



Brussels, 3.8.2017  
C(2017) 5385 final

ANNEX 1

**ANNEX**

**to the**

**Commission implementing decision**

**on the adoption of the 2018 work programme and the financing for the implementation  
of the Europe for Citizens programme**

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of the Europe for Citizens programme**

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

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## **1. OBJECTIVES AND PRIORITIES OF THE PROGRAMME IN 2018**

### **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 policymaking process and promoting opportunities for societal and intercultural engagement and volunteering at Union level.

### **1.2. Political context**

Sixty years after the signing of the Treaties of Rome, it seems more important than ever to address citizens' concerns and reconnect the European project with its founding values. In challenging times for Europe, the European Commission is launching an open debate with the White Paper on the Future of Europe presented by President Juncker on 1 March 2017. In the Rome Declaration of 25 March 2017, the leaders of 27 Member States and of the European Council, the European Parliament and the European Commission pledged to listen and respond to the concerns expressed by the citizens. The EU must provide opportunities to discuss its future, to increase awareness about the rationale behind the European integration process and to promote stronger participation in the EU public sphere in view of the European Elections in June 2019.

The European Commission fosters the civic engagement of European citizens in all aspects of their community life. Addressing the use of fear, populist language, fake information, prejudice and hatred, the Europe for Citizens Programme for the period 2014-2020 is an important instrument that invites citizens to actively participate in the EU. It promotes European fundamental values, knowledge of shared history, encourages citizens' responsible, democratic civic participation, and aims at fostering a feeling of belonging to the EU. By actively supporting major EU initiatives such as the newly launched European Solidarity Corps and the designation of 2018 as the European Year of Cultural Heritage, the Europe for Citizens program emerges as a point of reference for a shared sense of belonging to the European Union.

Through the initiatives and the projects of the Europe for Citizens Programme, all European citizens can take part and make their voice heard.

### **1.3. Priorities of the programme for 2018-2020**

#### *1.3.1. Priorities*

All projects have to be in line with the general and specific objectives of the Europe for Citizens programme and taking into consideration the multiannual priorities laid down below which were defined by the European Commission in 2015 after consultation of the programme stakeholders represented in the civil dialogue group and of the Europe for Citizens programme committee.

The European Commission reserves itself the right to review, adapt and/or modify the list of priorities should the need arise, at any moment, after consulting the programme stakeholders represented in the civil dialogue group and the programme committee.

For the 2018-2020 period, priorities have been designed to stimulate debates on dates of European significance and topics having a strong importance also in present times (for the European Remembrance strand) or anchored in the social, economic and political reality of the European Union (for the Democratic engagement and civic participation strand). Citizens are invited to take part in these reflections and debates 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 participating in the Europe for Citizens programme. The use of social media is recommended for projects and organisations receiving funding under Europe for Citizens with the aim of reaching out to 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 newly created European Solidarity Corps.

A distinction has to be made between:

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

#### *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<sup>1</sup>.

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 20<sup>th</sup> century and on their continuous importance for the Europe of today.

During the 2018-2020 period, the following commemorations will be eligible for projects, depending on the year of application:

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<sup>1</sup> COUNCIL REGULATION (EU) No 390/2014 of 14 April 2014 establishing the 'Europe for Citizens' programme for the period 2014-2020 (OJ L 115 of 17.4.2014, page 3).

Year of application	Eligible commemorations
2018	<p><b>1918</b> The end of the WWI – the rise of nation states and the failure to create a European cooperation and peaceful coexistence</p> <p><b>1938/1939</b> Beginning of WWII</p> <p><b>1948</b> Beginning of the Cold War</p> <p><b>1948</b> The Hague Congress and the integration of Europe</p> <p><b>1968</b> Protest and civil rights movements, invasion to Czechoslovakia, student protests and anti-Semitic campaign in Poland</p>
2019	<p><b>1979</b> European Parliament elections – also 40 years since the first directly elected EP in 1979</p> <p><b>1989</b> Democratic revolutions in Central and Eastern Europe and the fall of the Berlin wall</p> <p><b>2004</b> 15 years of EU enlargement into central and Eastern Europe</p>
2020	<p><b>1950</b> Robert Schuman Declaration</p> <p><b>1990</b> German reunification</p> <p><b>2000</b> Proclamation of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights</p>

## 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***

20th century's totalitarianisms deprived some of their citizens from their basic rights to the point of total exclusion and genocide. This was the case for the Jewish and Roma communities as well as other racial, cultural or ethnic minorities under Nazi regime, including LGBTI (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transexual/transgender and intersexual) people. Justified by misleading ideologies and supported by deceptive propaganda, exclusionary legislation as well as a repressive apparatus, these 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 should 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 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 shall open the discussion on the desirability of future enlargements or on 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 Europe 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 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 motivate EU citizens to go to the polls and how to build a momentum for their active democratic participation in the EU at all levels. The European Parliament elections in 2019 provide an opportunity and a challenge to which the projects financed by the programme can contribute.

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 in times of crisis***

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.

The notion of solidarity usually refers to a mutual support within a group unified by a community of interest or by shared values. It 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?

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 solidary mechanisms inside the EU. They shall reflect on policy areas where such common mechanisms could be useful and developed 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 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 of crisis situations of the past years (such as the financial crisis of 2009 or the refugee crisis) by fostering a mutual understanding of the situation, 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.

A new instrument set up in this context is the European Solidarity Corps.



In his State of the Union speech of September 2016, the President of the European Commission announced the setting up of a European Solidarity Corps with the aim to give young people across the EU the opportunity to volunteer where help is needed and to respond to crisis situations. In a first phase of its implementation, the European Solidarity Corps will build on existing EU programmes including the Europe for Citizens programme.<sup>2</sup>

Projects financed by the Europe for Citizens programme have the possibility to use the European Solidarity Corps to recruit young people to volunteer, provided the organisations meet the criteria for becoming a host organisation and subscribe to the Charter of the European Solidarity Corps (See: [https://europa.eu/youth/solidarity/mission\\_en](https://europa.eu/youth/solidarity/mission_en)).

The European Solidarity Corps offers opportunities for volunteering, traineeships or jobs that will provide young people between the ages of 18-30 with a chance to gain experience, develop their skills and make a contribution to society. By joining the Corps, participants will express their willingness to practice solidarity and to devote a period of their lives to helping others. By supporting others, the volunteers will not only put the core EU value of solidarity into practice, but also contribute to reinforcing cohesion within European society.

Projects are invited to raise awareness about this new European instrument and to make use of the European Solidarity Corps.

### ***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.

With 28 Member States and many more cultural groupings and identities within the European Union, intercultural dialogue is essential for avoiding conflict and the marginalisation of citizens on the basis of their cultural identity. The Europe for Citizens Programme can contribute to promoting intercultural dialogue by bringing European citizens 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

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<sup>2</sup> See also the Communication "A European Solidarity Corps", COM(2016)942, 7.12.2016

EU citizens and migrants. These projects will help overcome stereotypes about migrants by deconstructing past and present processes of stigmatisation.

#### **4. *European Year of Cultural Heritage 2018***

The year 2018 will also be designated as the European Year of Cultural Heritage. The ideals, principles and values embedded in the European cultural heritage represent a shared source of identity, dialogue, cohesion and creativity of shared sense of belonging and citizenship of the European Union. Projects will be funded on promoting the role of European cultural heritage as a pivotal element of cultural diversity, and intercultural dialogue and local heritage linked to European memory.

##### *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:***

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 commemorate 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.

The projects under this strand are expected to include 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 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 use volunteers 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 programme<sup>3</sup>.

##### ***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. Under Strand 1, operating grants will be awarded for bodies raising awareness of European remembrance in line with the aims of general Union interest. The operating grants should encourage cross

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<sup>3</sup> [http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/europe-for-citizens\\_en](http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/europe-for-citizens_en)

national and/or regional and local activity. The use of volunteers of the Solidarity Corps is encouraged.

A specific call for proposals on "Structural support for European think tanks and for civil society organisations at European level" will be published in 2017 for financial support to the organisation during the period 2018-2020. Based on the results of this call for proposals, multiannual framework partnership agreements will be concluded with a maximum number of six remembrance organisations. Specific annual conventions based on the framework partnerships will be concluded with these same organisations on the basis of their work programmes for each year of the period 2018-2020.

## ***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 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 type 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 targeting 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.

- **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.

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.

- **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 horizons, 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 use of volunteers of the Solidarity Corps is encouraged.

### ***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 on "Structural support for European think tanks and for civil society organisations at European level" will be published in 2017 for financial support to the organisation during the period 2018-2020. Based on the results of this call for proposals, multiannual framework partnership agreements will be concluded with a maximum number of 31 organisations active in the field of democratic engagement and civic participation. Specific annual conventions based on the framework partnerships will be concluded with these same organisations on the basis of their work programmes for each year of the period 2018-2020.

### ***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.

### ***Institutional communication:***

The Europe for Citizens Programme may contribute financially to institutional communication in 2018 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.

#### ***1.3.3. Expected results in 2018***

***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 44 project grants and 6 specific annual operating grants, the programme will

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 295 town twinning projects, 38 networks of towns, 31 action grants for civil society projects, and 31 operating grants, the programme will contribute to an increased understanding of the EU by citizens. It is expected that three quarters of participants<sup>4</sup> will feel more European as a result of their participation in the “Europe for Citizens” programme.

**Strand 3 – Horizontal Action Valorisation:** The result will be increased learning from experience, boosted transferability of results and, as a consequence, increased lasting effects of the supported activities.

#### 1.3.4. Scope of the work programme

This work programme covers the whole 2018 budget.

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 2018 for each action is as follows:

Strand 1 – European remembrance: EUR 4 928 582, the framework partnership agreements included.

Strand 2 – Democratic engagement and civic participation: EUR 18 295 597 EUR, the framework partnership agreements included.

Strand 3 – Horizontal Action Valorisation: EUR 1 300 000

## 2. GRANTS

### 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 128 of the Financial Regulation and Article 189 of the Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012. 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.

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<sup>4</sup> Based on the Study “Measuring the impact of the Europe for Citizens programme”, May 2013

### 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;
- 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; and
- 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.

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 131 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;
- the Financial Identification form.

For applicants applying for a grant above € 60 000:

- A declaration on their honour;
- the Financial Identification form and
- the Financial Capacity form accompanied by the official profit and loss account and balance sheet of the organisation for the last financial year for which the accounts have been closed.

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

If the Executive Agency 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 must show the necessary competencies and motivation to carry out the proposed project. The operational capacity will be assessed on the basis of the applicants' experience in managing the projects 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 131 of the Financial Regulation).

### *2.1.3. Award criteria for all action grants*

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

- Appropriateness of the objective of the submitted project with regard to the objectives of the Europe for Citizens Programme, strand and measure.
- The proposed activities and expected outcomes should contribute to the achievement of the objectives of the Europe for Citizens Programme, strand and measure.
- The thematic focus must be in line with the objectives of the Europe for Citizens Programme, strand and measure and preferably taking into consideration the annual priorities.

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

- The activities must be appropriate to reach the project's needs and objectives.
- Coherence: correspondence between the different objectives of the proposed activities and adaption of the proposed inputs and resources to the objectives.
- Effectiveness: effects should be obtained at reasonable cost.
- Projects have to present a clearly elaborated European dimension.
- 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 different target groups.
- Projects use new working methods or propose innovative activities.

#### ***Dissemination: 15%***

- Each project supported by the Europe for Citizens Programme must make the necessary efforts for ensuring the exploitation and dissemination of its results.
- The proposed project should create a multiplier effect among a wider audience than that which participates directly in the activities.
- A realistic and practical dissemination plan should be in place in order to allow an effective transfer and exchange of the results envisaged by the project.
- Use of innovative channels of e-participation, such as social media and information and communication technologies.

#### ***Impact and Citizen involvement: 20%***

- The number of organisations, participants and countries involved should be large enough to ensure a real European outreach of the proposed project.

- Impact: Preference will be given to grants for projects with a high impact irrespective of their size, in particular those which are directly linked to Union policies with a view to participating in the shaping of the Union policy agenda.
- Sustainability: Proposed projects should aim at achieving medium- or long-term effects.
- The proposed activities should give participants the possibility to engage actively in the project and the issue raised.
- A balance should be sought between citizens who are already active within organisations or institutions, and citizens who are not yet involved.
- Organisations involve citizens of the European Solidarity Corps.
- Organisations involve citizens from underrepresented groups or with fewer opportunities.

#### *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. 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 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;
- 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.

## **2.2. Framework partnerships 2018-2020 - Operating grants – call for proposals: structural support for European public think tanks and for civil society organisations at European level**

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

This call for proposals concerns structural support, referred to as operating grants, to bodies pursuing an aim of general Union interest, to raise awareness on European remembrance (strand 1) or to encourage democratic and civic participation (strand 2). It is intended to co-finance the operating expenses that enable a body to have an independent existence and to implement a range of activities. These activities should correspond to the pursuit of the organisation's statutory objectives and must contribute to the development and implementation of one or several of the objectives pursued by the Europe for Citizens programme.

Under these two measures, support is granted under framework partnerships for three years (2018-2020) awarded further to a call for proposals. Under these partnership agreements, an annual operating grant will be awarded for 2018.

### 2.2.2. *Categories of potential beneficiaries:*

#### **A. Civil society organisations for European remembrance (strand 1):**

- Organisations carrying activities reflecting on causes of totalitarian regimes in Europe's modern history and commemorating the victims of their crimes.
- Organisations implementing activities concerning other defining moments and reference points in recent European history.
- Organisations focusing on the common values of the EU: raising citizens' awareness on the importance of maintaining and promoting democratic values in Europe i.e. through the memory of European personalities such as the founding fathers of the European project or others who have made a significant contribution to later stages of European construction.

#### **B. Civil society organisations working at European level on democratic and civic participation (strand 2):**

Umbrella organisations, networks and other Civil society organisations aiming 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 civic engagement at Union level.

#### **C. European think tanks (strand 1 and 2):**

These organisations provide a link between research and policy-making at European level. They help to find solutions to problems and facilitate interaction between scientists, intellectuals and decision-makers. The call targets think tanks that essentially focus on the objectives and priorities of the Europe for Citizens programme, performing activities that go beyond mere research and are not aimed exclusively at specialist groups. The think tanks should have a clear transnational activity, reaching also out to local and regional audience and supporting. In particular, open and free debate and access objective information should be supported.

#### **D. Platforms of pan-European organisations (strand 2):**

The specificity of such platforms is that their members are themselves umbrella organisations (platforms) on a European level. These pan-European platforms represent a very large number of European citizens and cover a wide range of policy domains.

The activities of the selected organisations must aim to contribute to a better shared future of civic participation while recalling the importance of the fundamental values at the heart of the European project.

The networks should have a clear transnational activity, reaching also out to local and regional audience and supporting.

### 2.2.3. *Eligibility criteria*

To be eligible for an operating grant, bodies pursuing an aim of general Union interest must:

- Be a non-profit organisation;
- Play an active role in the field of European citizenship as defined in their articles of association or mission statement and correspond to one of the categories mentioned above;

- Have been established legally and have had a legal personality **for at least four years in an eligible country**;
- Transnational activity links to several countries, reaching also out to local and regional audience;
- Perform their eligible activities in eligible countries. In addition, as regards Civil organisations for European remembrance (A) and Civil society organisations at European level (B), they must have members or activities in at least 12 eligible countries; Platforms of pan-European organisations (D) must have at least 20 umbrella member organisations, ensuring presence in the 28 Member States.

Private individuals and public bodies are not eligible within this call for proposals.

#### *2.2.4. Selection criteria*

**Financial capacity:** means that the applicant has stable and sufficient sources of funding to maintain its activity throughout the financing period.

**Operational capacity:** applicants must have the professional competence and qualifications required to complete the proposed work programme.

#### *2.2.5. Award criteria:*

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

- Appropriateness of the proposed work programme with regard to the objectives of the Europe for Citizens Programme.
- The organisation's work programme should contribute to the achievement of the objectives of the Europe for Citizens Programme.
- The mission of the applicant must be in consistency with the objectives of the Europe for Citizens Programme.

##### ***Quality of the activity plan/work programme: 30%***

- The proposed activity plan/work programme must be appropriate to reach the organisation's objectives.
- Coherence: correspondence between the different objectives of the proposed activities and adaption of the proposed inputs and resources to the objectives.
- Effectiveness: effects should be obtained at reasonable cost.
- Work programmes have to present a clearly elaborated European dimension.
- Organisations use new working methods or propose innovative activities.

##### ***Dissemination: 20%***

- Organisations receiving operating grants must make the necessary efforts for ensuring the exploitation and dissemination of its results. This includes also translations of relevant outputs if appropriate.

- The proposed work programme must create a multiplier effect among a wider audience than that directly participating in the activities, in particular at local and regional level.
- A realistic and practical dissemination plan should be in place in order to allow an effective transfer and exchange of the results foreseen by the work programme.

***Impact and Citizen involvement: 20%***

- The number of involved organisations, participants, policy inputs and countries involved should be large enough to ensure a real European outreach of the proposed work programme.
- Impact: The work programme should aim at reaching its objectives, notably as regards concrete inputs to policy making.
- It should support open public debate and access to objective information
- The applicant should demonstrate the added value that the operating grant would bring to the activities of the organisation and how these activities could be sustained after the end of the grant agreement.
- Sustainability: Proposed work programme should aim at reaching long-term effects.
- The proposed work programme should give participants the possibility to engage actively in the activities and with the issues raised.
- A balance should be sought between citizens who are already active within organisations/institutions and citizens who are not yet involved.
- Organisations involve participants of the European Solidarity Corps.
- Organisations involve citizens from underrepresented groups or with fewer opportunities.

**2.2.6. *Maximum amount and co-financing rate***

Type	Maximum amount	Maximum co-financing rate
A. Civil society organisations for European remembrance (strand 1)	EUR 200.000	70%
B. Civil society organisations working at European level (strand 2)	EUR 200.000	70%
C. European public policy research organisations (think tanks) (strand 1 and 2)	EUR 350.000	70%
D. Platforms of pan-European organisations (strand 2)	EUR 600.000	90%

### **2.3. Action grants awarded to Europe for Citizens Contact Points in Member States and participating countries (ECP) without a call for proposals**

#### *2.3.1. 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.

#### *2.3.2. Justification to the exception of a call for proposals*

The grants will be awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of article 190.1.d of the Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012. The Europe for Citizens Contact Points are designated in the basic act as grant beneficiaries (art 3.2.b of Council Regulation).

#### *2.3.3. 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 € 55 000 each;
- All the other countries participating in the Europe for Citizens programme: maximum of € 25 000 each, unless the Agreement on their participation indicates a lower ceiling for a participating country.

### **2.4. Calculation of the grants**

As stated in annex 2 of the Commission decision of 31.10.2013 C(2013)7180 authorising the use of unit costs and lump sums for the Europe for Citizens Programme, the unit cost amounts and lump sums to be used for the calculation of the grants will be updated in 2017 for the 2018-2020 period of the Europe for Citizens programme by applying the cumulative rate of inflation over the 2014-2016 period.

## **3. SUPPORT TO PROJECT SELECTION**

The costs related to the experts involved in the assessment of projects are included in the work programme.

#### 4. BUDGET BREAKDOWN

PROGRAMMING TABLE 2018							
Budget line 18.04.01.01	EUR 28	EFTA/EEA	C5(1)	Third Countries(2)	TOTAL(3)		
Title Europe for Citizens	24,426,000	-	pm	98,179	24,524,179		
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
<b>Strand 1 - European remembrance</b>							
1.1.	Remembrance projects	3,715,115	CFP-EA	44	85,000	70%	Dec-17
1.2.	Structural support for think tanks, organisations at European level (framework partnerships)	1,213,467	CFP-OP-EA	6	202,245	70%	Aug-17
<b>Strand 2 - Democratic engagement and civic participation</b>							
2.1.	Town twinning citizens meetings	4,619,141	CFP-EA	295	15,658	50%	Dec-17
2.2.	Networks of twinned towns	4,515,080	CFP-EA	38	118,818	70%	Dec-17
2.3.	Civil society projects	3,533,392	CFP-EA	31	115,000	70%	Dec-17
2.4.	Structural support for think tanks, organisations at European level (framework partnerships)	5,627,984	CFP-OP-EA	31	181,548	70% or 90% (4)	Aug-17
<b>Strand 3 - Valorisation (5)</b>							
3.1.	Peer reviews	200,000	PP	1	200,000	NA	NA
3.2.	Information structures in Member States and participating countries	900,000	SPEC-EA	33	27,273	50%	Dec-17
4.1.	Support to project selection	200,000	SE-EA			NA	
<b>Total</b>		<b>24,524,179</b>					
<p>(1) Estimate based on the recoveries already completed. The credits will be used taking into account the needs for additional funds</p> <p>(2) Contributions from FYROM, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia</p> <p>(3) Pursuant to Article 92 of the Financial Regulation, the appropriations may also finance the payment of default interest.</p> <p>(4) For the platforms of paneuropean organisations, the maximum rate of cofinancing is 90 %.</p> <p>(5) No contribution is foreseen for institutional communication at this stage</p>							
CFP: Grants awarded with a call for Proposals			CFP-EA:	Actions implemented by the Executive Agency EACEA			
CFP-OP: Operating Grants awarded with a call for Proposals			CFP-OP-EA:				
SPEC: grants to national bodies without a call for proposals - Art. 190.1 (d) RAP			SPEC-EA:				
PP: Public Procurement			SE-EA:				
SE: Selection of experts - Art. 204 FR							
NA: Non applicable							