

ANNEX II
Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values multiannual work programme for 2023-2025
Actions in 2025

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1. INTRODUCTION

The actions for 2025 under the Work Programme of the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values (CERV) programme continues to address the policy priorities set under its four strands as for 2023 and 2024. All horizontal principles, such as integrating gender equality and non-discrimination considerations in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of all activities and financing actions with European added value remain applicable in the year 2025.

Similarly, the requirement that EU values based on Article 2 of the Treaty on European Union and the rights and principles enshrined in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, particularly Article 21, are respected by all beneficiaries and activities implemented under this work programme also remains in force.

In addition to all the policy initiatives supported in the Work Programme for 2023-2025, which include initiatives to build a Union of Equality¹, the actions for 2025 support the recently adopted ‘Defence of Democracy package’², the EU Citizenship Package³, the Joint Communication on “No Place for Hate: a Europe united against hatred”⁴, the Directive on combating violence against women and domestic violence⁵ and the Recommendation on developing and strengthening integrated child protection systems in the best interests of the child⁶.

2. BUDGET OVERVIEW FOR 2025

Based on the objectives in Regulation (EU) 2021/692 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 2025 as indicated in the table below.

Budget lines	2025 (€)
Budget line 07 06 04: Protect and promote Union values	70 185 641
Budget line 07 06 01: Promote equality and rights	40 693 168
Budget line 07 06 02: Promote citizens’ engagement and participation in the democratic life of the Union	89 958 594
Budget line 07 06 03: Daphne	27 334 616
TOTAL	228 172 018

¹ [Equality and inclusion - European Commission \(europa.eu\)](https://european-council.europa.eu/media/e300042f-323d-4761-9957-6f9e6394c9e0/policy-areas/equality-and-inclusion/equality-and-inclusion-european-commission-europa.eu)

² [Defence of Democracy \(europa.eu\)](https://european-council.europa.eu/media/e300042f-323d-4761-9957-6f9e6394c9e0/policy-areas/defence-of-democracy/defence-of-democracy-europa.eu)

³ [Citizenship Package - European Commission \(europa.eu\)](https://european-council.europa.eu/media/e300042f-323d-4761-9957-6f9e6394c9e0/policy-areas/citizenship-package/citizenship-package-european-commission-europa.eu)

⁴ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52023JC0051>

⁵ [Directive \(EU\) 2024/1385 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 May 2024 on combating violence against women and domestic violence](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52023L0044)

⁶ [Recommendation on developing and strengthening integrated child protection systems in the best interests of the child | European Commission \(europa.eu\)](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52023R0001)

Funds committed in the work programme are deployed through direct management (grants, procurement and by awarding prizes) and indirect management for activities implemented with the support of international organisations, in compliance with the rules set out in the Financial Regulation.

Procurement is the acquisition of a service by the Commission from an economic operator⁷, 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)⁸. The award of a grant follows, in general, a call for proposals' procedure.

Under the indirect management mode, the Commission delegates budget implementation tasks to third entities to achieve a set of EU objectives.

Prizes are financial contributions given by the Commission as a reward following a contest. They promote the achievement of policy objectives of the Union⁹.

Funding	2025 (€)	allocation
Grants	192,491,874	84.4%
Prizes	350,000	0.2%
Procurement	31,462,277	13.8%
Indirect management	500,000	0.2%
Other expenditures	3,367,867	1.5%
TOTAL	228,172,018	100.0%

The Commission's Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers (DG JUST) will directly manage the implementation of actions, unless specified otherwise.

The implementation of few actions under the specific objective to protect and promote the rights of persons with disabilities will remain partially co-delegated to the Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion (DG EMPL, type I). The European Citizens' Initiative, and two priorities of the Call for proposals to promote equality and to fight against racism, xenophobia and all other forms of discrimination will be co-delegated to the Secretariat-General (SG, type I) as well as procurement actions in the area of anti-semitism and anti-muslim hatred. A number of actions will be financed by the work programme by means of co-delegation type II and type III to: PMO (type III), DGT (type II), DIGIT (type II), ESTAT (type II), SCIC (type II), COMM (type II), GROW (type II).

The Commission delegates powers¹⁰ to implement actions in the Citizens' engagement and participation strand and the Union values strand to the European and Culture, Executive

⁷ Article 2(49) of the Financial Regulation.

⁸ Article 2(33) and 180(2) of the Financial Regulation.

⁹ Article 2(48) and 206(1) of the Financial Regulation.

¹⁰ Article 69 of the Financial Regulation.

Agency (EACEA)¹¹. In addition, EUR 1 000 000 from the Equality, rights and gender equality strand will be co-delegated to EACEA for the call for proposals to enhance children's engagement and participation and children's rights.

EU Member States and third countries with which the EU has concluded an agreement participate in the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values programme. However, as indicated in the CERV Regulation, the co-legislators explicitly excluded the participation of third countries in the Union values strand of the CERV programme. The list of non-EU countries that have concluded an agreement with the EU to participate in the programme is announced in the relevant call for proposals¹².

Activities implemented under this Work Programme shall ensure consistency, complementarity and synergies with activities supported by other Union instruments (including, in particular, those indicated in Annex I: Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values multiannual work programme for 2023-2025; Actions in 2023-2024).

3. GRANTS

The global budgetary envelope reserved for grants under this work programme is indicatively EUR 192 491 874 in 2025.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE	2025 (€)
Protect and promote Union values	64 375 000
Promote equality and rights	22 691 874
Promote citizens' engagement and participation in the democratic life of the Union	82 425 000
Daphne	23 000 000
TOTAL	192 491 874

3.1. Call for proposals to promote civil society organisations' awareness of, capacity building and implementation of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights

LEGAL BASIS

Article 3 of Regulation (EU) 2021/692

BUDGET LINE

Budget line 07 06 04: Protect and promote Union values

OBJECTIVES

¹¹ Implementation by the European Education and Culture Executive Agency is subject to the applicability of the establishment and delegation acts entrusting the agency with management of the programme and will only become effective subject to and from the moment of adoption of the programme's basic act.

¹² Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values programme on the 'Funding & tender opportunities' portal.

Protecting, promoting and raising awareness of rights and values by providing financial support to civil society organisations 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.

Building civil society organisations capacity and awareness on the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights and carrying out activities to ensure that the Charter is upheld.

Policy initiatives supported: Strategy to strengthen the application of the Charter of Fundamental Rights in the EU, European democracy action plan, Recommendation on promoting the engagement and effective participation of citizens and civil society organisations in public policy making processes, Communication on ‘A more inclusive and protective Europe: extending the list of EU crimes to hate speech and hate crime’, Joint Communication ‘No Place for Hate: a Europe united against hatred’, Commission Communication on strengthening whistleblower protection at EU level, Rule of law reports, Commission Recommendation on protecting journalists and human rights defenders who engage in public participation from manifestly unfounded or abusive court proceedings (‘Strategic lawsuits against public participation’), the EU Citizenship Package.

TYPE OF APPLICANTS TARGETED

Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) active in promoting and protecting the rule of law, fundamental rights and democracy, as well as National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs), equality bodies, ombuds institutions, public authorities from national, regional and local levels (if in partnership with CSOs).

POLICY PRIORITIES

Projects can be national or transnational. Transnational projects are particularly encouraged. In view of the overall objectives stipulated above, the call will support the following priorities:

1. Capacity building and awareness raising on the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights
2. Promoting rights and values by empowering the civic space
3. Strategic litigation
4. Protecting EU values and rights by combating hate crime and hate speech
5. Supporting an enabling environment for the protection of whistleblowers

EXPECTED RESULTS

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

- Increased awareness on and capacity to apply the Charter and the fundamental rights by CSOs, NHRIs, equality bodies, ombuds institutions, other human rights defenders, and Member State authorities from national, regional and local levels;
- Improved knowledge of available redress mechanisms under national and EU law,

and how to make the best use of them for the benefit of rights holders;

- Improved cooperation between CSOs, NHRIs, equality bodies, ombuds institutions, other human rights defenders and Member State authorities from national, regional and local levels on fundamental rights issues.

2. Promoting rights and values by empowering the civic space

- Increased awareness on the situation of the civic space in the Member States based on sound evidence and comparable indicators;
- Strengthened cooperation and networks among the actors protecting the civic space at local, national and European level, including national and European authorities;
- Increased dialogue on the situation of the civic space, increased public attention to it, and the development of positive narratives on CSOs and human rights defenders protecting and promoting fundamental rights, rule of law and democracy;
- Increased protection of CSOs, their members and human rights defenders working in a safe environment;
- Increased reporting of attacks faced by the CSOs and human rights defenders and prompt and targeted responses to such attacks;
- Increased resilience of CSOs and human rights defenders against threats and attacks, including online.

3. Strategic litigation

- Increased awareness and knowledge by legal professionals and practitioners in CSOs, NHRIs, equality bodies, ombuds-institutions and other human rights defenders about EU law, including the Charter and its principles and articles, and the existing remedies and redress mechanisms to enforce these rights at national and European level;
- Increased ability of CSOs, NHRIs, equality bodies and ombuds institutions and other human rights defenders 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;
- Increased awareness and knowledge by the general public of their rights under EU law, including the Charter, existing remedies and redress mechanisms to enforce these rights at national and European level, as well as awareness on and knowledge of the available support by legal professionals and practitioners;
- Strengthened abilities of legal professionals and practitioners to cooperate and engage in litigation practices to assist individuals in making effective use of available remedies to enforce their rights under EU law, including the Charter, before national and European courts;
- Increased awareness on the use of manifestly unfounded or abusive court proceedings against journalists and human rights defenders who engage in public participation (Strategic lawsuits against public participation (SLAPP));
- Improved knowledge on safeguards and protection against manifestly unfounded or abusive court proceedings for journalists and human rights defenders who engage in

public participation.

4. Protecting EU values and rights by combating hate speech and hate crime

- Increased awareness about the societal effects of hate speech and hate crime, including more effective outreach to individuals and groups at risk of hate victimisation, thereby raising awareness of their rights, including all levels and in all types of education activities;
- Increased knowledge of EU and national hate crime and hate speech legislation and increased effectiveness of national actions to build the capacity of law enforcement on detecting bias indicators and effectively investigating and prosecuting offenses.;
- More effective mechanisms and methodologies to report and record hate speech and hate crimes and to empower victims and witnesses to come forward;
- Enhanced assistance to victims to access specialist support, providing both victims and witnesses with emotional support, practical help and information;
- Increased effectiveness of mechanisms by online platforms to enable a prompt assessment and removal of hate speech content;
- Increased awareness among the general population about hate speech online, its “ecosystems” and its negative effects on democracy and pluralism;
- Enhanced resilience of civil society organisations to carry out their work against hateful groups and greater capacity to respond to hate attacks.

5. Supporting an enabling environment for the protection of whistleblowers

- More effective implementation of the national laws transposing the Directive on whistleblower protection, including by fostering increased awareness and understanding by the public, including by potential whistleblowers, of the procedures and rights provided under the Directive and better use of whistleblowing;
- Greater capacity to correctly apply the Directive’s rules for the private organisations and public entities concerned and for civil society organisations involved in the Directive’s implementation;
- Improved effectiveness and coherence of the Directive’s application;
- Improved cooperation between national authorities and CSOs, and between national authorities, in applying the Directive.

IMPLEMENTATION

Direct management by EACEA (co-delegation type II).

3.2. Call for proposals to promote equality and to fight against racism, xenophobia and all other forms of discrimination

LEGAL BASIS

Article 4 of Regulation (EU) 2021/692

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 and an intersectional approach to combat racism, xenophobia, antigypsyism, LGBTIQ-phobia, antisemitism, anti-Muslim racism and all forms of discrimination and intolerance.

Policy initiatives supported: the EU Anti-racism Action Plan (2020-2025), the LGBTIQ Equality Strategy (2020-2025), EU Strategy on combating antisemitism and fostering Jewish life, the EU Roma strategic framework for equality, inclusion and participation (2020-2030), EU Strategy on victims' rights, the Gender Equality Strategy (2020-2025).

TYPE OF APPLICANTS TARGETED

Member States and participating countries' public authorities, at all levels, equality bodies and civil society organisations.

POLICY PRIORITIES

Projects can be national or transnational. Transnational projects are particularly encouraged.

In view of the overall objectives stipulated above, the call will support the following priorities:

1. Fighting against discrimination and racism, xenophobia and other forms of intolerance, including , antigypsyism, anti-black, and anti-Asian racism
2. Fighting against antisemitism: open call and restricted in support of public authorities
3. Fighting against anti-Muslim hatred: open call and restricted in support of public authorities
4. Promoting diversity management and inclusion at the workplace, both in the public and private sector
5. Fighting discrimination against LGBTIQ people and promoting LGBTIQ equality
6. Support to public authorities to combat racism, xenophobia, LGBTIQ-phobia and all other forms of intolerance, including intersectional discrimination

EXPECTED RESULTS

1. Fighting against discrimination and racism, xenophobia and other forms of intolerance, including antigypsyism, anti-black, and anti-Asian racism

- Increased knowledge of EU and national non-discrimination legislation;
- Improved knowledge and application of administrative practices in the non-discrimination field, including practices and policies covering multiple discrimination;
- Increased rights-awareness as well as awareness of biases and stereotypes;
- More effective implementation and enforcement of the legislation on non-discrimination, as well as improved independent monitoring and reporting;
- Improved understanding of racism and its different forms, including structural racism as well as increased knowledge on EU policies and legislation;
- Empowered and increased protection for groups, communities and individuals affected by manifestations of intolerance and racism, with a particular focus on antigypsyism as well as on anti-black, anti-Asian racism;
- Improved knowledge and awareness of and capacity to react to all forms of racism among the population in general and key groups in particular such as decision-makers, law enforcement and judiciary, and young people;
- Increased knowledge on the recording and the collection of data on incidents, with a view of harmonising the methodologies across the EU.

2. Fighting against antisemitism: open call and restricted in support of public authorities

- Increased knowledge of EU and national non-discrimination legislation;
- Improved knowledge and application of administrative practices in the non-discrimination field, including practices and policies covering antisemitism;
- Empowered and increased protection for groups, communities and individuals affected by manifestations of antisemitism;
- Improved knowledge and awareness of and capacity to react to all forms of antisemitism among the population in general and key groups in particular such as decision-makers, law enforcement and judiciary, and young people;
- Increased knowledge on the recording and the collection of data on incidents, with a view of harmonising the methodologies across the EU.
- More effective implementation and enforcement of the legislation on non-discrimination, as well as improved independent monitoring and reporting;

3. Fighting against anti-Muslim hatred: open call and restricted in support of public authorities

- Increased knowledge of EU and national non-discrimination legislation;
- Improved knowledge and application of administrative practices in the non-discrimination field, including practices and policies covering multiple discrimination;

- Empowered and increased protection for groups, communities and individuals affected by manifestations of anti-muslim hatred
- Increased knowledge on the recording and the collection of data on incidents, with a view of harmonising the methodologies across the EU.
- Improved knowledge and awareness of and capacity to react to all forms of anti-Muslim hatred among the population in general and key groups in particular such as decision-makers, law enforcement and judiciary, and young people;
- More effective implementation and enforcement of the legislation on non-discrimination, as well as improved independent monitoring and reporting;

4. Promoting diversity management and inclusion at the workplace, both in the public and private sector

- Increased number of organisations affiliated to a Diversity Charter;
- Increased knowledge and awareness on the benefits of diversity and inclusion at the workplace
- Increased diversity at the workplace, supported by stronger links between the academic and research community and the business world;
- More inclusive workplaces and societies;
- Increased and improved Europe-wide guidance and tools to build inclusive workplaces and to measure diversity and inclusion at the workplace.

5. Fighting discrimination against LGBTIQ people and promoting LGBTIQ equality

- 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 solutions on how to tackle this;
- Increased awareness and improvement of skills of relevant professionals, including health, media, business and education professionals, 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;
- Better guidance for national authorities and education providers 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.
- Improved data collection methods to better understand the needs and experiences of LGBTIQ people, informing evidence-based policies and interventions.

6. Support to public authorities to combat racism, xenophobia, LGBTIQ-phobia and all other forms of intolerance, including intersectional discrimination

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

adequately sentence incidents of discrimination;

- Stronger cooperation between public authorities and civil society organisations that collect data on incidents of discrimination;
- 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 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, LGBTIQ phobia and other forms of intolerance.

IMPLEMENTATION

Direct management by DG JUST and the Commission's Secretariat-General (co-delegation type I) and EACEA (co-delegation type II)

3.3. Call for proposals on European remembrance

LEGAL BASIS

Article 5 of Regulation (EU) 2021/692

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, slavery and colonialism, and the Holocaust, 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. Gender mainstreaming will be cross-

cutting to all the priorities.

Policy initiatives supported: EU Strategy on combating antisemitism and fostering Jewish life 2021-2030, the EU Anti-racism Action Plan (2020-2025), the EU Roma strategic framework for equality, inclusion and participation (2020-2030), the LGBTIQ Equality Strategy (2020-2025), Guide to EU citizenship, Joint Communication 'No Place for Hate: a Europe united against hatred', the Gender Equality Strategy (2020-2025).

TYPE OF APPLICANTS TARGETED

Public authorities and bodies, civil society organisations, memorial and heritage sites, museums and archives centres, survivors' associations, and cultural, youth and research organisations educational and training providers.

POLICY PRIORITIES

Projects can be national or transnational. Transnational projects are particularly encouraged. In view of the overall objectives stipulated above, the call will support the following priorities:

1. Democratic transition, (re-)building and strengthening society based on the rule of law, democracy and fundamental rights
2. Strengthening the remembrance of the Holocaust against Jewish people
3. Strengthening the remembrance of the Holocaust, genocides, war crimes and crimes against humanity to reinforce democracy in the EU
4. Migration, de-colonisation, slavery and multicultural European societies

EXPECTED RESULTS

- Engagement of Europeans from different backgrounds – including young people and people who are multipliers (state administrators, law enforcement officials, members of the judiciary, policymakers, right-defenders, etc) in advocating, strengthening and supporting democratic institutions and structures based on the rule of law;
- Digitisation of historical material and testimonies of eyewitnesses for education and training purposes;
- Inclusion of a European dimension in relevant national and international debates on important historical events and moments of recent European history;
- Identification, safeguarding and availability in particular online, of archival material, testimonies and authentic sites for education purposes, commemoration and research;
- Engagement of Europeans in combating racism, antisemitism, antigypsyism, anti-Muslim hatred, LGBTIQ-phobia and all types of intolerance;
- Increased number of transnational coalitions on European memory;
- Enhanced combating of historical distortion, revisionism and negationism, including Holocaust denial, distortion and trivialization;
- Stronger awareness of the contribution of minorities, such as Jews, Muslims and

Roma to the cultural richness, diversity and common history of Europe;

- Enhanced knowledge around the history and legacies of colonialism, enslavement and the slave trade and the overall historical roots of racism; recognition of the histories of People of African descents (PADs) in Europe.

IMPLEMENTATION

Direct management by Commission's Secretariat-General (co-delegation type I) and EACEA (co-delegation type II).

3.4. Call for proposals to foster Citizens' engagement and participation

LEGAL BASIS

Article 5 of Regulation (EU) 2021/692

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 of Union action.

Among the policy initiatives supported: European democracy action plan, EU Citizenship report 2020, the EU citizenship Package, Strategy to strengthen the application of the Charter of Fundamental Rights in the EU, Commission Recommendation on protecting journalists and human rights defenders who engage in public participation from manifestly unfounded or abusive court proceedings ("Strategic lawsuits against public participation"), Communication of 25 November 2021 on protecting election integrity and promoting democratic participation, 'Defence of Democracy package'.

TYPE OF APPLICANTS TARGETED

Private non-profit organisations, including civil society organisations, cultural and youth organisations, education providers, or research institutions.

POLICY PRIORITIES

In view of the overall objective stipulated above, the call will support the following priorities:

1. Promoting exchanges on future Union policy priorities and challenges
2. Countering disinformation, information manipulation and interference in the democratic debate
3. Promoting citizens' active democratic participation

EXPECTED RESULTS

- Increased citizens' awareness of rights and EU values and increasing their engagement in society and with the EU;
- Improved knowledge and understanding by the citizens of EU institutions and policies as well as of the EU's achievements and benefits;
- Increased citizens' empowerment to get involved in decision-making from local to EU levels;
- Increased citizens' empowerment to make their voices heard by the relevant political authorities and decision makers, thus helping them make an impact in practice;
- Increased active participation of people from different backgrounds in the EU policymaking process and thus increased contribution to the democratic and civic life of the Union;
- Enhanced opportunities for citizens to express and make their views known about what kind of Europe they want and to outline their long-term vision for the future of European integration;
- Strengthened 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, and on reaching those citizens not active in civic participation in their everyday life.

IMPLEMENTATION

Direct management by EACEA (co-delegation type II).

3.5. Call on rights of the child and children's participation

LEGAL BASIS

Articles 4 and 5 of Regulation (EU) 2021/692

BUDGET LINES

Budget line 07 06 01: Promote equality and rights

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

OBJECTIVE

Supporting, advancing and implementing comprehensive policies to protect and promote the rights of the child, including the right to participate.

Policy initiatives supported: the EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child.

TYPE OF APPLICANTS TARGETED

Civil society organisations, including international, and academia whose work is relevant in the area of the rights of the child, actors in the field of education, national and local

authorities

POLICY PRIORITIES

Projects can be national or transnational. Transnational projects are particularly encouraged. In view of the overall objective stipulated above, the call will support the following priorities:

1. Children's rights in the digital age
2. Embedding a rights of the child perspective in actions at national and local level
3. Children's engagement and participation

EXPECTED RESULTS

- Increased awareness by children of their rights in, and opportunities and risks of, the online world;
- Increased awareness by children of their right to participate and have their voices heard;
- Increased effectiveness of child participation mechanisms by making them inclusive and systemic;
- Improved capacity building, exchange of good practice and training on the rights and needs of children;
- Improved support to children in vulnerable situations or from disadvantaged backgrounds.

IMPLEMENTATION

Direct management by EACEA (co-delegation type II).

3.6. Call for proposals for Town-Twinning

LEGAL BASIS

Article 5 of the Regulation (EU) 2021/692

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, 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, the EU Anti-racism Action Plan (2020-2025), the EU Roma strategic framework for equality, inclusion and participation (2020-2030), promoting diversity and inclusion (Diversity Charters), Strategy

to strengthen the application of the Charter of Fundamental Rights in the EU, EU Citizenship Report 2020, the Gender Equality Strategy, the LGBTIQ Equality Strategy (2020-2025), the Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2021-2030), the EU Strategy on the rights of the child, the EU citizenship package, Recommendation on inclusive and resilient elections, as part of the 'Defence of Democracy package'.

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

In view of the overall objective stipulated above, the call may address the following topics (the list is not exhaustive):

- The EU is built on solidarity: solidarity between its citizens, solidarity across borders between its Member States, and solidarity through support actions in and beyond the EU
- Town-Twinning projects will give citizens the opportunity to express what kind of Europe they want
- Projects may cover promotion of broad and inclusive participation in democratic processes and decision-making, including of children
- Projects may cover promoting awareness and building knowledge of EU citizenship rights, free movement of people and associated European common values and common democratic standards, making them more tangible for EU citizens
- Projects can also concern prevention activities and awareness raising by towns and local authorities in the field of domestic violence, as well as any form of violence against children, including (cyber-)bullying and harassment
- Projects may also explore methods for improving citizens' democratic participation through cultural activities, including by drawing inspiration from or be related to the New European Bauhaus initiative

EXPECTED RESULTS

- An increase in and encouragement of mutual understanding and friendship between citizens at a local level;
- Support for 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;
- Encouragement of a long-lasting bond between municipalities and between citizens.
- Increased cross-border cooperation around similar practical issues of democratic participation between municipalities and between citizens, going beyond the cultural exchange;

- Increased awareness of effective domestic violence and violence against children prevention policies at the local level;
- An active inclusion of groups with disadvantages and communities which are marginalised;
- Increased citizens' participation to inclusive and meaningful cultural activities and organisations and increased citizens' contact with Europe's rich cultural heritage.

IMPLEMENTATION

Direct management by EACEA (co-delegation type II)

3.7. Call for proposals for Networks of Towns

LEGAL BASIS

Article 5 of Regulation (EU) 2021/692

BUDGET LINE

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

OBJECTIVES

Promoting exchanges between citizens of different countries, in particular through 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.

Developing sustainable networks of towns, deepening and intensify their cooperation, while outlining their long-term vision for the future of European integration.

Policy initiatives supported: European democracy action plan, the EU Roma strategic framework for equality, inclusion and participation (2020-2030), the EU Anti-racism Action Plan (2020-2025), the LGBTIQ Equality Strategy (2020-2025), the Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2021-2030), promoting diversity and inclusion (Diversity Charters), EU Citizenship Reports and the EU Citizenship Package, the Commission Recommendation on inclusive and resilient elections, the Commission Recommendation on promoting the engagement and effective participation of citizens and civil society organisations in public policy-making processes, the Gender Equality Strategy, the EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child.

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

In view of the overall objective stipulated above, the call may address the following topics (the list is not exhaustive):

- Bringing citizens together to discuss and share best practices, and thus helping to increase citizens' engagement in society and ultimately to their active involvement in the democratic life of the Union
- Promoting awareness and building knowledge of EU citizenship rights, free movement of people and associated European common values and common democratic standards, making them more tangible for EU citizens
- 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, including by supporting the active participation of citizens, including children, and civil society organisations in policy-making at local, national as well as European levels
- Promoting awareness, building knowledge and sharing best practice on 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 and migrants), in European society and their contribution to Europe's cultural development
- Promoting prevention measures and awareness raising efforts, sharing best practices policies aiming to curb violence against women, domestic violence and violence against children at the local level, as well as bullying
- Projects may also promote awareness of the importance of the citizens' democratic participation through cultural activities, including by drawing inspiration from or be related to the New European Bauhaus initiative

EXPECTED RESULTS

- Increased citizens' engagement in society and ultimately their active involvement in the democratic life of the Union;
- Creation of lasting links among partner organisations;
- Better information on the rights conferred by EU citizenship and their improved implementation in Member States;
- Improved awareness and better provision of information to mobile EU citizens and their family members on their EU citizenship rights;
- Enhanced participation of citizens and civil society organisations to local, national and European policy-making processes;
- Improved awareness of the benefits of diversity and the tackling of discrimination and racism;
- Increase in and encouragement of mutual understanding and respect for European minorities, such as Roma;
- Stronger awareness of the contribution of migration, migrants and their descendants to the cultural richness, diversity and common history of Europe;
- Increased awareness of the importance of citizens' participation, including through cultural activities;
- Increased awareness of effective violence against women, domestic violence and violence against children prevention policies at the local level.

IMPLEMENTATION

Direct management by EACEA (co-delegation type II)

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

LEGAL BASIS

Article 6 of Regulation (EU) 2021/692

BUDGET LINE

Budget line 07 06 03: Daphne

OBJECTIVES

To fight violence, including gender-based violence and violence against children by:

- *Preventing and combating at all levels all forms of gender-based violence against women and girls in all their diversity 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 LGBTIQ 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.*

Policy initiatives supported: the Gender Equality Strategy (2020-2025), the EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child, EU Strategy on victims' rights, the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention) to which the EU acceded as of 1 October 2023, the Directive on combating violence against women and domestic violence, Victim's Rights Directive, Commission Recommendation on developing and strengthening integrated child protection systems in the best interests of the child¹³, Recommendation on harmful practices (planned for spring 2024), the LGBTIQ Equality Strategy (2020-2025), the EU Anti-racism Action Plan (2020-2025), the EU Roma strategic framework for equality, participation and inclusion (2020-2030).

TYPE OF APPLICANTS TARGETED

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

POLICY PRIORITIES

Projects can be national or transnational. Transnational projects are particularly encouraged. In view of the overall objectives stipulated above, the call will support the following priorities:

1. Large-scale and long-term actions on tackling gender-based violence, with regranting (giving financial support to third party Civil Society Organisations)
2. Targeted actions for the protection of and support for victims and survivors of gender-based violence and domestic violence
3. Targeted actions for the prevention of gender-based violence, including cyber violence
4. Targeted actions making integrated child protection systems work in practice

EXPECTED RESULTS

1. Large-scale and long-term actions on tackling gender-based violence, with regranting (giving financial support to third party Civil Society Organisations)

- Strengthened capacity of CSOs to tackle the chosen forms of gender based violence in their relevant local/national/transnational contexts including through multi-agency cooperation; more supportive environment for CSOs; more effective, accountable and sustainable CSOs; a better developed advocacy role for CSOs; increased involvement of CSOs in policy and decision-making processes with local, regional,

¹³ [Recommendation on developing and strengthening integrated child protection systems in the best interests of the child | European Commission \(europa.eu\)](#)

and national governments and other relevant actors;

- As well as expected results mentioned for the other priorities below (corresponding to the form of gender-based violence addressed).

2. Targeted actions for the protection of and support for victims and survivors of gender-based violence and domestic violence

- Increased availability, accessibility and quality of victim support services, including those providing for targeted and integrated support for victims with specific needs, such as victims of sexual violence, victims of violence in close-relationships, providing for trauma support and counselling;
- Victims among persons in particularly vulnerable situations and groups at a heightened risk can better access protection and support services that address their specific needs;
- Increased capacity of stakeholders and frontline professionals;
- Increased reporting of violence to the police and other services, with appropriate mechanisms in place to facilitate this, ensuring that victims are treated in a gender-sensitive manner;
- Increased awareness of gender-based violence, including gender-based sexual violence, including in the context of migration and/or in the context of armed conflict;
- 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 other migrants; improved protection and support standards for victims of gender-based violence including people in migration;
- Strengthened multi-agency cooperation in relation to gender-based violence, including in cross-border situations;
- Strengthened victim protection including in cross-border cases of violence through the application of Directive 2011/99/EU on the European protection order.

3. Targeted actions for the prevention of gender-based violence, including cyber violence

- Increased promotion and support of prevention of gender-based violence through awareness raising, sharing of information and knowledge and the creation and dissemination of training opportunities;
- Increased awareness of prejudices, gender stereotypes and norms that contribute to the tolerance of gender-based violence;
- Increased awareness and engagement of men and boys in tackling gender-based violence against women;
- Increased capacity of stakeholders and relevant professionals to address issues related to gender-based violence including in relation to cyber violence and domestic violence;
- Increased empowerment of (potential) victims of violence to claim their rights and to stand up against violence;

- Changed attitude and behaviour as regards the issue of gender-based violence, including cyber violence (including lower tolerance and decreased victim-blaming):
 - among the general population and particular groups, e.g. relevant professionals, witnesses and bystanders, persons in vulnerable situations and groups at a heightened risk, etc.
 - among men and boys.
- Early signs of violence are detected and reported; increased reporting of violence to the police and other services, with appropriate mechanisms in place to facilitate this;
- Increased treatment of perpetrators of violence;
- Violence including online is prevented before it happens; reduced risk of violence escalating; increased safety of women and their children and others at risk from violence in close relationships and online violence.

4. Targeted actions making integrated child protection systems work in practice

- Strengthened integrated child protection systems;
- Strengthened prevention, protection and support to children suffering violence and in need of protection;
- Reinforced capacity of professionals to prevent, detect and respond to violence against children and child protection, including increased cooperation among relevant services.

IMPLEMENTATION

Direct management by DG JUST

3.9. Call for proposals for 3-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 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.

Setting up 3-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.

Increasing the capacities of the framework partners to contribute actively to the

development and implementation of EU policies in these areas.

Policy initiatives supported: European democracy action plan, ‘Defence of Democracy Package’, EU Citizenship Report 2020 and the EU Citizenship Package, Rule of law reports, Strategy to strengthen the application of the Charter of Fundamental Rights in the EU, the Gender Equality Strategy (2020-2025), the EU Anti-racism Action Plan (including anti-Muslim racism), the EU Roma strategic framework for equality, inclusion and participation (2020-2030), the LGBTIQ Equality Strategy (2020-2025), the EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child, Commission Recommendation on developing and strengthening integrated child protection systems in the best interests of the child, EU Strategy on combating antisemitism and fostering Jewish life, the Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2021-2030), Commission Recommendation on protecting journalists and human rights defenders who engage in public participation from manifestly unfounded or abusive court proceedings (‘Strategic lawsuits against public participation’), Joint Communication “No place for hate: a Europe united against hatred”.

TYPE OF APPLICANTS TARGETED

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

POLICY PRIORITIES

If foreseen in the call, framework partners qualifying as European networks will have the possibility to re-grant (i.e. financial support to third parties) to their member organisations.

In view of the objectives above, the framework partners should be active in:

- promoting and protecting Union values (direct management by EACEA);
- promoting equality, preventing and combating discrimination (direct management by EACEA);
- promoting gender equality (direct management by EACEA);
- combating racism, xenophobia and all forms of intolerance (direct management by EACEA);
- protecting and promoting the rights of the child (direct management by EACEA);
- promoting European remembrance (direct management by EACEA);
- promoting citizens’ engagement (direct management by EACEA);
- preventing and combating gender-based violence (direct management by EACEA);
- preventing and combating violence against children (direct management by EACEA);
- protecting and promoting the rights of persons with disabilities (direct management by JUST).

EXPECTED RESULTS

Framework partners are expected to help to achieve at least one of the following objectives:

- Building the capacity of national, regional and local 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;
- Providing a link between research and policymaking at European level, which helps find solutions to problems;
- Facilitating interaction between scientists, academia and decision-makers.

Under the re-granting option, network members that receive a grant from a framework partner are expected to help to achieve at least one of the following objectives:

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

IMPLEMENTATION

Direct management by DG JUST and EACEA (co-delegation type II).

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

LEGAL BASIS

Article 3 of Regulation (EU) 2021/692

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.

Supporting the 2026 annual work programmes of framework partners.

Increasing the capacities of the framework partners to contribute actively to the

development and implementation of EU policies in these areas.

Policy initiatives supported: European democracy action plan, ‘Defence of Democracy Package’, EU Citizenship Report 2020 and the EU Citizenship Package, Rule of law report, Strategy to strengthen the application of the Charter of Fundamental Rights in the EU, the Gender Equality Strategy (2020-2025), the EU Anti-racism Action Plan (including anti-Muslim racism, the EU Roma strategic framework for equality, inclusion and participation (2020-2030), the LGBTIQ Equality Strategy (2020-2025), the EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child, Commission Recommendation on developing and strengthening integrated child protection systems in the best interests of the child, EU Strategy on combating antisemitism and fostering Jewish life, the Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2021-2030), Commission Recommendation on protecting journalists and human rights defenders who engage in public participation from manifestly unfounded or abusive court proceedings (‘Strategic lawsuits against public participation’), Joint Communication “No place for hate: a Europe united against hatred”.

TYPE OF APPLICANTS TARGETED

Framework partners of the European Commission under the CERV programme.

POLICY PRIORITIES

These grants 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 3.9). Framework partners will be invited to submit their proposal presenting their annual priorities.

If foreseen in the call, framework partner organisations that qualify as European networks will have the possibility to re-grant (i.e. financial support to third parties) to their member organisations.

EXPECTED RESULTS

Framework partners are expected to help to achieve at least one of the following objectives:

- Building the capacity of national, regional or local 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;
- Providing a link between research and policymaking at European level, which helps find solutions to problems;
- Facilitating interaction between scientists, academia and decision-makers.

Under the re-granting option, network members that receive a grant from a framework partner are expected to help to achieve at least one of the following objectives:

- Strengthened capacity to protect and promote rights and EU values;
- A more supportive environment for CSOs and human rights defenders, such as national human rights institutions;
- A more developed advocacy and watchdog role for 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 national, regional and local cooperation within civil society.

IMPLEMENTATION

Direct management by DG JUST and EACEA (co-delegation type II)

3.11. 3-year framework partnership agreement - award without a call for proposals to EQUINET

LEGAL BASIS

Article 4 of Regulation (EU) 2021/692

BUDGET LINE

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 activities implemented in 2026-2028 by the European Network of the Equality Bodies, specifically for sharing experiences and good practices, trainings, awareness raising and studies.

Legal basis: Article 14(3) of Regulation (EU) 2021/692 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

EQUINET, the European Network of Equality Bodies, 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. These provisions are expected to be replaced, as from May 2024, by two new

directives on standards for equality bodies, requiring Member states to designate equality bodies to cover the grounds and fields of Directives 79/7/EEC, 2000/43/EC, 2000/78/EC, 2004/113/EC, 2006/54/EC, 2010/41/EU.

EQUINET can make use of the possibility to re-grant funds (i.e. financial support to third parties) to its network member organisations.

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;
- Support to the transposition of recently adopted Directives and to the establishment of a list of indicators on the functioning of equality bodies.

IMPLEMENTATION

Direct management by DG JUST

3.12. Award of an operating grant without a call for proposals to EQUINET

LEGAL BASIS

Article 4 of Regulation (EU) 2021/692

BUDGET LINE

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 activities implemented in 2026 by the European Network of the Equality Bodies, specifically for sharing experiences and good practices, trainings, awareness raising and studies.

Legal basis: Article 14(3) of Regulation (EU) 2021/692 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

EQUINET, the European Network of Equality Bodies, 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. These provisions are expected to be replaced, as from May 2024, by two new directives on standards for equality bodies, requiring Member states to designate equality bodies to cover the grounds and fields of Directives 79/7/EEC, 2000/43/EC, 2000/78/EC, 2004/113/EC, 2006/54/EC, 2010/41/EU.

EQUINET can make use of the possibility to re-grant funds (i.e. financial support to third parties) to its network member organisations.

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;
- Support to the transposition of recently adopted Directives and to the establishment of a list of indicators on the functioning of equality bodies.

IMPLEMENTATION

Direct management by DG JUST

3.13. Award of a grant without a call for proposals to Programme Contact Points

LEGAL BASIS

Article 3 of Regulation (EU) 2021/692

Article 195 (d) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046

BUDGET LINE

Budget line 07 06 04: Protect and promote Union values

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

OBJECTIVES

Any country participating in the programme may establish a Programme Contact Point 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.

TYPE OF APPLICANTS TARGETED

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

POLICY PRIORITIES

Each country participating in the programme can receive funding to support the activities of a decentralised structure that the country 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 searches and providing information about national or regional initiatives in the areas covered by the programme at the European level.

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.

IMPLEMENTATION

Direct management by EACEA (co-delegation type II).

4. PRIZES

The global budgetary envelope reserved for contests under this work programme is EUR 350 000 in 2025.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE	2025 (€)
Equality, rights and gender equality	350 000
<i>Supporting, advancing and implementing comprehensive</i>	350 000

<i>policies to protect and promote the rights of persons with disabilities</i>	
TOTAL	350 000

4.1. Prizes for winners of the Access City Award

LEGAL BASIS

Article 4 of Regulation (EU) 2021/692

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).

POLICY PRIORITIES

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 persons 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 persons with disabilities and older people. Since its 10th edition, the Access City Award includes financial prizes for the winners.

IMPLEMENTATION

Direct management by DG JUST

5. PROCUREMENT

The global budgetary envelope reserved for procurement contracts is EUR 31 462 277 in 2025.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE	2025 (€)
Union values	4 810 641
Equality, rights and gender equality	17 251 294

Citizens' engagement and participation	5 433 594
Daphne	3 966 749
TOTAL	31 462 277

5.1. Procurement activities in Union Values

LEGAL BASIS

Article 3 of Regulation (EU) 2021/692

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.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIVITIES AND CONTRACTS

Actions will be financed through contracts following public procurement (open calls for tender and framework contracts). Along with existing, new framework contracts may be envisaged especially in support to the organisation of workshops and policy meetings, on evaluation, impact assessment and related policy support services. The types of activities funded may include, for example, the following: awareness raising, information and dissemination, analytical activities, organisation of conferences, expert meetings, seminars, communication activities, development and maintenance of IT platforms and systems, preparation of surveys and studies (including Eurobarometer), contribution to Commission corporate IT systems, evaluations and impact assessments.

If the Commission estimates that some policy actions foreseen under procurement would be better implemented - taking into account the evolution of the policy context - through indirect management, then contribution agreements following a proposal for action, including a request for funding, submitted to the Commission by one of the eligible entities working in the area of citizens, equality, rights and values may be concluded in accordance with Title VI 'Indirect management' of the Financial Regulation.

This concerns organisations which have been subject to an ex ante assessment pursuant to Article 154 of the Financial Regulation, including those that are signatories of a framework partnership agreement concluded with the Commission pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2016/369, or those that are covered by the Financial and Administrative Framework Agreement concluded with the United Nations. Such organisations will have to

demonstrate specific technical competence and experience appropriate for the action in the area of citizens, equality, rights and values, and must have the know-how, qualifications and resources to successfully implement the actions. This capacity will be assessed together with the 'Quality' entrustment requirements, on the basis of the competence and experience of the organisation and their project team, including operational resources (human, technical and other). The proposal for the action and request of funding will be assessed based on the relevance of the action against the objectives of the programme; the quality of the action; and its impact.

Examples of organisations that can be selected as implementing entities include but are not limited to the Council of Europe, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) as well as agencies of the United Nations.

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. Increased awareness about the CERV programme and about its underlying policies. Increased effectiveness of the CERV programme.

IMPLEMENTATION

Direct management by DG JUST and EACEA (co-delegation type II).

5.2. Procurement activities in equality and rights

LEGAL BASIS

Article 4 of Regulation (EU) 2021/692

BUDGET LINE

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.*

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIVITIES AND CONTRACTS

Actions will be financed through contracts following public procurement (open calls for tender and framework contracts). Along with existing, new framework contracts may be envisaged especially in support to the organisation of workshops and policy meetings, on evaluation, impact assessment and related policy support services as well as of policy work in the areas of the Strand. The types of activities funded may include, for example, the following: training, mutual learning and exchange of good practices, awareness raising, information and dissemination, analytical activities, organisation of conferences, expert meetings, seminars, communication activities, development and maintenance of IT platforms and systems, preparation of surveys and studies (including Eurobarometer), evaluations 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.

If the Commission estimates that some policy actions foreseen under procurement would be better implemented - taking into account the evolution of the policy context - through indirect management, then contribution agreements following a proposal for action, including a request for funding, submitted to the Commission by one of the eligible entities working in the area of citizens, equality, rights and values may be concluded in accordance with Title VI 'Indirect management' of the Financial Regulation.

This concerns organisations which have been subject to an ex ante assessment pursuant to Article 154 of the Financial Regulation, including those that are signatories of a framework partnership agreement concluded with the Commission pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2016/369, or those that are covered by the Financial and Administrative Framework Agreement concluded with the United Nations. Such organisations will have to demonstrate specific technical competence and experience appropriate for the action in the area of citizens, equality, rights and values, and must have the know-how, qualifications and resources to successfully implement the actions. This capacity will be assessed together with the 'Quality' entrustment requirements, on the basis of the competence and experience of the organisation and their project team, including operational resources (human, technical and other). The proposal for the action and request of funding will be assessed based on the relevance of the action against the objectives of the programme; the quality of the action; and its impact.

Examples of organisations that can be selected as implementing entities include but are not limited to the Council of Europe, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) as well as agencies of the United Nations.

EXPECTED RESULTS

Increased awareness of existing EU action and more Commission initiatives on (gender) equality, children's rights, data protection, rights of persons with disabilities and EU citizenship rights. Improved responses to discrimination, racism, antisemitism, anti-Muslim racism, hate speech and hate crime, both on- and offline.

IMPLEMENTATION

Direct management by DG JUST, the Secretariat-General (co-delegation type I) and DG EMPL (co-delegation type I).

5.3. Procurement activities in citizens engagement

LEGAL BASIS

Article 5 of Regulation (EU) 2021/692

BUDGET LINE

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

OBJECTIVES

- *Supporting projects aimed at marking 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' (including children's rights 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.*

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIVITIES AND CONTRACTS

Actions will be financed through contracts following public procurement (open calls for tender and framework contracts). Along with existing, new framework contracts may be envisaged especially in support to the organisation of workshops and policy meetings, on evaluation, impact assessment and related policy support services as well as of policy work on remembrance. The types of activities funded may include, for example, the following: training, mutual learning and exchange of good practices, awareness raising, information

and dissemination, analytical activities, organisation of conferences, expert meetings, seminars, communication activities, development and maintenance of IT platforms and systems, preparation of surveys and studies, support to European Citizens' Initiatives, to be implemented by the Commission's Secretariat-General.

If the Commission estimates that some policy actions foreseen under procurement would be better implemented - taking into account the evolution of the policy context - through indirect management, then contribution agreements following a proposal for action, including a request for funding, submitted to the Commission by one of the eligible entities working in the area of citizens, equality, rights and values may be concluded in accordance with Title VI 'Indirect management' of the Financial Regulation.

This concerns organisations which have been subject to an ex ante assessment pursuant to Article 154 of the Financial Regulation, including those that are signatories of a framework partnership agreement concluded with the Commission pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2016/369, or those that are covered by the Financial and Administrative Framework Agreement concluded with the United Nations. Such organisations will have to demonstrate specific technical competence and experience appropriate for the action in the area of citizens, equality, rights and values, and must have the know-how, qualifications and resources to successfully implement the actions. This capacity will be assessed together with the 'Quality' entrustment requirements, on the basis of the competence and experience of the organisation and their project team, including operational resources (human, technical and other). The proposal for the action and request of funding will be assessed based on the relevance of the action against the objectives of the programme; the quality of the action; and its impact.

Examples of organisations that can be selected as implementing entities include but are not limited to the Council of Europe, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) as well as agencies of the United Nations.

EXPECTED RESULTS

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

IMPLEMENTATION

Direct management by DG JUST, EACEA (co-delegation type II) and SG (co-delegation type I and cross-subdelegation).

5.4. Procurement activities in Daphne

LEGAL BASIS

Article 6 of Regulation (EU) 2021/692

BUDGET LINE

OBJECTIVES

- *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 LGBTIQ persons and persons with disabilities;*
- *Supporting and protecting all direct and indirect victims of the forms of violence referred to in first two points, 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.*

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIVITIES AND CONTRACTS

Actions will be financed through contracts following public procurement (open calls for tender and framework contracts). Along with existing, new framework contracts may be envisaged especially in support to the organisation of workshops and policy meetings, on evaluation, impact assessment and related policy support services. The types of activities funded may include, for example, the following: training, mutual learning and exchange of good practices, awareness raising, information and dissemination, organisation of conferences, expert meetings, seminars, communication activities, development and maintenance of IT platforms and systems, 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.

If the Commission estimates that some policy actions foreseen under procurement would be better implemented - taking into account the evolution of the policy context - through indirect management, then contribution agreements following a proposal for action, including a request for funding, submitted to the Commission by one of the eligible entities working in the area of citizens, equality, rights and values may be concluded in accordance with Title VI 'Indirect management' of the Financial Regulation.

This concerns organisations which have been subject to an ex ante assessment pursuant to Article 154 of the Financial Regulation, including those that are signatories of a framework partnership agreement concluded with the Commission pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2016/369, or those that are covered by the Financial and Administrative Framework Agreement concluded with the United Nations. Such organisations will have to demonstrate specific technical competence and experience appropriate for the action in the area of citizens, equality, rights and values, and must have the know-how, qualifications and resources to successfully implement the actions. This capacity will be assessed together with the 'Quality' entrustment requirements, on the basis of the competence and experience of the organisation and their project team, including operational resources (human, technical and other). The proposal for the action and request of funding will be assessed based on the relevance of the action against the objectives of the programme; the

quality of the action; and its impact.

Examples of organisations that can be selected as implementing entities include but are not limited to the Council of Europe, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) as well as agencies of the United Nations.

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.

IMPLEMENTATION

Direct management by DG JUST.

6. ACTIONS IMPLEMENTED IN INDIRECT MANAGEMENT

The budget reserved for indirect management actions is EUR 500 000 in 2025.

6.1. Support to the Council of Europe to boost its support to civil society organisations' knowledge and capacity to tackle hate speech online (phase 2)

IMPLEMENTING ENTITY

Council of Europe

OBJECTIVES PURSUED

The overall objective of the action is to further boost mobilisation of civil society organisations and other experts in undertaking effective responses to the societal challenges of hate speech online, to help foster resilient and pluralistic democracies. This action is the second phase of activities started under CERV work programme 2023-2024.

The action will enhance the training and capacity of civil society organisations in local contexts to cooperate with peers as well with public authorities on the use of counter narrative, education and awareness raising tools to tackle hate speech online.

The Council of Europe will work in the context of the activities of the High Level Group on combating hate speech and hate crime, in close cooperation with EU agencies, such as in particular the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) to ensure synergies with the FRA-led Working Group on hate crime reporting, recording and data collection.

6.2. Support to the OSCE / ODIHR for knowledge sharing and standard setting on hate crime including hate crime victims support

IMPLEMENTING ENTITY

OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR)

OBJECTIVES PURSUED

This action aims to enhance the support to victims of hate speech and hate crime in the EU by sharing knowledge and good practices, supporting stakeholders on the ground, and developing standards and capacities on hate crime and hate crime victim support.

The OSCE / ODIHR will further intensify and develop dedicated work on standard setting and guidance on effective hate crime response and how to support hate crime victims in the EU. The project will be based on the previous Enhancing Stakeholder Awareness and Resources for Hate Crime Victim Support (EStAR) project, which developed practical tools to enhance the specialist support available, and victim support and criminal justice structures' responses to victims of hate crimes.

6.3. Support to UNESCO to combat Holocaust distortion (phase 2)

IMPLEMENTING ENTITY

UNESCO

OBJECTIVES PURSUED

The overall objective is to help combat Holocaust distortion and trivialisation. The results of the action will reach the general public, educators, media and stakeholders and inform them about how to recognise and counter Holocaust distortion and trivialisation. This action is the second phase of activities started under CERV work programme 2023-2024.

The concrete objectives of the Action are:

- To reach the general public on the danger of Holocaust distortion and trivialisation;
- To further train European educators, influencers, media, civil society organisations and stakeholders to recognise and counter Holocaust distortion and trivialisation.

7. Other expenditures

7.1. Experts

BUDGET LINE

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

Budget line 07 06 04: Protect and promote Union values

AMOUNT

The budget reserved for other expenditures is EUR 1 000 000 under budget line 07 06 04: Protect and promote Union values and EUR 2 000 000 under budget line 07 06 02: Promote citizens engagement and participation in the democratic life of the Union.

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 Database¹⁴, 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.

7.2. EU financial contribution to the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence

LEGAL BASIS

Article 6 of Regulation (EU) 2021/692

BUDGET LINE

07 06 03: Daphne

AMOUNT

EUR 367 867.09 for 2025

DESCRIPTION

On 1 October 2023, the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence entered into force for the EU. The EU ratified the Convention through Council Decisions (EU) 2023/1075 and 2023/1076. The Convention has a monitoring mechanism composed of the Group of Experts on Violence against women (GREVIO) and the Committee of the Parties (CoP) which monitor the compliance of the contracting states with the standards set by the Convention. The monitoring mechanism is funded through the ordinary budget of the Council of Europe since the Convention does not contain a clause on financial contributions. As the European Union is not a member of the Council of Europe and, hence, does not contribute to the ordinary budget, the Council of Europe requested the EU to contribute to the costs of the Convention by paying a share of the Convention's annual budget. Given that combating violence against women and domestic violence is a priority for the European Union, an annual payment at a rate corresponding to that of a large contributor to the Council of Europe (DE, FR, IT, UK) seems appropriate. This contribution will be paid on a voluntary basis and should be without prejudice to the EU's financial contribution in other Council of Europe conventions.

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¹⁴ Funding & tender opportunities – [work as an expert](#).