



Brussels, 30.10.2019
C(2019) 7821 final

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 30.10.2019

**on the financing of the Europe for Citizens programme and the adoption of the work
programme for 2020**

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 30.10.2019

on the financing of the Europe for Citizens programme and the adoption of the work programme for 2020

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 966/2012¹, and in particular Article 110 thereof,

Having regard to the Council Regulation (EU) No 390/2014 of 14 April 2014 establishing the “Europe for Citizens” programme for the period 2014-2020², and in particular Article 8 thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) In order to ensure the implementation of the Europe for Citizens Programme, it is necessary to adopt an annual financing decision, which constitutes the annual work programme, for the year 2020. Article 110 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 (‘the Financial Regulation’) establishes detailed rules on financing decisions.
- (2) The envisaged assistance is to comply with the conditions and procedures set out by the restrictive measures adopted pursuant to Article 215 of the Treaty.
- (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) The measures provided for in this Decision are in accordance with the opinion of the Europe for Citizens Programme Committee,

¹ OJ L 193, 30.7.2018, p.1.

² OJ L 115, 17.4.2014, p.3.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1
The work programme

The annual financing decision, constituting the annual work programme for the implementation of the Europe for Citizens Programme for the year 2020, as set out in the Annex, is adopted.

Article 2
Union contribution

The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the programme for the year 2020 is set at EUR 25 959 000, and shall be financed from the general budget of the Union from the appropriations entered in the following line of the general budget of the Union:

– budget line 18.04.01.01: EUR 25 959 000.

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

The implementation of this Decision is subject to the availability of the appropriations provided for in the draft general budget of the Union for 2020, following the adoption of that budget by the budget authority or as provided for in the system of provisional twelfths.

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 in accordance with the conditions set out in the Annex. Grants may be awarded to the bodies selected in accordance with point 2.2 of the Annex.

Done at Brussels, 30.10.2019

For the Commission
Dimitris AVRAMOPOULOS
Member of the Commission



EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

Brussels, 30.10.2019
C(2019) 7821 final

ANNEX

ANNEX

to the

Commission Implementing Decision

**on the financing of the Europe for Citizens programme and the adoption of the work
programme for 2020**

ANNEX

Budget line: 18.04.01.01 – Europe for Citizens programme 2014-2020

Basic act: Council Regulation (EU) No 390/2014 of 14 April 2014 establishing the 'Europe for Citizens' programme for the period 2014-2020

Table of Contents

1.	Objectives and priorities of the programme in 2020.....	3
1.1.	Main features / general objectives of the programme.....	3
1.2.	Political context.....	3
1.3.	Priorities of the programme for 2020.....	3
1.3.1.	Priorities	3
1.3.2.	Overview of the programme strands of the Europe for Citizens Programme.....	8
1.3.3.	Expected results in 2020	11
1.3.4.	Scope of the work programme	11
2.	Grants	12
2.1.	Programme Guide - (action grants only).....	12
2.1.1.	Essential eligibility criteria for all action grants	12
2.1.2.	Selection criteria for all action grants	13
2.1.3.	Award criteria for all action grants	13
2.1.4.	Geographical balance	15
2.1.5.	Award criteria for operating grants	15
2.1.6.	Potential beneficiaries and maximum funding for projects	15
2.1.7.	Calculation of the grants	16
2.2.	Action grants awarded to Europe for Citizens Contact Points in Member States and participating countries without a call for proposals	17
2.2.1.	Short description of the objectives pursued and the results foreseen.....	17
2.2.2.	Justification to the exception of a call for proposals.....	17
2.2.3.	Amount of co-financing	17
3.	Procurement	17
4.	Budget breakdown	19

1. OBJECTIVES AND PRIORITIES OF THE PROGRAMME IN 2020

1.1. Main features / general objectives of the programme

The general objectives of the Europe for Citizens Programme 2014-2020 are:

- to contribute to citizens' understanding of the Union, its history and diversity;
- to foster European citizenship and to improve conditions for civic and democratic participation at Union level.

Specific objectives shall be pursued on a transnational level or with a European dimension:

- to raise awareness of remembrance, the common history and values of the Union and the Union's aim, namely to promote peace, the values of the Union and the well-being of its peoples by stimulating debate, reflection and the development of networks;
- to encourage democratic and civic participation of citizens at Union level, by developing citizens' understanding of the Union policy making process and promoting opportunities for societal and intercultural engagement and volunteering at Union level.

1.2. Political context

2020 will be the last implementation year of the current Europe for Citizens programme. For 2021, the Commission has proposed in the context of the Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027 to merge Europe for Citizens with the current Rights, Equality and Citizenship programme in the Rights and Values programme. This programme, together with the Justice programme, will be part of the proposed larger Justice, Rights and Values fund.

At the same time, 2020 will be the first year of the new Commission and European Parliament after the European Elections of May 2019. In this context, the Europe for Citizens programme must be flexible enough to reply to new needs and to take on board new priorities. But it needs to be sustainable enough to continue the work on fundamental values of the European Union.

In the upcoming period of change, it will be crucial to offer EU citizens the opportunity to take part in the debate about Europe and to play a strong role in the development of the Union. Europe for Citizens will contribute through projects and activities in which EU citizens can participate and make their voice heard. It will continue to promote cultural diversity as well as the knowledge of shared history and to encourage EU citizens' responsible, democratic civic participation with the aim of fostering citizens' feeling of belonging to the EU.

1.3. Priorities of the programme for 2020

1.3.1. Priorities

All projects have to be in line with the general and specific objectives of the Europe for Citizens programme and take into consideration the multiannual priorities as defined by the

Commission in 2015¹ after consultation of the stakeholders represented in the Civil dialogue group² and of the Europe for Citizens programme committee.

In the context of multiannual priorities, for the year 2020, priorities have been designed to stimulate debates on dates of European significance and on topics having a strong importance in present times. Priority will be given to projects dealing with common European values and Europe's cultural heritage (for the European Remembrance strand) or to participative and innovative projects anchored in the social, economic and political reality of the European Union (for the Democratic engagement and civic participation strand). The aim is to invite citizens to take part in the debate about Europe through projects respecting the general features of the programme (equal access, cross-border and local dimension, intercultural dialogue and promotion of volunteering) or through their active engagement in organisations co-funded through the Europe for Citizens programme. The pro-active use of social media is recommended with the aim of reaching out to a large numbers of citizens, especially younger generations. In addition, organisations and projects receiving funding under the Europe for Citizens programme are encouraged to make use of the European Solidarity Corps.³

A distinction has to be made between:

- specific priorities for "European remembrance" (strand 1);
- specific priorities for "Democratic engagement and civic participation" (strand 2).
- horizontal action: valorisation

1.3.1.1. Specific priorities for European Remembrance (Strand 1)

1. Commemorations of major historical turning points in recent European history

One of the Europe for Citizens programme's goals is to create opportunities for a debate on European history beyond national perspectives.

Through its Strand 1 (European Remembrance), the Programme aims to foster a common culture of remembrance and mutual understanding between citizens from different EU Member States, notably by supporting projects that reflect on historical turning points and changes in regimes in Europe's 20th century and on their continuous importance for the Europe of today.

In 2020, the following commemorations will be eligible for projects:

¹ C (2015) 9186 final.

² The "civil dialogue group" is an informal discussion forum which debates all matters relating to the Europe for Citizens programme and to its implementation. It encourages exchanges of experiences and good practices in those fields and contributes to the dissemination of the programme's results. It monitors and discusses policy developments in related fields. This dialogue involves regular meetings between the Commission and approximately 50 key European organisations actively involved in the Europe for Citizens programme.

³ See: https://europa.eu/youth/solidarity_en

Year of application	Eligible commemorations
2020	1950 Robert Schuman Declaration 1990 German reunification and democratic transition of other countries in Europe 2000 Proclamation of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights

Also, through this strand, the Programme will support projects on promoting the role of Europe's cultural heritage as a pivotal element of cultural diversity, and intercultural dialogue and local heritage linked to European memory.

2. *Civil society and civic participation under totalitarian regimes*

Under totalitarian regimes, democratic concepts such as "civil society", "freedom" and "democracy" and "democratic procedures" completely lost their meaning.

Free speech and open public debate, political demonstrations of different political actors, and public gatherings were not allowed. One of the most essential acts of democratic engagement, which is membership in a political party, was also diverted from its natural purpose to prove loyalty toward a leading party and conformity with the ruling political regime.

By contrast, free social movements emanating from the civil society were often ostracised, threatened and repressed. Civil society and democratic movements were absorbed and exploited by the one-party system. Public information was also monopolised and distorted by official institutions. Any diverging view was treated as "dissidence". Free speech was forbidden and independent voices were silenced. Political decisions were applied without democratic deliberation.

Applicants should reflect on the exploitation and manipulations of democratic practices notably by means of "propaganda" and official media in the past and the current upsurge of populism. The objective is to show that civil society, free media and open debate are an indispensable element of democracy.

Through their projects, applicants should also reflect on the significance of contemporary democratic achievements such as rule of law, civil liberties, civic rights, and underline the fragility of civic rights (freedom of speech, right to vote) without strong checks and balances. The aim is also to debate on the concrete ways and mechanisms by which civil liberties and civic rights can be preserved and civil dialogue ensured at EU and national levels, as well as the impact of the social media in this context.

3. *Antisemitism, anti-gypsyism, xenophobia, homophobia and other forms of intolerance: drawing the lessons for today*

The 20th century's totalitarianisms deprived some of their citizens from their basic rights to the point of total exclusion, Holocaust and genocide. This was the case for the Jewish and Roma communities as well as other cultural or ethnic minorities under the Nazi regime, including LGBTI (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transsexual/transgender and intersexual) people.

Misleading ideologies and support of deceptive propaganda, exclusionary legislation as well as a repressive apparatus enabled those regimes to commit mass murders.

Past manifestations of antisemitism, xenophobia, homophobia and other forms of intolerance should be analysed and debated so as to inform the present. Through their projects, applicants could address the following themes and questions: How to recognise a "scapegoat" and to deconstruct the discourse leading to exclusion and marginalisation? What are the educational tools at EU and national levels to prevent these forms of intolerance?

4. *Democratic transition and accession to the European Union*

For Member States that experienced in their recent history a transition to democracy, accession to the European Union played an important role in supporting and consolidating democratisation. For example, through the system of "democratic conditionality", the pre-membership preparations encouraged political changes and structural reforms, strengthened administrative capacity and improved minority protections.

Projects under this specific priority should analyse how the EU accession perspective influenced democratic standards and practices of the new democracies. While taking stock of the enlargements accomplished in the last two decades, the projects could also offer the opportunity to discuss future enlargements or other kinds of partnerships with countries of the EU neighbourhood.

1.3.1.2. *Specific priorities for "Democratic engagement and civic participation" (Strand 2)*

1. *Debating the future of Europe and challenging Euroscepticism*

Under this multi-annual priority of the Europe for Citizens programme, citizens will be given an opportunity to express what kind of Europe they want and to outline their long term vision for the future of European integration. In this context the White Paper on the Future of Europe⁴ represents a point of departure.

This debate should be based on the concrete achievements of the European Union and on lessons learnt from history. But it should as well reflect on current trends, and enable participants to challenge Euroscepticism and to suggest possible actions that the European Union could undertake to foster a sense of belonging to Europe, to understand the benefits of the European Union and to reinforce the EU's social and political cohesion.

The debate on the future of Europe should not be limited to those already supporting the idea of the European Union, but also reach out to citizens who reject or put in question the European Union and its achievements, or remain indifferent. The ambitious aim is to try to channel criticism of the EU into a useful, constructive and positive driver for European integration in the long run and to help the EU to come closer to its citizens.

Citizens are invited to take part in this debate through projects or through their active engagement in organisations participating in the Europe for Citizens programme. The Commission expects projects granted under this multi-annual priority to reflect on a new narrative for Europe, citizen-oriented, forward-looking and constructive, that would be more engaging for the younger generation in particular. Projects may be based on the outcome of

⁴

See: White Paper on the Future of Europe and the way forward, 1 March 2017; https://ec.europa.eu/commission/white-paper-future-europe-reflections-and-scenarios-cu27_en

citizens' consultations and may lead to debates about concrete ways to create a more democratic Union, so as to enable citizens to reengage with the EU and develop a stronger sense of ownership of the European project.

Another aim of projects under this multi-annual priority may be to identify ways of further enhancing the European dimension and the democratic legitimacy of the EU decision-making process. In the light of the low turnout rates in European elections of the past years and the rise of populism in many Member States, projects may address the question how to reach voters, including first time/young voters, or voters living in remote areas and build a momentum for their active democratic participation in the EU at all levels.

Applicants are also invited to organise debates or activities on the rise of Euro-scepticism and its implications for the future of the European Union. Such debates or activities are expected to enable participants to deepen their knowledge of the EU institutions and policies, and better understand the EU's achievements and benefits, as well as to understand the cost of not being part of the European Union.

2. *Promoting solidarity as a basic concept*

The European Union is built on solidarity: solidarity between its citizens, solidarity across borders between its Member States, and solidarity through support actions inside and outside the Union. Solidarity is a shared value which creates cohesion and responds to societal challenges such as the recent refugee and migration crisis.

The notion of solidarity is intrinsically linked to the concept of generosity, but also to those of reciprocity and responsibility. But what does solidarity mean within the European Union, especially in times of crisis? What are the legal, political, economic and even ethical limits of European solidarity? The unprecedented arrivals of migrants and refugees in recent years in particular have put Europe's solidarity to the test.

Under this multi-annual priority of the Europe for Citizens programme, citizens will be given the opportunity to discuss the topic of solidarity and to assess existing solidarity mechanisms inside the EU. They shall reflect on policy areas where such common mechanisms are already existing or could be useful while considering other possible channels of European solidarity like volunteering, donations, foundations, civil society organisations, charities, crowdfunding, etc.

One aspect of the discussion will be to highlight the added value of the EU's intervention in times of crisis, as was demonstrated in the case of the refugee and migration crisis, when national responses seem insufficient, while underlining the limits of such solidarity mechanisms in terms of responsibility and financial cost. Projects developed under this multi-annual priority 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.

3. *Fostering intercultural dialogue and mutual understanding and combatting the stigmatisation of migrants and minority groups*

Intercultural dialogue is essentially the exchange of views and opinion between cultures. It seeks to establish linkages and common ground between different cultures, communities and people by promoting understanding and interaction. Intercultural dialogue helps

avoiding conflict and the marginalisation of citizens on the basis of their cultural identity. The Europe for Citizens Programme contributes to promoting intercultural dialogue by bringing people of different nationalities and different languages together and by giving them the opportunity to participate in common activities.

Projects granted under this multi-annual priority will raise awareness on the richness of the cultural and linguistic environment in Europe and promote mutual understanding and tolerance, thereby contributing to the development of a respectful, dynamic and multifaceted European identity.

Under this multi-annual priority a specific focus will be put on the situation of migrants in our society. Today, in the European Union, extremist or populist movements regularly stigmatise "others", "migrants" or "minorities" in their political discourse, amalgamating distinct concepts (crisis and migration; terrorism and migration) in order to polarise public opinion and to claim moral monopoly.

Against this background, the Europe for Citizens programme through this multi-annual priority will fund projects promoting diversity, tolerance and the respect of common values. Projects will in particular encourage intercultural dialogue and mutual understanding between EU citizens and migrants. These projects will help overcome stereotypes about migrants by deconstructing past and present processes of stigmatisation.

1.3.2. Overview of the programme strands of the Europe for Citizens Programme

The programme is implemented through the following strands:

Strand 1: European remembrance

Action grants:

It is proposed for the year 2020 to award 45 action grants to European remembrance projects.

This strand supports activities that invite a reflection on European cultural diversity and on the Union's common values in the broadest sense. In this context, it aims to finance projects reflecting on causes of **totalitarian regimes** in Europe's modern history and to honour the victims of their crimes.

This strand also encompasses activities concerning **other defining moments and reference points in recent European history**. In particular, it will give preference to actions which encourage tolerance, mutual understanding, intercultural dialogue and reconciliation as a means to move beyond the past and build the future, in particular with a view to reaching the younger generation, also by linking local cultural heritage to European memory.

The projects under this strand are expected to include different types of organisations (local authorities, civil society organisations, research institutes, cultural organisations, etc.) or develop different types of activities (research, non-formal education, public debates, exhibitions, etc.) or involve citizens from different target groups. Projects should be implemented on a transnational level (involving the creation and operation of transnational partnerships and networks) or with a clear European dimension. These projects should in particular reach out to the younger generation and are encouraged to involve members of the Solidarity Corps.

Grants are awarded by the EACEA with regard to the criteria laid down in the Programme Guide of the Europe for Citizens programme⁵.

Operating grants:

Operating grants provide financial support to cover part of the running costs that enable a body to have an independent existence and implement a range of activities envisaged in its annual work programme. Under Strand 1, operating grants will be awarded for bodies raising awareness of European remembrance and pursuing aims of general Union interest.

A specific call for proposals EACEA/33/2017 "Structural support for European think tanks and for civil society organisations at European level"⁶ was published in August 2017 for awarding operating grants for the period 2018-2020. Multiannual framework partnership agreements were thus concluded with six European remembrance organisations⁷. In this context, specific conventions based on the framework partnerships will be concluded in the year 2020 with these same organisations on the basis of their annual work programmes for the year 2020.

Strand 2: Democratic engagement and civic participation

Action grants:

This strand supports activities that cover civic participation in the broadest sense with a particular focus on activities directly linked to Union policies, with a view to citizens participating in the shaping of the Union political agenda in areas related to the objectives of the Europe for Citizens programme. The Strand also covers projects and initiatives that develop opportunities for mutual understanding, intercultural learning, solidarity, civic engagement and volunteering at Union level.

The following types of activities will be supported within Strand 2:

- **Town Twinning:** This measure aims at supporting projects that bring together a wide range of citizens from twinned towns around topics in line with the objectives of the programme. Priority is given to projects targetting the multi-annual priorities for this measure.

By mobilizing citizens at local and EU levels to debate concrete issues on the European political agenda, this measure will seek to promote civic participation in the Union's policy-making processes and develop opportunities for civic engagement and volunteering at the Union level.

It is proposed for 2020 to award 280 action grants for town-twinning projects.

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

⁵ http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/europe-for-citizens_en

⁶ Call for proposals N° EACEA/33/2017 "Structural support for European think tanks and for European civil society organisations at European level (2017/C 282/05)".

⁷ See Annex: Operating Grants 2018-2020, List of beneficiaries

Networks of Towns are expected to integrate a range of activities around the subjects of common interest to be addressed in the context of the Programme's objectives or multi-annual priorities, to have defined target groups for which the selected themes are particularly relevant and involve community members active in the subject area, and to aim at sustainability.

It is proposed for 2020 to award 36 action grants for networks of towns.

- **Civil Society Projects:** This measure aims at supporting projects promoted by transnational partnerships and networks that directly involve citizens. Those projects gather citizens from different backgrounds, in activities directly linked to Union policies, with a view to giving them an opportunity to concretely participate in the shaping of the Union's political agenda. To that end, those projects will invite citizens to act together or debate the multi-annual priorities themes of the programme at local and European level.

Projects should actively involve a large number of citizens, and aim at setting the basis for, or encouraging the development of, long-lasting networking between organisations active in the field. The involvement of participants of the Solidarity Corps is encouraged.

It is proposed for 2020 to award 29 action grants for civil society projects.

Operating grants:

Under strand 2, operating grants are awarded for bodies pursuing an aim of general Union interest and encouraging responsible democratic and civic participation.

Operating grants provide financial support to cover part of the running costs that enable a body to have an independent existence and implement a range of activities envisaged in its annual work programme.

A specific call for proposals EACEA/33/2017 "Structural support for European think tanks and for civil society organisations at European level"⁸ was launched in August 2017 for awarding operating grants for the period 2018-2020. Multiannual framework partnership agreements were thus concluded with twenty-four European civil society organisations or think tanks⁹. In this context, specific conventions based on the framework partnerships will be concluded in 2020 with these same organisations on the basis of their annual work programmes.

Strand 3: Horizontal Action Valorisation

This Action will support initiatives that boost the transferability of results, provide better cost-effectiveness and increase learning from experience. The rationale behind this action is the further "valorisation" and use of the results of the initiatives launched, so as to ensure they have lasting effects.

⁸ Call for proposals N° EACEA/33/2017 "Structural support for European think tanks and for European civil society organisations at European level (2017/C 282/05)".

⁹ See Annex: Operating Grants 2018-2020, List of beneficiaries

Institutional communication:

The Europe for Citizens Programme may contribute financially to institutional communication in 2020 in accordance with article 12.3 of the Programme Regulation; this contribution would cover communication about the political priorities of the Union, as far as they are related to the general objectives of the Regulation.

Information structures:

This Action will support the Information structures in Member States and participating countries—the **Europe for Citizens Contact Points (ECP)**—designated in the basic act. These structures have been established to provide advice to applicants, support for partner search and disseminate information on the Europe for Citizens programme. Action grants are directly awarded by the EACEA in the framework of multi-annual framework partnership agreements. They are awarded on the basis of the annual work programmes of the designated structures to be assessed by the EACEA in line with the EACEA Procedure for the management of Grants to Designated Bodies.

1.3.3. Expected results in 2020

Strand 1 - European remembrance: In helping to promote debate and activities on European integration and history at a transnational level or with a clear European dimension in a **projected 45 project grants** and **6 specific annual operating grants**, the programme aims to contribute to an increased awareness of remembrance, common history and values and the Union's aim.

Strand 2 – Democratic engagement and civic participation: By providing opportunities for citizens to engage at EU level or with a European dimension in a **projected 280 town twinning projects, 36 networks of towns, 29 action grants** for civil society projects, and **24 operating grants**, the programme aims to contribute to an increased understanding of and belonging to the EU by citizens.

Strand 3 – Horizontal Action Valorisation: This action aims to increase learning from experience, boost transferability of results and, as a consequence, increase lasting effects of the supported activities.

1.3.4. Scope of the work programme

This work programme covers the whole 2020 budget (i.e a total budget of EUR 26 069 065).

The programming table under point 4 shows the distribution of available appropriations among the actions and sub-actions funded by budget line 18.04.01.01 taking into account the contributions expected from third countries.

The indicative budget 2020 for each action is as follows:

Strand 1 – European remembrance: EUR 5 431 900, the framework partnership agreements included.

Strand 2 – Democratic engagement and civic participation: EUR 19 337 165 EUR, the framework partnership agreements included.

Strand 3 – Horizontal Action Valorisation: EUR 1 300 000

2. GRANTS

The global budgetary envelope reserved for grants under this work programme is 25 869 065 EUR. Grants under the Europe for Citizens programme will be implemented by the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) under the supervision of DG HOME.

2.1. Programme Guide - (action grants only)

For the Europe for Citizens Programme, the Programme Guide provides information on procedures, criteria and other modalities relating to action grants. Every year, after adoption of the financing decision, a call for proposals is published in accordance with Article 189 and Article 194(1) of the Financial Regulation¹⁰. This call for proposals makes reference to a Programme Guide.

The aim of this Programme Guide is to assist all those interested in developing projects or receiving financial support under the "Europe for Citizens" Programme (2014-2020) and to help them understand the objectives of the Programme and the types of activities that can be supported.

It gives detailed information on funding opportunities under the Europe for Citizens programme, application procedures, selection procedures, general rules relevant to EU grants and the deadlines for the submission of applications.

2.1.1. *Essential eligibility criteria for all action grants*

- The applicants and involved organisations must be either public bodies or non-profit organisations with legal personality;
- By way of exception, entities without legal personality can be eligible for grants provided that the following conditions set in the Financial Regulation (in particular by Article 196 and Article 197(2)(c)) are fulfilled:
 - their representatives have the capacity to undertake legal obligations on behalf of the entity;
 - the entity has the financial and operational capacity equivalent to that of a legal person.
- They must be established in a participating country, i.e. in a Member state or in a country having signed an agreement with the Commission on its participation in the Europe for Citizens Programme;
- The mission as outlined in the organisation's statutes must be consistent with the objectives of the Europe for Citizens Programme, strand and measure under which the project application has been submitted.

¹⁰ 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 (OJ L 193, 30.7.2018, p. 1).

- Organisations receiving operating grants under the Europe for Citizens programme are not eligible as lead applicants for project grants.

In addition, specific eligibility criteria applicable to each measure, relating to the number of involved organisations and the project nature and dimension, are described under 2.1.5.

2.1.2. *Selection criteria for all action grants*

Project proposals which comply with the eligibility and exclusion criteria are subject to an in-depth evaluation regarding the financial and operational capacity of the applicant organisations (in accordance with Article 196 of the Financial Regulation).

Financial capacity means that the applicant has stable and sufficient sources of funding to maintain its activity throughout the project.

It is assessed on the basis of the following documents to be submitted by the applicant:

For applicants applying for a grant below or equal € 60 000:

- A declaration on their honour;

For applicants applying for a grant above € 60 000:

- A declaration on their honour; and
- the profit and loss account and balance sheet of the organisation for the last financial year for which the accounts have been closed.

For newly created entities: the business plan might replace the above documents;

The verification of financial capacity does not apply to public bodies.

If the EACEA concludes that the required *financial capacity* - assessed on the basis of the documentation submitted – has not been proven or is not satisfactory, then it may:

- ask for further information;
- require a financial guarantee;
- offer a grant agreement without pre-financing;
- split the pre-financing in several instalments.

Operational capacity means that the applicant actually possesses adequate resources to complete the proposed action. The operational capacity will be assessed on the basis of the applicants' professional experience and references in the field concerned. Applicants will have to provide a declaration on their honour. For applicants applying for a grant above € 60 000, further information is also to be provided under a specific section of the application form developed for this purpose (in accordance with Article 196 of the Financial Regulation).

2.1.3. *Award criteria for all action grants*

Consistency with the objectives of the Programme and Programme Strand: 30%

This criterion evaluates to which extent:

- The objective(s) of the submitted project correspond to the general and specific objectives of the Programme.

- The themes addressed within a project take into consideration the multi-annual priorities of the Programme.
- The proposed activities and expected outcomes contribute to: achieve the objectives of the Programme, strand and measure and comply with the Programme features.

Quality of the activity plan /work programme of the project: 35%

This criterion evaluates to which extent:

- The proposed activities are appropriate to reach the project's needs and objectives.
- The proposed activities, working methods and resources are coherent with the objectives.
- Efficiency: results are obtained at reasonable cost.
- Projects demonstrate a clear European dimension (i.e. themes addressed within the project activities have to stimulate the reflection on EU history and values beyond national perspective for Strand 1 and engaging citizens in EU public and political life for Strand 2).
- Projects gather different types of organisations (local authorities, civil society organisations, research institutes, etc.) or develop different types of activities (research, non-formal education, public debates, exhibitions, etc.) or involve citizens coming from number of professional and social backgrounds.
- Projects use new working methods or propose innovative activities.

Dissemination: 15%

This criterion evaluates to which extent:

- The project makes the necessary efforts to ensure the exploitation and dissemination of its results.
- The proposed project creates a multiplier effect among a wider audience than that directly participating in the activities.
- A realistic and practical dissemination plan is in place in order to allow an effective transfer and exchange of the project results.
- The proposed project uses innovative channels of e-participation, such as social media and information and communication technologies.

Impact and Citizen involvement: 20%

This criterion evaluates to which extent:

- The number of organisations, participants and countries involved is large enough to ensure a real European outreach of the proposed project.
- Impact: Preference will be given to projects contributing to shaping of the Union policy agenda.
- Sustainability: Proposed projects/activities are sustainable, reaching medium- or long-term results.

- The proposed activities give participants the possibility to engage actively in the project and with the issue raised.
- A balance is sought between citizens who are already active within organisations/institutions and citizens who are not yet involved.
- Projects involve citizens from underrepresented groups or with fewer opportunities.
- For Remembrance projects and Civil Society Projects ONLY: organisations involve members of the European Solidarity Corps.

2.1.4. Geographical balance

As required in the basic act, a geographical balance will be taken into account, as far as possible, in the selection. Therefore, among projects that are assessed by the selection committee as being of the same quality level, priority is given to those from underrepresented countries.

2.1.5. Award criteria for operating grants

The main criteria to assess operating grants 2020 work programmes are the following:

- coherence of the proposed activities with the 3-year Action Plan annexed to the Framework Partnership Decisions;
- quality of the 2020 work programme.

This criterion evaluates to which extent:

- the proposed activities are appropriate to reach the organisation needs and objectives.
- the proposed activities, working methods and resources are coherent with the objectives.
- efficiency: results are obtained at reasonable cost.

2.1.6. Potential beneficiaries and maximum funding for projects

Strand 1: European remembrance

- Type of organisations: Public local or regional authorities or non-profit organisations, including civil society organisations, survivors' associations, and youth, educational, cultural, and research organisations; preference is given to projects that will clearly reach out to the younger generation;
- Number of involved organisations: A project must involve organisations from at least one Member State, but preference is given to transnational projects;
- Maximum grant amount: € 100 000;
- Maximum percentage of co-funding: 70%;
- Maximum duration: 18 months per project.

Strand 2: Democratic engagement and civic participation

Town-Twinning:

- Type of organisations: towns/municipalities and/or other levels of local authorities or their twinning committees or other non-profit organisations representing local authorities;
- Number of organisations involved: municipalities from at least **2** eligible countries of which at least one is an EU Member State;
- Maximum grant amount: € 25 000 per project;
- Maximum percentage of co-funding: 50% ;
- Maximum duration: 21 days per project.

Networks of Towns:

- Type of organisations: Towns/municipalities or their twinning committees or networks, other levels of local/regional authorities, federations/associations of local authorities and non-profit organisations representing local authorities; the other organisations involved in the project can also be non-profit civil society organisations;
- Number of organisations involved: municipalities from at least **4** eligible countries of which at least two are an EU Member State;
- Venue and number of activities: The activities must take place in different eligible programme countries. At least 4 events per project have to be foreseen. Maximum grant amount: € 150 000;
- Maximum percentage of co-funding: 70% ;
- Maximum duration: 24 months per project.

Civil Society Projects:

- Type of organisations: non-profit organisations, including civil society organisations, educational, cultural or research institutions; the other organisations involved in the project can also be public local/regional authorities;
- Number of organisations involved: organisations from at least **3** eligible countries of which at least two are an EU Member State;
- Maximum grant amount: € 150 000;
- Maximum percentage of co-funding: 70% ;
- Maximum duration: 18 months per project.

2.1.7. Calculation of the grants

The unit cost amounts and lump sums to be used for the calculation of the action grants for the 2018-2020 period have been updated. The new amounts can be found in the Programme Guide:

See: https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/europe-for-citizens_en

For the operating grants, the maximum grant awarded in 2020 cannot be higher than the maximum grant awarded in the previous years within the Framework Partnership Decision. The European Union financial support may not exceed 70% of the eligible provisional expenses for all categories of organisations (see point 5 of the Call EACEA/33/2017) except for platforms of pan-European organisations for which the ceiling is set at 90%.

2.2. Action grants awarded to Europe for Citizens Contact Points in Member States and participating countries without a call for proposals

2.2.1. Short description of the objectives pursued and the results foreseen

The aim of the measure is to disseminate information on the programme and on other European actions related to citizenship.

Each Member State and country participating in the Europe for Citizens Programme can receive funding to support the activities of a decentralised structure which it has designated to be in charge of information and dissemination activities about the Europe for Citizens Programme (Europe for Citizens Contact Points – ECP). The aim of these Contact Points is to promote European initiatives in the field of citizenship, to inform about the Europe for Citizens Programme and to facilitate the participation of programme stakeholders. In addition to the information and dissemination function the coordination structures have an important role with regard to some other functions such as organising information sessions and providing advice for applicants, support for partner search and transmission of information about national or regional initiatives in the area of civic participation at the European level.

2.2.2. Justification to the exception of a call for proposals

The grants will be awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of point (d) of Article 195 of the Financial Regulation. The Europe for Citizens Contact Points are designated in the basic act as grant beneficiaries (Article 3(2)(b) of Council Regulation (EU) No 390/2014).

2.2.3. Amount of co-financing

Maximum rate of co-financing: 50%

A maximum co-financing per country, taking into account i.e. their size and population, will be as follows:

- FR, DE, IT, PL and ES: maximum of EUR 68 750 each;
- All the other countries participating in the Europe for Citizens programme: maximum of EUR 31 250 each, unless the Agreement on their participation indicates a lower ceiling for a participating country.

3. PROCUREMENT

The global budgetary envelope reserved for procurement under this work programme is 200 000 EUR. This action will be implemented by the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) under the supervision of DG HOME.

The costs related to the selection of projects (including translation) are included in the work programme:

- evaluation committees can be assisted by one or more external experts to assist in the selection process;
- since project proposals are received in all EU official languages, translation of some of the project proposals received can be needed to allow their assessment by the members of the evaluation committees.

4. BUDGET BREAKDOWN

PROGRAMMING TABLE 2020

Budget line 18.04.01.01

Title Europe for Citizens

EUR 28

25.959.000

EFTA/EEA

-

C5(1)

pm

Third Countries(2)

110.065

TOTAL(3)

26.069.065

Index	Actions and sub-actions	Budget	Mode of implementation	Number of grants / contracts	Average value of grants / contracts	Maximum rate of cofinancing	Publication of the calls
Strand 1 - European remembrance							
1.1.	Remembrance projects	4.140.000	CFP-EA	45	91.097	70%	Dec-19
1.2.	Structural support for think tanks, organisations at European level (framework partnerships)	1.291.900	CFP-OP-EA	6	215.317	70%	Nov-19
Strand 2 - Democratic engagement and civic participation							
2.1.	Town twinning citizens meetings	4.750.160	CFP-EA	280	16.936	50%	Dec-19
2.2.	Networks of twinned towns	5.127.228	CFP-EA	36	142.423	70%	Dec-19
2.3.	Civil society projects	3.941.274	CFP-EA	29	135.906	70%	Dec-19
2.4.	Structural support for think tanks, organisations at European level (framework partnerships)	5.518.503	CFP-OP-EA	24	229.938	70% or 90% (4)	Nov-19
Strand 3 - Valorisation (5)							
3.1.	Information structures in Member States and participating countries	1.100.000	SPEC-EA	35	31.429	50%	Dec-19
4.1.	Support to project selection	200.000	PP-EA			NA	
Total		26.069.065					

(1) Estimate based on the recoveries already completed. The credits will be used taking into account the needs for additional funds

(2) Contributions from North Macedonia, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia and Kosovo*

* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

(3) Pursuant to Article 116 of the Financial Regulation, the appropriations may also finance the payment of default interest.

(4) For the platforms of paneuropean organisations, the maximum rate of cofinancing is 90 %.

(5) No contribution is foreseen for institutional communication at this stage

CFP: Grants awarded with a call for Proposals

CFP-OP: Operating Grants awarded with a call for Proposals

SPEC: grants to national bodies without a call for proposals - Art. 195 (d) FR

PP: Public Procurement

CFP-EA:

CFP-OP-EA:

SPEC-EA:

PP-EA:

Actions implemented by the Executive Agency EACEA

NA: Non applicable

Annex: Operating Grants 2018-2020

List of beneficiaries

	Organisations
1	PAIDEIA - THE EUROPEAN INSTITUTE FOR JEWISH STUDIES IN SWEDEN
2	FUNDACIO SOLIDARITAT UB
3	CENTRE EUROPEEN ROBERT SCHUMAN
4	ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONALE YAHAD-INUNUM
5	MEMORIAL DE LA SHOAH
6	EUROCLIO-DE EUROPESE VERENIGING VOOR GESCHIEDENISONDERWIJSGEVENDEN
1	INTERNATIONAL DEBATE EDUCATION ASSOCIATION
2	FONDATION ROBERT SCHUMAN
3	NOTRE EUROPE - INSTITUT JACQUES DELORS ASSOCIATION
4	FORUM CIVIQUE EUROPEEN
5	SCHWARZKOPF-STIFTUNG JUNGES EUROPA
6	GONG
7	EUROPEAN MOVEMENT INTERNATIONAL
8	FRIENDS OF EUROPE - LES AMIS DE L'EUROPE
9	THE INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AND EUROPEAN AFFAIRS
10	CONSEIL DES COMMUNES ET REGIONS D'EUROPE
11	INSTITUT PRO EVROPSKOU POLITIKU EUROPEUM ZS
12	THE ASSOCIATION OF SERVICE CIVIL INTERNATIONAL IVZW
13	TRANS EUROPEAN POLICY STUDIES ASSOCIATION
14	REPUBLIKON TUDOMANYOS, OKTATASI ES KUTATASI ALAPITVANY
15	EUROPEAN POLICY CENTRE
16	INSTITUT FUR EUROPAISCHE POLITIK EV
17	PLATE-FORME DES ONG EUROPEENNES DU SECTEUR SOCIAL AISBL

18	JEUNES EUROPEENS FEDERALISTES AISBL
19	BABEL INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION
20	ICNM INTERNATIONALES CENTRUM FUR NEUE MEDIEN VEREIN
21	ASSOCIATION DES AGENCES DE LA DEMOCRATIE LOCALE
22	POLSKA FUNDACJA IM. ROBERTA SCHUMANA
23	CENTRE EUROPEEN DU VOLONTARIAT
24	EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION FOR VIEWERS INTERESTS AISBL