	Q2 2021	EUR 6 945 135
CERV-2022-CITIZENS-TOWN (CERV-2022-CITIZENS-TOWN-TT & CERV-2022-CITIZENS-TOWN-NT)	Q4 2021	EUR 11 000 000

#### ESSENTIAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

To be eligible, grant applications for Town-Twinning must comply with all of the following criteria:

- applicant and partners are either a public body or a non-profit organisation with legal personality, established in an eligible country participating in the programme;
- applicants are towns/municipalities and/or other levels of local authorities, their twinning committees or other non-profit organisations representing local authorities;
- the project must involve municipalities from at least two eligible countries of which at least one is an EU Member State;
- a Town-Twinning event must involve a minimum of 50 direct participants, of which a minimum of 25 are 'invited participants': travelling delegations from eligible project partner countries other than the country hosting a town twinning event;
- activities must take place in one of the eligible countries participating to the project;
- the maximum duration of the project is 12 months.

To be eligible, grant applications for Networks of Towns must comply with all of the following criteria:

- applicant and partners are either a public body or a non-profit organisation with legal personality, established in an eligible country participating in the programme;
- applicants are towns/municipalities and/or other levels of local authorities, their twinning committees or other non-profit organisations representing local authorities;
- the project must involve municipalities from at least five eligible countries of which at least three are EU Member States;
- activities must take place in at least two different eligible programme countries;
- the maximum duration of the project is 24 months.

#### **MAXIMUM POSSIBLE RATE OF CO-FINANCING OF THE ELIGIBLE COSTS**

Lump sum funding - for Town-Twinning the maximum grant amount is EUR 30 000.

#### **IMPLEMENTATION**

Direct management by EACEA

### 3.11. Call for proposals to prevent and combat gender-based violence and violence against children

#### BUDGET LINE

Budget line 07 06 03: Daphne

#### OBJECTIVES

*To fight violence, including gender-based violence:*

- 1. preventing and combating at all levels all forms of gender-based violence against women and girls and domestic violence, including by promoting the standards laid down in the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence;*
- 2. preventing and combating all forms of violence against children, young people and other groups at risk, such as LGBTQI persons and persons with disabilities;*
- 3. supporting and protecting all direct and indirect victims of the forms of violence referred to in points (1) and (2), such as the victims of domestic violence perpetrated within the family or within intimate relationships, including children orphaned as a result of domestic crimes, and supporting and ensuring the same level of protection throughout the Union for victims of gender-based violence.*

Policy initiatives supported: Gender Equality Strategy, EU strategy on the rights of the child, EU Strategy on victims' rights.

#### TYPE OF APPLICANTS TARGETED

Member States' public authorities, support services, civil society organisations.

#### POLICY PRIORITIES

##### 2021

#### **1. Early detection, prevention and protection of and/or support to women, children, and young people victims or potential victims of violence, with specific attention paid to situations emerging from the COVID-19 pandemic**

Helplines and support services reported that violence against children, women and LGTBQI people has been on the rise during the COVID-19 pandemic. Staying at home because of the lockdown has affected in particular women and children living with a perpetrator, those negatively affected by prolonged judicial procedures, women and children with disabilities or in migration, as well as children in alternative care. Increased internet usage during lockdown has also led to a rise in incidents of online violence.

The aim of this priority is to address (potential) victims' needs within existing support mechanisms, as well as to fund programmes that provide early detection, prevention and adequate support. This involves the strengthening of gender-specific and child-centred responses to violence, through capacity-building and strengthened multi-disciplinary cooperation and coordination among relevant actors, such as law enforcement and judicial professionals, victim support services, IT platforms and regulatory bodies.

This call aims to contribute to the implementation of:

- the provisions of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence, particularly Chapters IV and V related to support and protection measures;
- Directive 2012/29/EU establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime.

*Indicative funding available for this priority: EUR 13 475 300.*

## **2. Preventing gender-based violence by addressing masculinities and the engagement of men and boys**

The objective is to end men's violence against women and girls, including honour-related violence and oppression, while acknowledging that men and boys have an important role to play in violence prevention. Actions can focus on different areas such as: i) early intervention to address adverse childhood experiences and break the cycle of violence; ii) a universal (primary) prevention approach, for example, by working with young people; and iii) a targeted prevention approach through perpetrator treatment programmes to prevent recidivism.

The focus is on: (i) addressing violent norms of masculinities; (ii) supporting the development of non-violent relationships by engaging men and boys as allies; (iii) treatment of perpetrators through prevention programmes; and (iv) ensuring that men and boys become change agents benefitting from non-violence and gender equality. The involvement of men and boys in the prevention of gender-based violence against women can take on many forms, including by using role models, agents of change and advocates for equality between women and men and mutual respect.

The focus should be on engaging with men to challenge other men's behaviour to transform unequal power relations between women and men and to tackle violence against women. Women's and girls' safety and rights must be central in all actions.

*Indicative funding available for this priority: EUR 4 224 700.*

## **2022**

### **1. Large-scale and long-term transnational actions to tackle gender-based violence**

In line with the Gender Equality Strategy, this priority aims to support the development of large-scale, integrated actions to combat gender-based violence, and achieve long-term and structural changes with a wide geographical coverage.

The objective is to achieve balanced coverage of actions across different areas of intervention in line with the priorities of the Gender Equality Strategy. To do this, a number of transnational proposals must be selected, each focusing on different priorities, such as:

- **domestic violence:** increasing awareness of and access to support services for (potential) victims, strengthening gender-specific responses to domestic violence (including for witnesses of domestic violence), through capacity-building and multi-disciplinary strengthened cooperation and coordination among relevant actors;
- **harmful practices:** tackling female genital mutilation and forced sterilisation, early and forced marriage, 'honour-related violence' and other harmful practices against women and girls;
- **online violence targeting women and girls:** tackling gender-based cyber violence, such as incitement to violence, online stalking, non-consensual image sharing,

extortion with the use of sexual imagery ('sextortion'), sexual or gendered online harassment and bullying, grooming, etc;

- **violence and harassment in the world of work:** tackling physical and psychological offline and online violence or harassment in work contexts by, in particular, preventing such unwanted behaviours, encouraging the development and implementation of remedies and victim support mechanisms, and the development of relevant tools, guidance, education and training;
- **gender stereotypes:** preventing gender-based violence by tackling prejudices and gender stereotypes, in particular those related to masculinities, norms, attitudes and behaviours that encourage, condone or minimise violence, as well as by providing women and men, girls and boys, in all their diversity, with the tools to call out and stand up to violence through empowerment and bystander intervention programmes.

In order to ensure on-the-ground interventions and wide coverage, the partnership should ensure collaboration with actors in different sectors and organisations guaranteeing a multiplier effect. Proposals will have to develop a long-term programme of intervention in view of achieving changes in attitudes and behaviour, guaranteeing impact and reaching out to a large number of participants in different geographical areas of the EU and covered by the programme. They must include an effective and detailed monitoring and evaluation system, which will enable partners to evaluate the impact of their intervention.

*Indicative funding available for this priority: EUR 10 000 000.*

## **2. Combating and preventing violence linked to harmful practices**

This entails combating, raising awareness and preventing violence linked to harmful practices such as female genital mutilation, forced or early-age marriage or forced sexual relationships, so-called 'honour crimes' committed against women, young people and children. It includes the strengthening of public services, prevention and support measures, capacity building of professionals and victim-centred access to justice.

Actions should focus on changing attitudes in impacted communities, including through dialogue, mutual learning and exchange of good practice. Projects must incorporate direct community participation, including targeted awareness raising, education as well as promotion of dialogue within impacted communities. Actions must take a child-centred approach and/or a gender-sensitive approach depending on the target group.

*Indicative funding available for this priority: EUR 6 000 000.*

## **3. Primary prevention of gender-based violence**

The focus of this priority is on primary prevention, in particular changing social norms and behaviour, in order to end tolerance of all forms of gender-based violence. This includes specific and practical awareness-raising, education and training activities to tackle prejudices and gender stereotypes and norms that encourage, condone or minimise violence, as well as to provide women and men with the tools to call out and stand up to violence through empowerment and bystander intervention programmes. Any form of gender-based violence can be covered under this priority. Proposals must explain which social norms and behaviours they aim to address and justify how activities encouraging or discouraging these attitudes and behaviours will directly contribute to the prevention of gender-based violence.

*Indicative funding available for this priority: EUR 7 000 000.*

#### **4. Supporting and improving national data collection on violence against children**

Collection of data on violence against children is very fragmented. There are gaps at all levels, making the response to violence more difficult. This priority aims to foster efforts towards more sustainable and comprehensive data collection at local and/or national level.

*Indicative funding available for this priority: EUR 2 000 000.*

#### **5. Strengthening responses that prevent and support child victims of violence by reinforcing child protection systems at national and local level**

An effective response to violence (in all its forms) is only possible when it is well coordinated among all relevant stakeholders. Too often, services work in silos, with little referral between relevant services, or lack of follow-up to cases in the long term. Prevention activities are separated from protection and support to victims. The objective of this priority is to contribute to systemic changes at national level, and ultimately create integrated child protection systems, for a more effective prevention and protection of victims.

*Indicative funding available for this priority: EUR 2 000 000.*

### **DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES**

Activities shall include:

- awareness-raising and empowerment activities;
- capacity-building and training for professionals;
- design and implementation of protocols, development of working methods and tools, coordination platform and groups;
- design of services and measures improving access to victim support services;
- exchange of good practices, mutual learning;
- creation and implementation of data collection strategies and systems.

Practical projects developing and implementing specific measures are preferred. While research is not excluded, if research activities are to be part of the project, they must be strictly linked to the project as a whole.

It is strongly encouraged to involve a public authority to actively participate in the projects. This requirement will be assessed under award criterion (b) quality of the proposed action.

### **EXPECTED RESULTS**

#### **2021**

##### **1. Early detection, prevention and protection of and/or support to women, children and women victims or potential victims of violence, with specific attention paid to situations emerging from the COVID-19 pandemic:**

- increased access to support services, such as, helplines, shelters and counselling services;
- changed attitudes and behaviours concerning domestic violence and online violence

(including lower tolerance of violent behaviour and decreased victim-blaming) among the general population and particular groups, e.g. relevant professionals, witnesses and bystanders, vulnerable groups, etc.;

- prevention of violence through education about gender equality and healthy relationships, as well as the empowerment of women;
- improved detection and reporting of (early signs of) violence;
- increased capacity of stakeholders and relevant professionals to address issues related to domestic violence, including through strengthened multi-agency cooperation;
- victims' safety is guaranteed and further violence prevented;
- cases of violence across borders are properly addressed, through the application of Directive 2011/99/EU on the European protection order;
- increased reporting of violence to the police and other services, with appropriate mechanisms in place to facilitate this;
- increased likelihood of bystander intervention;
- increased prevention of situations of violence against children;
- strengthened protection and support to child victims of violence;
- reinforced capacity of professionals to prevent, detect and respond to violence against children;
- strengthened child protection systems; increased cooperation among relevant services;
- better response to the COVID-19 pandemic with respect to the needs of children.

## **2. Preventing gender-based violence by engaging men and boys:**

- increased engagement of men and boys in tackling gender-based violence against women and supporting the development of non-violent relationships;
- prevention of violence before it happens through education about gender equality and healthy relationships;
- increased likelihood of bystander intervention;
- increased capacity of stakeholders and relevant professionals to address issues related to gender-based violence and engagement of men and boys, including through strengthened multi-agency cooperation;
- changed attitudes and behaviours concerning gender equality and gender-based violence (including lower tolerance and decreased victim-blaming) among men and boys;
- more effective treatment of perpetrators of violence;
- increased safety of women and their children and others at risk from violence in close relationships, through the promotion of effective work with those who perpetrate this violence;
- increased promotion and support of gender-sensitive prevention of violence in close relationships through awareness raising, sharing of information and knowledge and the creation and dissemination of training opportunities.

### **2022**

#### **1. Large-scale and long-term transnational actions on tackling gender-based violence:**

- changed attitudes and behaviours concerning gender-based violence (including

lower tolerance and decreased victim-blaming) among the general population and particular groups, e.g. relevant professionals, witnesses and bystanders, vulnerable groups;

- increased dialogue, mutual learning and exchange of good practices with and among the impacted communities;
- increased capacity of stakeholders and relevant professionals to address issues related to gender-based violence, including through strengthened multi-agency cooperation;
- reduced risk of gender-based violence;
- increased availability of quality services for all victims of gender-based violence.

## **2. Combating and preventing violence linked to harmful practices:**

- changed attitudes among relevant communities;
- increased dialogue, mutual learning and exchange of good practices with and among the impacted communities;
- increased capacity of stakeholders and relevant professionals to address issues related to harmful practices/communities, including through strengthened multi-agency cooperation;
- prevention of harmful practices before they happen through education about gender equality, fundamental rights, and engagement of community members;
- strengthened public services, prevention and support measures, capacity-building of professionals and victim-centred access to justice.

## **3. Primary prevention of gender-based violence:**

- increased awareness of prejudices and gender stereotypes and norms that contribute to the tolerance of violence;
- change in attitudes and behaviour as regards the issue of gender-based violence (including lower tolerance and victim-blaming) among general population and particular groups, e.g. relevant professionals, witnesses and bystanders, vulnerable groups;
- increased likelihood of bystander intervention;
- increased capacity of stakeholders and relevant professionals to address issues related to gender-based violence, including through strengthened multi-agency cooperation and tackling of prejudices and gender stereotypes and norms;
- reduced risk of gender-based violence and violence against children;
- a system strengthened through capacity-building to ensure that structures for the prevention of and responses to violence against women, children and other groups particularly targeted are extended or adapted to also include refugees and migrants.

## **4. Supporting and improving national data collection on violence against children:**

- increased understanding of the situation at local, national and EU level with regard to violence against children;
- increased efforts from authorities and relevant services to record and collect data on violence;
- more effective, systematic and comparable collection of data on violence against

children;

- evidence-based support to more effective policies and measures to tackle violence against children.

**5. Strengthening responses that prevent and support child victims of violence by reinforcing child protection systems at national and local level:**

- increased prevention of situations of violence against children;
- strengthened protection and support to child victims of violence;
- reinforced capacity of professionals to prevent, detect and respond to violence against children;
- strengthened child protection systems;
- increased cooperation among relevant services;
- increased capacity of relevant services, who play a role in preventing and responding to violence against children.

**INDICATIVE TIMETABLE OF THE PUBLICATION OF THE CALL AND INDICATIVE AMOUNT**

<b>Call topic</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Budget</b>
CERV-2021-DAPHNE	Q2 2021	EUR 17 700 000
CERV-2022-DAPHNE	Q4 2021	EUR 27 000 000

**ESSENTIAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

**2021**

To be eligible, grant applications must comply with all of the following criteria:

(a) applicants and partners must be public entities or private organisations, duly established in one of the countries participating in the programme, or an international organisation; organisations which are profit-oriented must submit applications in partnership with public entities or private non-profit organisations;

(b) the project can be either national or transnational;

(c) the application must involve at least two organisations (applicant and partner);

(d) the EU grant applied for cannot be lower than EUR 75 000.

**2022**

To be eligible under the **first priority**, grant applications must comply with all of the following criteria:

(a) applicants and partners must be public entities or private organisations, duly established in one of the countries participating in the programme, or an international organisation; organisations which are profit-oriented must submit applications in partnership with public entities or private non-profit organisations;

(b) the project has to be transnational;

(c) the application must involve at least two organisations (applicant and partner);

(d) the EU grant applied for cannot be lower than EUR 1 000 000 or higher than EUR 2 000 000.

To be eligible under the **second** and **third priority**, grant applications must comply with all of the following criteria:

(a) applicants and partners must be public entities or private organisations, duly established in one of the countries participating in the programme, or an international organisation; organisations which are profit-oriented must submit applications in partnership with public entities or private non-profit organisations;

(b) the project can be either national or transnational;

(c) the application must involve at least two organisations (applicant and partner);

(d) the EU grant applied for cannot be lower than EUR 75 000 or higher than EUR 1 000 000.

To be eligible under the **fourth** and **fifth priority**, grant applications must comply with all of the following criteria:

(a) applicants and partners must be public entities or private organisations, duly established in one of the countries participating in the programme, or an international organisation; organisations which are profit-oriented must submit applications in partnership with public entities or private non-profit organisations;

(b) the project can be either national or transnational;

(c) the application must involve at least two organisations (applicant and partner);

(d) the EU grant applied for cannot be lower than EUR 75 000.

### **3.12. Call for proposals for 4-year framework partnership agreements to support European networks, civil society organisations active at EU level and European think tanks in the areas of Union values**

#### **BUDGET LINES**

Budget line 07 06 04: Protect and promote Union values

#### **OBJECTIVES**

*Protecting, promoting and raising awareness of rights by providing financial support to civil society organisations which are active at local, regional, national and transnational level in promoting and cultivating those rights, thereby also strengthening the protection and promotion of Union values and respect for the rule of law and contributing to the construction of a more democratic Union, democratic dialogue, transparency and good governance.*

Policy initiatives supported: European democracy action plan, EU Citizenship Report 2020, Rule of law report, Strategy to strengthen the application of the Charter of Fundamental Rights in the EU, Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025, EU anti-racism action plan, EU Roma strategic framework on equality, inclusion and participation, LGBTIQ Equality Strategy, EU Strategy on the rights of the child, EU Strategy on combating antisemitism, Strategy for the rights of persons with disabilities 2021-2030.

#### **TYPE OF APPLICANTS TARGETED**

European networks, civil society organisations active at EU level and European think tanks.

#### **POLICY PRIORITIES**

This call aims to set up 4-year framework partnership agreements with European networks, civil society organisations active at EU level and European think tanks whose statutory aims are to protect and promote Union values.

In particular, framework partners should be active in:

- promoting and protecting Union values;
- promoting equality, preventing and combating discrimination;
- promoting gender equality;
- combating racism, xenophobia and all forms of intolerance;
- protecting and promoting the rights of the child;
- protecting and promoting the rights of persons with disabilities;
- promoting European remembrance;
- promoting citizens' engagement;
- preventing and combating gender-based violence;
- preventing and combating violence against children.

The annual operating grants to be signed based on these framework partnership agreements will increase the capacities of these networks to contribute actively to the development and

implementation of EU policies in these areas.

## DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES

This call will support European networks whose activities contribute to the implementation of the programme's objectives listed above and which will implement among others: analytical activities, training and capacity building activities, mutual learning and exchange of good practices, awareness raising, information and dissemination activities with EU added value. Civil society organisations active at EU level and European think tanks will also be supported in the area of European remembrance and citizens' engagement.

Every year, an operating grant may be awarded to framework partners to finance their activities (see point 3.13), insofar as these are in line with the programme's objectives in the area concerned and the policy priorities that may be established by the Commission. The costs of general administrative expenditure necessary for the running of these organisations may also be covered. As of 2023, framework partners qualifying as European networks will have the possibility to re-grant (i.e. further disburse grants) to their member organisations.

## INDICATIVE TIMETABLE OF THE PUBLICATION OF THE CALL AND INDICATIVE AMOUNT

Call topic	Date	Budget
CERV-2021-OG-FPA CERV-2021-OG-NETW-DISA-FPA	Q2 2021	

## ESSENTIAL ELIGIBILITY, SELECTION AND AWARD CRITERIA

To be **eligible**, grant applications must comply with all of the following criteria:

(a) The applicant for a framework partnership must be a private non-profit-oriented organisation, legally established in a Member State of the European Union and with legal personality.

(b) The applicant for a **framework partnership** must be an established **formal network** with own legal personality or represent (as a joint secretariat or officially appointed coordinator) an established **formal network**, must be organised at European level and **have member organisations/bodies or authorities in at least 14 EU Member States**. Networks active **in the area of preventing female genital mutilation (FGM) must have member organisations/bodies or authorities in at least 12 EU Member States**. The applicant must be a single applicant, where only the network or the organisation appointed as the joint secretariat/officially appointed coordinator may submit an application; the member organisations are not eligible to apply.

In the area of **citizens' engagement**, the applicant for a framework partnership **can also be an established civil society organisation active at EU level with activities in at least 14 EU Member States** or a **European think tank**. In the area of **European remembrance**, the applicant **can also be a civil society organisation active at EU level**.

(c) The applicant's statutory aims must fall under one of the programme objectives set out in the relevant call for proposals.

The applicant must provide a strategic work programme for a period of 4 years starting in 2022.

Applicants for framework partnerships must meet the following **selection criteria**:

- (a) the applicant's operational and professional capacity to implement and/or coordinate the proposed outline 4-year work programme and to maintain its activities during the 4-year period of implementation of the proposed outline work programme;
- (b) the applicant's financial capacity: the applicant should have stable and sufficient sources of funding to maintain its activity throughout the 4-year period during which the proposed outline work programme is being carried out and to participate in its funding.

Proposals will be assessed based on the following **award criteria**:

- (a) relevance to the priorities of the call;
- (b) quality of the outline of the 4-year work programme;
- (c) impact of the action.

## **IMPLEMENTATION**

Direct management by DG EMPL and EACEA (DG JUST will publish the call instead of EACEA for 2021).

### 3.13. Operating grants to framework partners active in the area of Union values

#### BUDGET LINES

Budget line 07 06 04: Protect and promote Union values

#### OBJECTIVES

*Protecting, promoting and raising awareness of rights by providing financial support to civil society organisations which are active at local, regional, national and transnational level in promoting and cultivating those rights, thereby also strengthening the protection and promotion of Union values and respect for the rule of law and contributing to the construction of a more democratic Union, democratic dialogue, transparency and good governance.*

Policy initiatives supported: European democracy action plan, EU Citizenship Report 2020, Rule of law report, Strategy to strengthen the application of the Charter of Fundamental Rights in the EU, Gender Equality Strategy, EU anti-racism action plan, EU Roma strategic framework on equality, inclusion and participation, LGBTIQ Equality Strategy, EU Strategy on the rights of the child, EU Strategy on combating antisemitism, Strategy for the rights of persons with disabilities 2021-2030.

#### TYPE OF APPLICANTS TARGETED

European networks, civil society organisations active at EU level and European think tanks.

#### POLICY PRIORITIES

##### **2021 and again in 2022**

These grants aim to support the annual work programmes of European networks which have signed framework partnership agreements (see point 3.12) and are active in one of the following areas: of non-discrimination, gender equality, combating racism, xenophobia and all forms of intolerance, rights of the child, rights of persons with disabilities, preventing and combating gender-based violence and violence against children. These grants also aim to support the annual work programmes of European networks, civil society organisations active at EU level and European think tanks which have signed framework partnership agreements (see point 3.12) and are active in the areas of European remembrance or citizens' engagement. Framework partners will be invited to submit their proposal presenting their annual priorities.

#### DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES

These grants will fund the network's, organisation's or think tank's operating costs and those activities which have EU added value and contribute to the implementation of programme objectives, including: analytical activities, training and capacity building activities, conferences, mutual learning, cooperation, awareness-raising, communication and dissemination activities. Applicants must provide a detailed annual work programme for a period of 12 months.

As of 2023, framework partners that qualify as European networks will have the possibility to re-grant (i.e. further disburse grants) to their member organisations.

## EXPECTED RESULTS

**European networks** are expected to contribute to achieving at least one of the following objectives:

- building the capacity of national or regional organisations working in the areas covered by the grant;
- building and increasing the capacity of network partners to develop coherent and coordinated activities that promote the relevant policy objectives;
- expansion of the network's reach, including new partners;
- a measurable increase in the impact of the network's activities in the relevant policy areas.

**Civil society organisations active at EU level** and active in the area of European remembrance and citizens' engagement are expected to contribute to achieving at least one of the following objectives:

- building and increasing their capacity to develop coherent and coordinated transnational activities to promote the relevant policy objectives at EU level;
- a tangible contribution made by the organisation's permanent, usual and regular transnational activities to the relevant policy objectives at EU level and a measurable increase in impact in the relevant policy areas.

**European think tanks** active in the area of European remembrance and citizens' engagement are expected to contribute to achieving at least one of the following objectives:

- providing a link between research and policy-making at European level, which helps find solutions to problems;
- facilitating interaction between scientists, academia and decision-makers.

In 2023, network member organisations that receive a grant from a framework partner are expected to contribute to achieving at least one of the following objectives:

- strengthened capacity to protect and promote EU rights and values;
- more supportive environment for CSOs and rights defenders such as national human rights institutions;
- better developed advocacy and watchdog role of CSOs;
- increased involvement of CSOs in policy- and decision-making processes with local, regional, and national governments;
- increased citizen awareness of EU rights and values;
- strengthened regional cooperation within civil society.

## INDICATIVE TIMETABLE OF THE PUBLICATION OF THE CALL AND INDICATIVE AMOUNT

Call topic	Date	Objective	Budget per year, in 2021 and in 2022	Re-granting in 2022
CERV-2021-OG-SGA	Q2 2021	Union values	EUR 26 700 000	EUR 5 800 000 (only in 2022)
CERV-2021-OG-	Q3 2022			

NETW-DISA-SGA				
CERV-2022-OG-SGA				
CERV-2022-OG-NETW-DISA-SGA				
		Promote and protect Union values	EUR 1 100 000	
		Promote equality, prevent and combat discrimination	EUR 4 100 000	
		Promote gender equality	EUR 1 600 000	
		Combat racism, xenophobia and all forms of intolerance	EUR 2 600 000	
		Protect and promote the rights of the child	EUR 1 200 000	
		Protect and promote the rights of persons with disabilities	EUR 5 800 000	
		Promote European remembrance	EUR 1 700 000	
		Promote citizens' engagement	EUR 6 000 000	
		Prevent and combat gender-based violence	EUR 1 600 000	
		Prevent and combat violence against children	EUR 1 000 000	

#### ESSENTIAL AWARD CRITERIA

Proposals will be assessed based on the following award criteria:

a) relevance: extent to which the proposed annual work programme addresses the

priorities announced by the Commission and is coherent with the organisation's 4-year action plan annexed to the framework partnership agreement;

- b) quality of the annual work programme, which must be clear, realistic and well detailed;
- c) impact of the action.

#### **IMPLEMENTATION**

Direct management by DG EMPL and EACEA (DG JUST will publish the call instead of EACEA for 2021).

### 3.14. Award of a grant without a call for proposals to EQUINET

#### BUDGET LINE

Budget line 07 06 01: Promote equality and rights

#### OBJECTIVE

*Promoting equality and preventing and combating inequalities and discrimination based on sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation and respecting the principle of non-discrimination on the grounds provided for in Article 21 of the Charter.*

Legal basis: Article 12(3) of [Regulation (EU) of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values programme] and Article 195(d) of the Financial Regulation.

#### POLICY PRIORITIES

##### **2021 and again in 2022**

The focus is on promoting equal treatment of all people and eliminating discrimination on grounds of racial or ethnic origin or sex.

In accordance with EU acts on equal treatment, Member States set up independent bodies for the promotion of equal treatment, commonly known as 'equality bodies', in order to combat discrimination based on race and ethnic origin as well as gender.

Equality bodies play a key role in promoting equality and ensuring effective application of equal treatment legislation by providing in particular independent assistance to victims of discrimination, conducting independent surveys on discrimination, publishing independent reports and making recommendations on any issue relating to discrimination in their country. It is essential that the work of equality bodies is coordinated at EU level.

EQUINET, the European Network of Equality Bodies (registered in Belgium), was created in 2007. Its members are the national bodies for the promotion of equal treatment created under: (i) Article 13 of the Racial Equality Directive 2000/43/EC, (ii) Article 12 of Directive 2004/113/EC on equal treatment between men and women in goods and services, (iii) Article 20 of Directive 2006/54/EC on equal treatment between men and women in employment, or (iv) Article 11 of Directive 2010/41/EU on equal treatment between men and women in self-employment.

EQUINET is the only entity that ensures coordination of activities between equality bodies. This coordination is key for the proper implementation of EU anti-discrimination law in Member States.

The Commission will invite EQUINET in writing to submit its proposal presenting its annual policy priorities.

## DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES

This grant aims to support activities implemented in 2022 and 2023 by the European Network of the Equality Bodies, specifically for sharing experiences and good practices, trainings, awareness raising and studies.

## EXPECTED RESULTS

- increased capacity of experts from national equality bodies to address issues related to non-discrimination and the implementation of EU legislation in the field;
- strengthened cooperation and exchange of information between equality bodies;
- improved knowledge of the legislation and administrative practices related to non-discrimination.

## INDICATIVE TIMETABLE OF THE PUBLICATION OF THE CALL AND INDICATIVE AMOUNT

Call topic	Date	Budget
CERV-2021-EQUINET-OG-FPA-IBA		
CERV-2021-EQUINET-OG-SGA	Q2 2021	EUR 1 200 000
CERV-2022-EQUINET-OG-SGA	Q2 2022	EUR 1 200 000

## ESSENTIAL AWARD CRITERIA

Proposal will be assessed based on the following award criteria:

- a) relevance: extent to which the proposed annual work programme addresses the priorities announced by the Commission;
- b) quality of the annual work programme, which must be clear, realistic and well detailed;
- c) impact of the action.

### 3.15. Award of a grant without a call for proposals to Programme Contact Points in Member States

#### BUDGET LINE

Budget line 07 06 04: Protect and promote Union values

#### OBJECTIVES

Every Member State may establish Programme contact points with responsibility for providing impartial guidance, practical information and assistance to applicants, stakeholders and beneficiaries of the Programme with respect to all the aspects thereof, including in relation to the application procedure, dissemination of user-friendly information and Programme results, inquiries for partners, training and formalities.

Article 21 of [Regulation (EU) of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values programme]

#### TYPE OF APPLICANTS TARGETED

Bodies designated as Programme Contact Points, namely: organisations officially designated by the Member States and participating countries and formally accepted by the European Commission.

#### POLICY PRIORITIES

##### **2021 and again in 2022**

Each Member State and country participating in the programme can receive funding to support the activities of a decentralised structure that it has designated to be in charge of information and dissemination activities related to the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values programme (Programme Contact Point). The aim of these Contact Points is to promote European initiatives in areas covered by the programme and to facilitate the participation of programme stakeholders. In addition to their information and dissemination role, these Contact Points also play an important role in other areas such as providing advice to applicants, supporting partner search, and provision of information about national or regional initiatives in the areas covered by the programme at the European level.

#### DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES

- information: providing information about the programme and policy initiatives in the areas covered by the programme;
- valorisation: increasing knowledge and awareness of programme results;
- advice: facilitating the participation of stakeholders and giving advice to applicants;
- supporting the Commission and EACEA in programme implementation.

## EXPECTED RESULTS

- informing a large number of people about the programme and its achievements;
- attracting new organisations/reaching new regions;
- facilitating participation in the programme of the largest possible number of potential applicants;
- improved dissemination activities to promote programme results (promotion at national/regional level of the transnational cooperation);
- increased capacity of contact points to address issues related to the areas covered by the programme;
- strengthened cooperation and exchange of information between Contact Points in relation to the areas covered by the programme;
- increased quality of project applications submitted.

## INDICATIVE TIMETABLE OF THE PUBLICATION OF THE CALL AND INDICATIVE AMOUNT

Call topic	Date	Budget
CERV-2021-CITIZENS-CONTACT-IBA	Q2 2021	EUR 3 000 000
CERV-2022-CITIZENS-CONTACT-IBA	Q1 2022	EUR 3 000 000

## ESSENTIAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- a) expertise and knowledge in all areas covered by the programme;
- b) experience with management of EU funding programmes;
- c) the designated structures must adhere to the EU values mentioned in Article 2 of the TEU, Article 21 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights and Article 2 of the Commission proposal for the programme.

## MAXIMUM POSSIBLE RATE OF CO-FINANCING OF THE ELIGIBLE COSTS

Lump sum funding – each grant amount depends on the participating country, taking into account its size and population.

In accordance with point (a) of the second subparagraph of Article 193(2) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 2018/1046, and by way of derogation from Article 193(4) of that Regulation, activities of CERV Contact Points and the underlying costs incurred in 2021 may be considered eligible as of 1 April 2021, following Member States' nomination and Commission's official recognition of the Contact Point. Such retroactivity is needed to guarantee the smooth operation of Programme Contact Points, in order to provide timely information about the programme and policy initiatives to potential beneficiaries in the areas covered by the programme.

## IMPLEMENTATION

Direct management by EACEA.

#### 4. PRIZES

The budget reserved for contests under this work programme is EUR 350 000 in 2021 and EUR 350 000 in 2022.

<b>SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE</b>	<b>2021 (€)</b>	<b>2022 (€)</b>
<b>Equality, rights and gender equality</b>	<b>350 000</b>	<b>350 000</b>
<i>Supporting, advancing and implementing comprehensive policies to protect and promote the rights of persons with disabilities</i>	350 000	350 000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>350 000</b>	<b>350 000</b>

##### 4.1. Prizes for winners of the Access City Award

###### BUDGET LINE

Budget line 07 06 01: Promote equality and rights

###### OBJECTIVE

*Supporting, advancing and implementing comprehensive policies to protect and promote the rights of persons with disabilities*

###### TYPE OF PARTICIPANTS TARGETED BY THE CONTEST

EU cities (see eligibility conditions below).

###### DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIVITIES

###### **2021 and again in 2022**

The Access City Award, launched in 2010, recognises and celebrates cities' willingness, capability and efforts to ensure accessibility, promoting and contributing to inclusion in society of people with disabilities on equal basis with others.

The award celebrates cities that take exemplary steps to improve accessibility in the urban environment to the benefit of all, and in particular of people with disabilities and elderly people. Since its 10th edition, the Access City Award includes prizes for the winners.

###### EXPECTED RESULTS

The expected results of the Access City Award prizes are to:

- support winning cities in their accessibility and inclusion efforts;
- encourage eligible cities to take part in the Access City Award competition, therefore boosting their interest and efforts in accessibility;
- increase interest in the Access City Award and the number of applications;

- increase visibility of the award and of accessible cities.

The overall expected results of the Access City Award are to:

- showcase local initiatives strongly contributing to EU policy objectives related to accessibility and full inclusion of people with disabilities;
- raise awareness on accessibility issues in cities;
- support a network of accessible cities, to facilitate the sharing of best practices;
- inspire cities to improve their accessibility.

#### INDICATIVE TIMETABLE OF THE PUBLICATION OF THE CONTEST AND INDICATIVE AMOUNT

Reference	Date	Amount
-	Q4 2021	EUR 350 000
	Q4 2022	EUR 350 000

#### ESSENTIAL ELIGIBILITY AND AWARD CRITERIA

To be eligible, applicants must have been selected as winner of the Access City Award 2021/2022 or have come in second or third place, and must fulfil the eligibility criteria as outlined in the participation rules.

The award is open to: (i) all EU cities of over 50 000 inhabitants; or (ii) two or more cities with a combined population of over 50 000 inhabitants, if they are in EU countries with fewer than two cities with over 50 000 inhabitants.

The award criteria for selecting the winners of the Access City Award are:

- relevance to the objectives;
- ownership, level of commitment;
- impact;
- quality and sustainability of results;
- involvement of people with disabilities and relevant partners.

#### IMPLEMENTATION

Direct management by DG EMPL.

## 5. PROCUREMENT

The budget reserved for procurement contracts is EUR 17 149 152 in 2021 and EUR 23 129 898 in 2022.

<b>SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE</b>	<b>2021 (€)</b>	<b>2022 (€)</b>
<b>Union values</b>	<b>978 133</b>	<b>2 937 552</b>
<b>Equality, rights and gender equality</b>	<b>12 814 300</b>	<b>13 410 945</b>
<i>Promoting equality and preventing and combating inequalities and discrimination based on sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation and respecting the principle of non-discrimination on the grounds provided for in Article 21 of the Charter</i>	3 341 300	3 270 000
<i>Supporting, advancing and implementing comprehensive policies to promote women's full enjoyment of rights, gender equality, including work-life balance, women's empowerment and gender mainstreaming</i>	4 050 000	3 250 000
<i>Supporting, advancing and implementing comprehensive policies to combat racism, xenophobia and all forms of intolerance including homophobia, biphobia, transphobia and interphobia and intolerance on the basis of gender identity, both online and offline</i>	700 000	1 065 000
<i>Supporting, advancing and implementing comprehensive policies to protect and promote the rights of the child</i>	400 000	550 000
<i>Supporting, advancing and implementing comprehensive policies to protect and promote the rights of persons with disabilities</i>	1 723 000	1 655 945
<i>Protecting and promoting Union citizenship rights</i>	2 000 000	2 810 000
<i>Protecting and promoting the right to the protection of personal data</i>	600 000	810 000
<b>Citizens' engagement and participation</b>	<b>1 867 019</b>	<b>4 200 000</b>
<b>Daphne</b>	<b>1 489 700</b>	<b>2 581 401</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>17 149 152</b>	<b>23 129 898</b>

## 5.1. Procurement activities in Union Values

### BUDGET LINES

Budget line 07 06 04: Protect and promote Union values

### OBJECTIVES

*Protecting, promoting and raising awareness of rights by providing financial support to civil society organisations which are active at local, regional, national and transnational level in promoting and cultivating those rights, thereby also strengthening the protection and promotion of Union values and respect for the rule of law and contributing to the construction of a more democratic Union, democratic dialogue, transparency and good governance.*

Policy initiatives supported: European democracy action plan, EU Citizenship Report 2020, Rule of law report, Strategy to strengthen the application of the Charter of Fundamental Rights in the EU.

### TYPE OF APPLICANTS TARGETED

Service providers, framework contractors.

### DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIVITIES AND CONTRACTS

#### **2021 and 2022**

Actions will be financed through contracts following public procurement (calls for tender and framework contracts).

#### *Protecting and promoting Union values*

- mapping of civil society organisations in EU Member States active at European, national and in particular local level to prepare work under the programme's Union values strand (Q2 2021);
- study on monitoring and control mechanism for the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values programme (Q3 2021);
- training on the application of the EU Charter (Q2 2021);
- studies, conferences, training activities and campaigns to protect and promote Union values (Q2 2022);
- contribution to Commission corporate IT systems (2021-2022).

Indicative number of specific contracts based on framework contracts envisaged: 4

Indicative number of new contracts envisaged: 0

### EXPECTED RESULTS

Increased awareness of the rule of law and democratic dialogue, transparency and good governance. Increased public trust in the EU and mutual trust among Member States.

## 5.2. Procurement activities in equality and rights

### BUDGET LINES

Budget line 07 06 01: Promote equality and rights

### OBJECTIVES

- *Promoting equality and preventing and combating inequalities and discrimination based on sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation and respecting the principle of non-discrimination on the grounds provided for in Article 21 of the Charter.*
- *Supporting, advancing and implementing comprehensive policies to promote women's full enjoyment of rights, gender equality, including work-life balance, women's empowerment and gender mainstreaming.*
- *Supporting, advancing and implementing comprehensive policies to combat racism, xenophobia and all forms of intolerance including homophobia, biphobia, transphobia and interphobia and intolerance on the basis of gender identity, both online and offline.*
- *Supporting, advancing and implementing comprehensive policies to protect and promote the rights of the child.*
- *Supporting, advancing and implementing comprehensive policies to protect and promote the rights of persons with disabilities*
- *Protecting and promoting Union citizenship rights and the right to the protection of personal data.*

Policy initiatives supported: Gender Equality Strategy, EU anti-racism action plan, EU Roma strategic framework on equality, inclusion and participation, LGBTIQ Equality Strategy, EU Strategy on the rights of the child, EU Strategy on combating antisemitism, Strategy for the rights of persons with disabilities 2021-2030.

### TYPE OF APPLICANTS TARGETED

Service providers, framework contractors.

### DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIVITIES AND CONTRACTS

#### **2021 and 2022**

The Commission intends to finance actions through contracts following public procurement (calls for tender and framework contracts).

Supported actions shall include: (i) the organisation of conferences, expert meetings, seminars, communication activities; (ii) the development and maintenance of IT platforms and systems; (iii) the preparation of surveys and studies and impact assessments, in particular to monitor the correct implementation of existing legislation, accompany new legislation or respond to policy changes in the areas covered by the programme. Procurement contracts may cover in particular the activities listed below.

*Promoting equality and preventing and combating inequalities and discrimination on grounds of sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation and respecting the principle of non-discrimination on the grounds provided for in Article 21 of the Charter*

- organisation of meetings on implementation of the LGBTIQ Equality Strategy (Q1-4

2021 and Q1-4 2022); the study on issues across borders (Q2 2021); the cross-sectoral International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia conference (Q2 2022);

- online toolkit to assess diversity within companies (Q3 2021); annual designation of European capital(s) of inclusion and diversity (Q3 2021);
- EU summit anti-racism action plan (2021 and 2022);
- organisation of a roundtable on equality data (Q3 2021), subgroup meetings and country visits (Q1-4 2022);
- high-level group meeting on non-discrimination (Q2 2021 and Q2 2022);
- EU Roma week, including preparatory meetings and stakeholder consultations (Q2 2021 and Q2 2022); EU Roma platform, political session, workshop; national Roma contact point meetings, including sub-working groups (Q3 2021 and Q3 2022); awareness-raising campaign on fighting discrimination and antigypsyism in Member States with larger Roma communities (Q3 2021); IT reporting tool (Q1-4 2021 and Q1-4 2022);
- study to support development anti-discrimination legislation (Q2 2021);
- study on the application of the provision of the Racial Equality Directive on sanctions (Article 15 of Directive 2000/43/EC) (Q3 2022);
- European network of legal experts in gender equality and non-discrimination (Q4 2021 and Q4 2022);
- training seminars for legal practitioners and the judiciary on non-discrimination (Q4 2021 and Q4 2022).

Indicative number of specific contracts based on framework contracts envisaged: 8

Indicative number of new contracts envisaged: 2

*Supporting, advancing and implementing comprehensive policies to promote women's full enjoyment of rights, gender equality, including work-life balance, women's empowerment and gender mainstreaming*

- communication and awareness raising activities (Q1-Q4, 2021-2022);
- scientific analysis and advice on gender equality (Q2 2021);
- training seminars for legal practitioners and the judiciary on gender equality (Q4 2021 and Q4 2022);
- European network of legal experts in gender equality and non-discrimination (Q4 2021 and Q4 2022);
- mutual learning seminar on gender equality (Q4 2021 and Q4 2022);
- gender equality monitoring tool (Q2 2021);
- study to support women's ability to thrive in a gender-equal economy (Q2 2021);
- Eurobarometer on attitudes towards gender equality (Q3 2022);
- behavioural study on gender inequalities (Q1 2022).

Indicative number of specific contracts based on framework contracts envisaged: 6

Indicative number of new contracts envisaged: 4

*Supporting, advancing and implementing comprehensive policies to combat racism,*

*xenophobia and all forms of intolerance including homophobia, biphobia, transphobia and interphobia and intolerance on the basis of gender identity, both online and offline*

- actions supporting the implementation of Framework Decision 2008/913/JHA on combating racism and xenophobia and to the effective prevention and fight against hate speech, hate crimes and intolerance on any grounds: (i) meetings of the high-level group on combating racism, xenophobia and other forms of intolerance and related working-groups; (ii) campaigns and awareness-raising activities to promote tolerance and mutual respect; (iii) actions (e.g. seminars/workshops, training activities or external studies) to support the development of tools and practices to effectively prevent and combat hate crimes and intolerance, both online and offline; (iv) actions (e.g. seminars/workshops, studies, support to cultural initiatives or campaigns) organised by the coordinators on antisemitism and anti-Muslim hatred (Q1-4 2021 and Q1-4 2022);
- actions supporting the implementation of the code of conduct on countering illegal hate speech online, including monitoring activities, studies, and collection of cases of hate speech online (Q1-4 2021 and Q1-4 2022);
- meetings, events, studies, awareness-raising activities to prepare and support the implementation of the forthcoming EU strategy on combating antisemitism (Q1-4 2021 and Q1-4 2022).

Indicative number of specific contracts based on framework contracts envisaged: 8

Indicative number of new contracts envisaged: 1

*Supporting, advancing and implementing comprehensive policies to protect and promote the rights of the child*

- forum on the rights of the child (Q3 2021 and Q3 2022);
- fostering exchange, mutual learning and implementation of the EU strategy on the rights of the child via the work of the expert group on the rights of the child (Q3-4 of 2021 and Q3-4 2022).

Indicative number of specific contracts based on framework contracts envisaged: 4

Indicative number of new contracts envisaged: 2

*Supporting, advancing and implementing comprehensive policies to protect and promote the rights of persons with disabilities (direct management by DG EMPL)*

- work forum on the UNCRPD (Q2 2021 and Q1 2022);
- European Day of People with Disabilities (Q2 2021 and Q2 2022);
- organisation of the Access City Award (Q2 2021 and Q2 2022);
- communication and awareness campaign on the strategy on the rights of persons with disabilities 2021-2030 (Q2 2021);
- transposition check of the European Accessibility Act (Q2 2022).

Indicative number of specific contracts based on framework contracts envisaged: 6

Indicative number of new contracts envisaged: 1

*Protecting and promoting Union citizenship rights*

- ad hoc study to support the development of tools for and approaches to strengthening the resilience of EU citizens when faced with disinformation (as also seen in the COVID-19 context) and manipulation of the democratic debate (Q4 2021);

- promotion activities and events on EU citizenship rights, including the organisation of mutual learning seminars for the national electoral networks (2021 and 2022);
- inclusion of mobile EU citizens who are in a precarious situation and EU mobile citizens with a migrant background: identification of challenges and potential solutions and a communication campaign (Q4 2021);
- creation of a pool of national experts and other shared resources to support free and fair elections in Europe (Q4 2021 and 2022);
- an e-learning tool on free movement (2021 and 2022);
- Network of Academics (2021 and 2022);
- election helpdesk to support mobile citizens and Member State authorities in exercising their democratic rights (2022);
- study on open policymaking and e-democracy options applicable at the European level (Q1 2022);
- study on the implementation of Regulation (EU) 2019/1157 on strengthening the security of identity cards of EU citizens and of residence documents issued to EU citizens and their family members exercising their right of free movement (Q1 2022);
- activities to support the protection of journalists and civil society from abusive use of lawsuits against public participation (Q4 2021);
- study on practices related to e-voting (Q1 2022);
- events to promote greater diversity of candidates, including candidates with disabilities and from underrepresented groups, in view of the 2024 European parliament elections (Q3 2022).

Indicative number of specific contracts based on framework contracts envisaged: 7

Indicative number of new contracts envisaged: 2

*Protecting and promoting the right to the protection of personal data*

- studies and reporting on issues related to the transposition of the Data Protection Law Enforcement Directive 2016/680 and on the application of the General data protection Regulation 2016/679 (Q4 2021 and Q4 2022);
- awareness-raising campaign on actions that complement the data protection framework at national level in Member States (Q3-4 2021 and Q3-4 2022);
- studies and reporting on the assessment of the level of data protection in third countries under the General Data Protection Regulation 2016/679 and Data Protection Law Enforcement Directive 2016/680 (Q2 2021 and Q2 2022);
- support for the practical application of the General Data Protection Regulation 2016/679, including through meetings of the Member States Expert Group (national authorities) (Q2 2021 and Q1 2022);
- support for the practical application of the Data Protection Law Enforcement Directive (EU) 2016/680, including through meetings of practitioners (e.g. DPO Network) (Q2 2021 and Q1 2022).

Indicative number of specific contracts based on framework contracts envisaged: 8

Indicative number of new contracts envisaged: 0

## **EXPECTED RESULTS**

Increased awareness of existing EU action and more Commission initiatives on (gender) equality, children's rights and EU citizenship rights. Improved responses to racism, hate speech and hate crime, both on- and offline.

### 5.3. Procurement activities in citizens engagement

#### BUDGET LINES

Budget line 07 06 02: Promote citizens engagement and participation in the democratic life of the Union

#### OBJECTIVES

- *Supporting projects aimed at commemorating defining moments in modern European history, such as the coming to power of authoritarian and totalitarian regimes, including the causes and consequences thereof, and projects aimed at raising awareness among European citizens of their common history, culture, cultural heritage and values, thereby enhancing their understanding of the Union, of its origins, purpose, diversity and achievements and of the importance of mutual understanding and tolerance;*
- *Promoting citizens' and representative associations' participation in and contribution to the democratic and civic life of the Union by enabling them to make known and publicly exchange their views in all areas of Union action;*
- *Promoting exchanges between citizens of different countries, in particular through town-twinning and networks of towns, so as to afford them practical experience of the richness and diversity of the common heritage of the Union and to make them aware that such richness and diversity constitute a solid foundation for a common future.*

Policy initiatives supported: European democracy action plan, EU Citizenship Report 2020, Rule of law report, Strategy to strengthen the application of the Charter of Fundamental Rights in the EU, Gender Equality Strategy, EU anti-racism action plan, EU Strategy on combating antisemitism.

#### TYPE OF APPLICANTS TARGETED

Service providers, framework contractors.

#### DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIVITIES AND CONTRACTS

##### **2021 and 2022**

*Citizens' engagement and participation*

- European Citizens' Initiatives, to be implemented by the Commission's Secretariat-General (throughout 2021 and 2022);
- actions related to the upcoming EU Strategy on combating antisemitism(Q1-4 2022).

Indicative number of specific contracts based on framework contracts envisaged: 2

Indicative number of new contracts envisaged: 0

#### EXPECTED RESULTS

Increased public trust in the EU and mutual trust among Member States, more engagement and participation of members of the public in the EU's democratic life to support a rights-based, open, pluralist, inclusive society.

## 5.4. Procurement activities in Daphne

### BUDGET LINES

Budget line 07 06 03: Daphne

### OBJECTIVES

*(1) preventing and combating at all levels all forms of gender-based violence against women and girls and domestic violence, including by promoting the standards laid down in the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence;*

*(2) preventing and combating all forms of violence against children, young people and other groups at risk, such as LGBTQI persons and persons with disabilities;*

*(3) supporting and protecting all direct and indirect victims of the forms of violence referred to in points (1) and (2), such as the victims of domestic violence perpetrated within the family or within intimate relationships, including children orphaned as a result of domestic crimes, and supporting and ensuring the same level of protection throughout the Union for victims of gender-based violence.*

Policy initiatives supported: Gender Equality Strategy, EU Strategy on the rights of the child.

### TYPE OF APPLICANTS TARGETED

Service providers, framework contractors.

### DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIVITIES AND CONTRACTS

#### **2021 and 2022**

Actions will be financed through contracts following public procurement (calls for tender and framework contracts).

Supported actions shall include: (i) the organisation of conferences, expert meetings, seminars, communication activities; (ii) the development and maintenance of IT platforms and systems; (iii) the preparation of surveys and studies and impact assessments, in particular to monitor the correct implementation of existing legislation, accompany new legislation or respond to policy changes in the areas covered by the programme. Procurement contracts may cover in particular the activities listed below.

*Daphne - preventing and combatting gender-based violence and violence against children*

- impact assessment for a legislative initiative on preventing and combatting violence against women and domestic violence (Q3-2021);
- impact assessment for a recommendation on the prevention of harmful practices (Q4 2021);
- network for the prevention of violence against women (Q1-4 2022);
- gender-based violence survey (sub-delegation to Eurostat, Q2 2021 and Q1 2022);
- IT maintenance of the Daphne toolkit (Q2 2021 and Q1 2022);
- stakeholder conference on EU funding for combating violence against children (Q2

2021 and Q2 2022);

- production of child-friendly versions of selected EU documents and legislation (Q3-Q4 2021 and Q3-Q4 2022);
- study on safeguarding policies and practices in EU Member States (Q3 2021);
- stakeholder conference on EU funding for combating gender-based violence (Q4 2022);
- communication activities on EU actions to combat gender-based violence (Q1-4 2022).

Indicative number of specific contracts based on framework contracts envisaged: 7

Indicative number of new contracts envisaged: 0

### **EXPECTED RESULTS**

Increased awareness of existing EU action and more Commission initiatives on gender equality and children's rights. Improved responses to gender-based violence, violence against children and other groups at risk.

## **6. OTHER EXPENDITURES**

### **6.1. Experts**

#### **AMOUNT**

The budget reserved for other expenditures is EUR 650 000 in 2021 (Budget line 07 06 02: Promote citizens engagement and participation in the democratic life of the Union) and EUR 850 000 in 2022 (Budget line 07 06 04: Protect and promote Union values).

#### **DESCRIPTION**

The Commission and/or EACEA may select external experts to assist in the evaluation of applications or the monitoring of actions. In particular, external experts with the relevant expertise, having the appropriate profile, as registered in the Funding & Tenders Portal Expert Database<sup>42</sup>, may assist the Evaluation Committees. Their tasks include, for instance, the evaluation of proposals following award criteria or of the operational capacity, drafting Individual Evaluation Reports or Consensus Reports.

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<sup>42</sup> Funding & tender opportunities – [work as an expert](#)