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ANNEX 1

ANNEX

to the

Commission implementing decision

**on the adoption of the 2016 work programme and the financing for the implementation
of the Europe for Citizens programme**

ANNEX

Annual Work programme for the Europe for Citizens Programme for 2016

Budget line: 18.04.01 – 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 2016

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

Europe has a challenging agenda for the next years, with important issues at stake. In the difficult political situation after the Paris and Copenhagen attacks of January and February 2015 and in the context of a serious economic, financial and political crisis and the increasing number of third-country nationals arriving in the European Union, it seems now more important than ever to keep citizens on board.

The European Union must pursue its efforts to promote growth and employment, but also to hear citizens' concerns, discuss with them future perspectives for the European Union and increase awareness about the rationale behind the European integration process and about the benefits it brings for them and their families.

In this context, the European Commission will continue to foster the civic engagement of European citizens in all aspects of their community life, to help them contribute directly to building the Union. In this context, the Europe for Citizens Programme for the period 2014-2020 is an important instrument that encourages citizens to play a stronger role in the development of the EU. Through projects and activities, in which citizens who are already active within organisations or institutions, as well as citizens who are not yet involved, can participate and make their voice heard, the Europe for Citizens Programme is promoting fundamental values and the knowledge of Europe's shared history, and fosters citizens' responsible, democratic civic participation and the feeling of belonging to the EU.

1.3. Priorities of the programme for 2016

1.3.1. Priorities

Applicants are encouraged to develop projects in line with general and specific objectives of the Europe for Citizens programme while focusing on specific priorities defined by the

European Commission after consultation of the programme stakeholders represented in the civil dialogue group and of the programme committee.

Until now, these priorities were changing annually. From 2016 on, they will become multi-annual and apply throughout the remaining period of the programme (2016-2020) so that applicants have more time to plan and prepare their projects. This is without prejudice to the possibility for the European Commission 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 2016-2020 period, priorities have been designed to stimulate debates on dates of European significance and topics having a strong resonance 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, transnationality and local dimension, intercultural dialogue and promotion of volunteering) or through their active engagement in organisations participating in the Europe for Citizens programme.

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 perspectives¹.

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 major historical turning points in Europe's 20th century and on their meaning / consequences for Europe of today.

During the 2016-2020 period, the following commemorations will be eligible for projects, depending on the year of application:

Year of application	Eligible commemorations
2016	<p>1936 Beginning of the Spanish Civil War</p> <p>1956 Political and social mobilisation in central Europe</p> <p>1991 Beginning of the Yugoslav Wars</p> <p>1951 Adoption of the United Nations Convention relating to the Status of Refugees in relation with the post WWII refugee situation in Europe</p>

¹ 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).

2017	<p>1917 The social and political revolutions, the fall of empires and their impact on Europe's political and historical landscape</p> <p>1957 The Treaty of Rome and the beginning of European Economic Community</p>
2018	<p>1918 The end of the WWI – the rise of nation states and the failure to create a European cooperation and peaceful coexistence</p> <p>1938/1939 Beginning of WWII</p> <p>1948 Beginning of the Cold War</p> <p>1948 The Hague Congress and the integration of Europe</p> <p>1968 Protest and civil rights movements, invasion to Czechoslovakia, student protests and anti-Semitic campaign in Poland</p>
2019	<p>1979 European Parliament elections – also 40 years since the first directly elected EP in 1979</p> <p>1989 Democratic revolutions in Central and Eastern Europe and the fall of the Berlin wall</p> <p>2004 15 years of EU enlargement into central and Eastern Europe</p>
2020	<p>1950 Robert Schuman Declaration</p> <p>1990 German reunification</p> <p>2000 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", "social movement", "engagement", "involvement", "Constitution", "freedom" and "democracy" were completely emptied of any substance. A "Popular Democracy" was all but "popular" and "democratic", for example. Political leaders were elected with plebiscitary results (more than 80%), without any real opposition.

Political demonstrations, electoral campaigns, public gatherings and debates were only travesties of democratic rituals. They were intended to legitimize the power in place and were generally neither spontaneous nor authentic, but made possible by coercion. They were used to regiment people and control them, as well as to endorse discretionary political orientations. One of the most significant act of democratic engagement, which is membership in a political party, was also diverted from its natural purpose (i.e. to participate in and influence public life); it usually served to prove loyalty toward a monolithic party, compliance with official truth, and was mainly utilised to get access to certain positions or services. Public information was also monopolised and distorted by official agencies without any independent counterbalance.

By contrast, authentic social movements emanating from the civil society were often ostracised, threatened or repressed, because they were considered unfaithful, treacherous or socially dangerous by the totalitarian power. They had to hide, resist or compromise. Any

diverging view publically expressed was treated as "dissidence". Free speech was forbidden. Political decisions were to be applied without any serious discussion or deliberation. In a certain way, civil society and democratic movements were absorbed and exploited by the one-party system which characterised totalitarian regimes.

Relying on totalitarian experiences, applicants shall develop a reflection on the misuses and hijacks of democratic rituals, notably by means of propaganda and official medias. They will focus on the differences between a fake and a real democracy, and underline the benefits of a lively, strong and independent civil society.

The objective is to show that civil society organisations are an indispensable link between citizens and authorities; that they play indeed an important role in democratic regimes to reach out to citizens and make their concerns known and relayed at the political level.

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

3. Ostracism and loss of citizenship under totalitarian regimes: drawing the lessons for today

20th century's totalitarianisms deprived some of their citizens from their basic rights to the point of excluding them from the society: Jews under Nazi regime; political "deviants" under Communist regimes. Those citizens were gradually prevented from debating, voting, participating in public affairs, working, residing and moving freely, accessing public goods because of their origins, beliefs or opinions.

Ostracism was used by totalitarian regimes as a way of neutralizing people thought to be a threat and as a means for strengthening their hold on the rest of the population through terror. Justified by misleading ideologies and supported by a deceptive propaganda, unfair legislations as well as repressive structures, it enabled those regimes to hide mass murders or to make potential opponents disappear.

Because of their deadly consequences, past processes of ostracism should be analysed and debated so as to inform the present. Through their projects, applicants shall address the following themes and questions: When can we consider that a category of the population is being ostracised? How to recognise a "scapegoat" and to deconstruct the discourse leading to its seclusion and marginalisation? How can we cope with political discourses that use fears, prejudices and hatred against certain categories of the population, and how can we build counter-narratives? How to struggle against hate speech propagated through social Medias and internet? What are the educational tools and legal instruments at EU and national levels to fight racism and xenophobia (such as anti-Semitism, anti-Roma, anti-Muslim feelings etc.), as well as homophobia and ostracism against other minorities?

4. Democratic transition and accession to the European Union

For many 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 funded under the Europe for Citizens programme shall analyse how the EU accession perspective influenced democratic standards and practises of previous dictatorships or authoritarian regimes. They shall also reflect on the role of EU membership in the process of democratic transition. The projects will particularly focus on historical events, turning-points or steps which characterized this slow process of changes, and underline in what ways they contributed to overcoming the past, to achieving the end goal of "returning to Europe", and to building the future. The projects shall highlight what were the key drivers of this process, and shall underline the difficulties met or the persisting difficulties, notably after the removal of the pre-membership conditionality and the EU accession. While taking stock of the enlargements accomplished these last decades and their results in terms of democratisation, 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. Understanding and Debating Euroscepticism

Euroscepticism has gained ground in Member States to the point of redrawing political maps and disrupting traditional political divisions. The term itself refers to very diverse forms of attitudes vis-à-vis the European construction, ranging from a mere criticism of its current integration modalities (Eurocriticism) to an outright hostility toward the European Union itself (Europhobia).

Given its growing influence on political agendas within Member States and European Parliament and its broader audience among certain constituencies, Euroscepticism has become a reality that requires further examination, debate and understanding. By proposing an alternative to an "ever closer Union", it challenges the way European construction is thought, conducted and implemented from its very beginning. As a truly democratic public space, the EU should consider this political reality without any prejudice and invite EU citizens who are not completely convinced by its virtues or are disappointed by its results/current orientations to make their voice heard.

In this perspective, applicants are encouraged to design projects that reflect on the understanding of Euroscepticism and foster debates on its implications for the future of the European Union. In the same time, they are invited to explain the benefits of EU policies, acknowledge difficulties met and challenges ahead, as well as to put forward EU achievements and the cost of no Europe.

In such debates, the following themes and questions may be addressed: How can we define Euroscepticism? Is it a recent political phenomenon, exacerbated by the financial crisis, or an older trend? Why is it developing? What is Euroscepticism synonymous of? Is Euroscepticism calling into question the European integration itself or simply its current modalities? Does it represent a persisting, growing and irreversible divorce between citizens and the EU? What are the consequences of Euroscepticism on the conditions of civic participation and democratic engagement at EU and national levels? Do Eurosceptics form a homogeneous group, or can we find different types of Eurosceptics? How do they disseminate their ideas? Which factors are predictive of a strong support/opposition to the European integration (social position, attitude toward globalisation, economic interest, sense of common belonging, values, impact of political cultures, attachment to social security...)? Can the EU

have an impact on these factors? To what extent the main concerns of Eurosceptic EU citizens should be addressed and taken into account in EU policies? In what ways doing this could help making the EU closer to its citizens? What are the dangers of Euroscepticism for the European integration and its future? How to make criticism towards the EU a useful and positive driver for the European construction in the long run?

2. *Solidarity in times of crisis*

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 closely linked to the concept of generosity, but also to those of reciprocity and responsibility.

What does solidarity mean for a political entity composed of nations-states like the European Union, especially in times of crisis? What are the legal, political, economic and even ethical limits of European solidarity?

The issue of solidarity *versus* responsibility is also increasingly raised in the context of other policy areas, such as migration.

Through their projects, applicants shall highlight and assess the existing solidary mechanisms inside the EU. They shall reflect on policy areas where such common mechanisms could be useful and developed as such. They shall also consider other possible channels of European solidarity like volunteering, donations, foundations, civil society organisations, charities, crowdfunding, etc.

In these projects, citizens will be given the opportunity to better understand and discuss the added value of EU's intervention in times of crisis when national responses seem insufficient, while underlining the counterparts/limits of such solidarity mechanisms in terms of responsibility and financial cost. They will contribute to overcoming national perceptions of the crisis, by fostering a mutual understanding of the situation, and by creating fora where common solutions can be discussed in a constructive way.

3. *Combatting stigmatisation of "immigrants" and building counter narratives to foster intercultural dialogue and mutual understanding*

Nowadays, stigmatisation is regularly used by extremist or populist movements against "others", "aliens", "immigrants" or "minorities" in the current political discourse.

Building upon the electorates' high levels of unemployment and social insecurity, as well as the fear of globalisation and terrorism, "immigrants" are held responsible for all ills or presented as potential threats to the preservation of national living standards, social cohesion and internal security. Their stigmatisation happens through political propaganda, hate speech and voluntary delusive rhetoric, which amalgamate separate concepts (crisis and migration; terrorism and migration), in order to unify national communities against designated scapegoats.

Such political discourses exacerbate xenophobia, intolerance and discriminations, and threaten the cohesion of EU societies. They might result in restraining the fundamental rights of minorities, erecting new boundaries, hampering integration and mutual understanding and adopting legislations contrary to the core values on which the European Union is founded. At the same time, they could foster further marginalisation among the most vulnerable or excluded people within EU societies (underprivileged and disadvantaged populations, which

often include youngsters and people of non-EU origins), and in some circumstances even provoke radicalised behaviours.

Against this background, the Europe for Citizens programme will fund projects encouraging intercultural dialogue and mutual understanding through the participation of nationals from Member States and possibly of third-country nationals legally residing in the EU. These projects shall help overcome stereotypes about immigrants by deconstructing past and present processes of stigmatisation. They shall also promote tolerance, respect of common values and promote through counter narratives a more accurate perception of third-country nationals by EU citizens. Integration being a two way process, reflection shall also be carried out on ways to foster civic participation of third-country nationals legally residing in the EU.

4. *Debate on the future of Europe*

Given the fact that citizens do not necessarily consider the current European Union as a vehicle for positive change, they should be questioned about the kind of Europe they want. A long term vision and a new narrative for Europe are needed that would be more engaging for the younger generation in particular, forward-looking and positive.

This debate should of course be based on lessons learnt from history and, in particular, on concrete achievements of the European Union. But it should also offer new messages and discuss possible actions undertaken by the European Union both internally – to reinforce its social, economic and political cohesion –, and internationally – to preserve its leading role in an increasingly globalised world facing global issues.

In its Communication reporting on the 2014 European Parliament elections, the Commission stressed the importance, looking ahead to the 2019 elections, "*to identify ways of further enhancing the European dimension and the democratic legitimacy of the EU decision-making process, and to examine further, and seek to address, the reasons for the persistently low turnout in some Member States. This points to a need to identify further ways in which to foster participation in the next elections, in particular through timely support for national, regional and local awareness-raising campaigns*"².

In this context,, citizens should also be asked and debate about concrete ways to create a more democratic Union, so as to make them re-engage with the European project. Alongside electoral participation and other channels of representative democracy, particular attention should be paid to instruments of civic participation (such as the European Citizens Initiative) as well as to innovative channels of e-participation, such as social media and information and communication technologies.

Citizens are invited to take part in this discussion through projects or through their active engagement in organisations participating in the Europe for Citizens programme. The debate should not be limited to those already supporting the idea of the European Union, but reach out to citizens who reject or put in question the European Union and its achievements or remain indifferent.

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

The programme is implemented through the following Strands:

² http://ec.europa.eu/justice/citizen/files/report_european_parliament_elections_2014_en.pdf, p. 17.

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 (especially but not exclusively the Nazism that led to the Holocaust, Antisemitism, Fascism, Stalinism and other totalitarian and authoritarian regimes) 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.

Grants are awarded by the EACEA with regard to the criteria laid down in the Programme Guide of the Europe for Citizens programme³.

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 COMM C2/01/2013 "Structural support for European public policy research organisations and think tanks and for civil society organisations at European level"⁴ was launched in November 2013 for awarding operating grants for the period 2014-2017. Multiannual framework partnership agreements were thus concluded with the 6 organisations listed in the attached table. In this context in 2016, specific conventions based on the framework partnerships will be concluded with these same organisations on the basis of their work programmes for 2016.

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 participating in the shaping of the Union political agenda in areas related to the objectives of the Programme.

³ http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/europe-for-citizens_en

⁴ Call for proposals N° COMM-C2/01/2013 "Structural support for European public research organisations (think tanks) and for European civil society organisations at European level"

The Strand also covers projects and initiatives that develop opportunities for mutual understanding, intercultural learning, solidarity, civic engagement and volunteering at Union level.

Under this Strand, action grants will be attributed by the EACEA further to the criteria laid down in the Programme Guide.

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 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.

- **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 in the implementation, and aim at setting the basis for, or encouraging the development of, long-lasting networking between organisations active in the field.

Operating grants:

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

A specific call for proposals COMM C2/01/2013 "Structural support for European public policy research organisations and think tanks and for civil society organisations at European level"⁵ was launched in November 2013 for awarding operating grants for the period 2014-2017. Multiannual framework partnership agreements were thus concluded with the 31

⁵ Call for proposals N° COMM-C2/01/2013 "Structural support for European public research organisations (think tanks) and for European civil society organisations at European level"

organisations listed in the attached table. In this context in 2016, specific conventions based on the framework partnerships will be concluded with these same organisations on the basis of their work programmes for 2016.

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 2016 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 2016

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 315 town twinning projects, 45 networks of towns, 35 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 ⁶will 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. Thanks to an increased impact of the institutional communication activities conducted by the Commission as a whole, the expected results are a better understanding of the EU by citizens and an enhanced image of the EU institutions and their activities with measurable positive trends in public perception.

⁶ Based on the Study "Measuring the impact of the Europe for Citizens programme", May 2013

1.3.4. Scope of the work programme

This work programme covers the whole 2016 budget.

The programming table under point 5 shows the distribution of available appropriations among the actions and sub-actions funded by budget line 18.04.01 taking into account the contributions expected from third countries.

The indicative budget 2016 for each action is as follows:

Strand 1 – European remembrance: 4,596,467 €, renewals of the framework partnership agreements included.

Strand 2 – Democratic engagement and civic participation: 17,178,014 €, renewals of the framework partnership agreements included.

Strand 3 – Horizontal Action Valorisation: 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.

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 ;

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 bank guarantee;
- offer a grant agreement without pre-financing;

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.
- Priority is given to projects including different types of organisations (local authorities, civil society organisations, research institutes, etc.) or developing different types of activities (research, non-formal education, public debates, exhibitions, etc.) or involving citizens coming from different target groups.
- Priority is given to projects using new working methods or proposing 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.

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.
- Priority will be given to projects involving citizens from under-represented groups or those 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

cultural, youth, educational and research organisations, associations of twinned towns;

- 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 one is 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 one is an EU Member State;
- Maximum grant amount: € 150 000;
- Maximum percentage of co-funding: 70% ;

- Maximum duration: 18 months per project.

2.2. Action grants awarded to Europe for Citizens Contact Points in Member States and participating countries (ECP) 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 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).

2.2.3. 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, ES and UK: 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.

2.3. Calculation of the grants

The calculation of the grants is based on lump sums as provided for in 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.

3. PROCUREMENT – PEER REVIEWS AND INSTITUTIONAL COMMUNICATION

Within the *Strand 3 – Horizontal Action Valorisation* it is foreseen to organise peer reviews.

Such activities could include a maximum of two stakeholders' networking meetings (one per strand) to exchange good practice of projects, bring together project promoters working on common themes and increase learning from projects with a view to ensuring a better return on investment and long-lasting effects. The authorizing officer will use framework contracts or

launch calls for tenders to achieve this (it is expected to launch one procurement procedure for each strand).

4. SUPPORT TO PROJECT SELECTION

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

5. BUDGET BREAKDOWN

PROGRAMMING TABLE FOR 2016							
Budget line 18.04.01		EUR 28	EFTA/EEA	C5(1)	Third Countries(2)	TOTAL(3)	
Title Europe for Citizens		22,977,000	-	pm	97,481	23,074,481	
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	3,383,000	CFP-EA	44	76,886	70%	Dec-15
1.2.	Structural support for think tanks, organisations at European level (framework partnerships)	1,213,467	CFP-OP-EA	6	202,245	70%	NA
Strand 2 - Democratic engagement and civic participation							
2.1.	Town twinning citizens meetings	4,242,250	CFP-EA	315	13,467	50%	Dec-15
2.2.	Networks of twinned towns	4,152,000	CFP-EA	45	92,267	70%	Dec-15
2.3.	Civil society projects	3,155,780	CFP-EA	35	90,165	70%	Dec-15
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)	NA
Strand 3 - Valorisation							
3.1.	Peer reviews	200,000	PP	2	100,000	NA	NA
3.2.	Information structures in Member States and participating countries	900,000	SPEC-EA	33	27,273	50%	Dec-15
4.1.	Support to project selection	200,000	SE-EA			NA	
Total		23,074,481					
(1) Estimate based on the recoveries already completed. The credits will be used taking into account the needs for additional funds							
(2) Contributions from FYROM, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia (depending on the signature of the Memorandum of Understanding with these countries)							
(3) Pursuant to Article 92 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 %.							
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							

6. LIST OF BENEFICIARIES OF OPERATING GRANTS

	Organisation Name	Country
Strand 1 European Remembrance		
Think Tanks		
1	FUNDACIO SOLIDARITAT UB	ES
2	POLITIKATORTENETI INTEZET KOZHASZNU NON PROFIT KFT	HU
Civil Society Organisations for European Remembrance		
3	ASSOCIATION JEAN MONNET	FR
4	CENTRE EUROPEEN ROBERT SCHUMAN	FR
5	EUROCLIO-DE EUROPESE VERENIGING VOOR GESCHIEDENISONDERWIJSGEVEN DEN	NL
6	MEMORIAL DE LA SHOAH	FR
Strand 2: Democratic Engagement and civic participation		
Think Tanks		
7	CENTRE FOR ECONOMIC POLICY RESEARCH LTD	UK
8	FUNDACJA INSTYTUT SPRAW PUBLICZNYCH - INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS	PL

	Organisation Name	Country
9	INSTITUT FUR EUROPAISCHE POLITIK EV	DE
10	SABIEDRISKAS POLITIKAS CENTRS PROVIDUS	LV
11	INSTITUT PRO EVROPSKOU POLITIKU EUROPEUM	CZ
12	EUROPEAN POLICY CENTRE ASSOCIATION	BE
13	CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTATION IN BARCELONA	ES
14	FONDATION ROBERT SCHUMAN	FR
15	NOTRE EUROPE - INSTITUT JACQUES DELORS ASSOCIATION	FR
Platforms of pan-European organisations		
16	EUROPEAN MOVEMENT INTERNATIONAL	BE
17	PLATE-FORME DES ONG EUROPEENNES DU SECTEUR SOCIAL AISBL	BE
Civil Society Organisations working at European level		
18	POLSKA FUNDACJA IM. ROBERTA SCHUMANA	PL

	Organisation Name	Country
19	ASSOCIATION EUROPEENNE POUR LA DEFENSE DES DROITS DE L'HOMME	BE
20	PROJEKT FORUM ZDRUZENIE	SK
21	EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION FOR VIEWERS INTERESTS AISBL	BE
22	MOUVEMENT ATD QUART MONDE	FR
23	CENTRE EUROPEEN DU VOLONTARIAT (CEV)	BE
24	EUCLID NETWORK LIMITED BY GUARANTEE	UK
25	COMMUNITY SERVICE VOLUNTEERS (FOR VOLONTEUROPE)	UK
26	HEINRICH BÖLL STIFTUNG e.V.	DE
27	EUROPEAN CITIZEN ACTION SERVICE	BE
28	EUROPAISCHE AKADEMIE BERLIN e.V.	DE
29	EUROPEAN NETWORK FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING - EUNET e.V.	DE
30	EUROPEAN ALTERNATIVES LIMITED LBG	UK
31	ASSOCIATION DES AGENCES DE LA DEMOCRATIE LOCALE	FR
32	FORUM CIVIQUE EUROPEEN	FR

	Organisation Name	Country
33	CONSEIL DES COMMUNES ET REGIONS D'EUROPE - ASSOCIATION	BE
34	UNION DES FEDERALISTES EUROPEENS ASBL	BE
35	BABEL INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION	FR
36	BELGRADE OPEN SCHOOL	RS
37	NATIONAL ROMA CENTRUM	MK