



Innovative Research for Democracy & Governance



**THE EU
RESEARCH & INNOVATION
PROGRAMME**

2021 – 2027

9 November 2021

European Cooperation Network on Elections

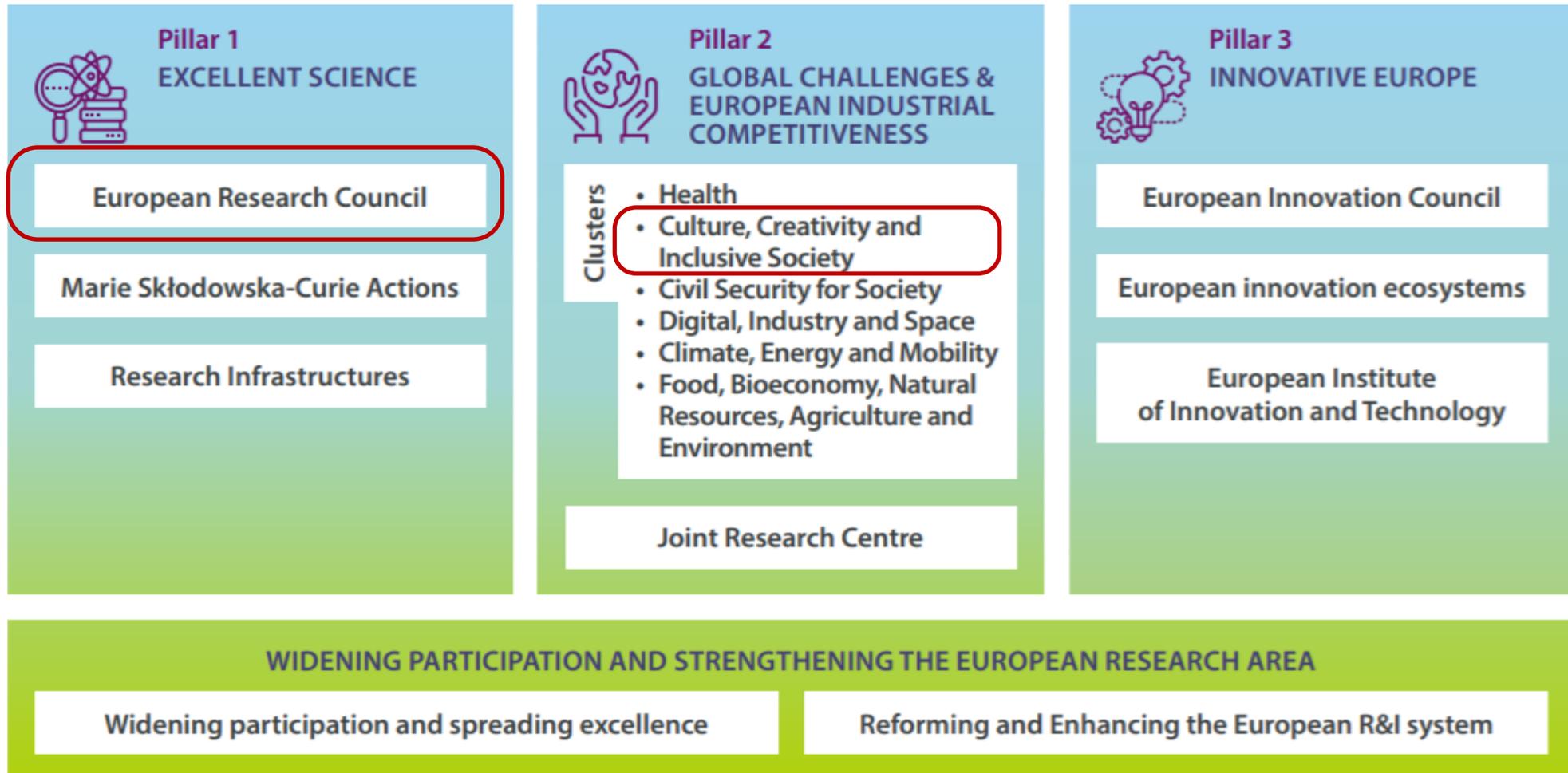
Research
and
Innovation

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HoU RTD.D.4 Democracy & EU values

Context: Horizon Europe structure

What's in for R&I on democracy & governance?



https://ec.europa.eu/info/horizon-europe_en

“Cluster 2” Culture, Creativity and Inclusive Society

What’s in for democracy & governance in the 3 “destinations”?



DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE

Main source & focus!

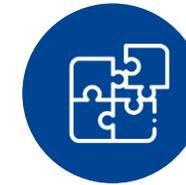
Who: Consortia (academics, think-tanks, NGOs, public bodies, media ...)

What: Research work, networks, data collection, methods, experimentation, simulation, modelling, mobilise nat. R&I funding



SOCIAL & ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATIONS

Strong links: education, irregular migration, socio-economic inequalities, welfare system, racial, ethnic religious equality, demography ...



CULTURAL HERITAGE & CULTURAL AND CREATIVE INDUSTRIES

Link: role of perceptions, traditions, values, beliefs for shaping politics

HE Budget: around € 2 billion (2021-2027)

Policy context of destination 1



A new push for European democracy



Promoting our European way of life



A Europe fit for the digital age



A stronger Europe in the world



An economy that works for the people



European Green Deal



A new push for European democracy



[European Democracy Action Plan \(EDAP\)](#)

[EU Action plan on Human Rights and Democracy \(2020-2024\)](#)

[Conference on the Future of Europe](#)

The future is in your hands

Make your voice heard



Promoting our European way of life



[EU Charter of Fundamental Rights](#)

**Stepping up action for
a Union of Equality**

[A Union of Equality: Gender Equality Strategy \(2020-2025\)](#), [LGBTIQ equality](#), [anti-racism AP](#), [combat antisemitism](#), ...



[Initiative to strengthen the rule of law in the EU](#)

[EU citizens' rights](#): electoral rights, freedom of movement, etc.



Key actions of the EDAP

I. Protecting the integrity of elections and promoting democratic participation

- More transparency in sponsored content in a political context ('political advertising')
- Clearer rules on the financing of European political parties
- More cooperation in the EU to ensure free and fair elections
- More participation and engagement beyond elections

▶ *“Reinforcing democracy and integrity of elections package” end of November*

II. Strengthening media freedom and media pluralism

- Increased safety of journalists
- Framing strategic lawsuits against public participation (SLAPPs) & call for proposal for an Expert Group
- Higher professional media and journalistic standards
- More support for media pluralism

▶ [Media and Audiovisual Action Plan](#) & *“Media Freedom Act” in 2022*

III. Countering misinformation, disinformation, information influence operations and foreign interference

- Strengthened EU and Member State capacity to address disinformation
- Appropriate and effective instruments to impose costs on disinformation
- Stronger obligations and accountability of online platforms
- Increasingly empowered citizens



H2020 projects for democracy & governance

Some 400 R&I projects launched in 2014-20 with more than 1700 participants on:

- ✓ trust in governance, the rule of law
- ✓ societal & political engagement of young people
- ✓ social rights and citizenship
- ✓ populism, violent extremism & polarisation
- ✓ exploring deliberative and participatory democracy approaches to foster political participation
- ✓ involving citizens in deliberations to develop workable solutions for the Green Deal
- ✓ enabling digital, open government and data-driven policy-making
- ✓ transformation of public administration, supporting internal innovation efforts of governments

... incl. improved coordination between national research policies, networking between NGOs and civil society stakeholders, experimentation and mutual learning.

What will be funded from Horizon Europe?

COUNCIL DECISION 2021/764 *establishing the **Specific Programme** implementing Horizon Europe: Defines the **broad lines for the “governance and democracy” area of intervention** (see [here](#))*

Strategic Plan 2021-2024 sets out expected impacts:

Democratic governance is reinvigorated by improving the accountability, transparency, effectiveness and trustworthiness of rule-of-law based institutions and policies (see [here](#))

Bi-annual work programmes *co-created with MS and associated countries & via inter-service cooperation (for cluster 2: DGs EMPL, EAC, RTD + 15 DGs incl. JUST, CNECT, EEAS, HOME, INTPA, JRC, REFORM)*

Destination 1: Democracy and Governance

Intervention logic

DESTINATION	MAIN CHALLENGE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Democracies are more fragile and more vulnerable than in the past. • Levels of trust in the political institutions of democracy decline. • Multilateral global governance is under historic stress. 		
	R&I EXPECTED IMPACT	Democratic governance is reinvigorated by improving the accountability, transparency, effectiveness and trustworthiness of rule-of-law based institutions and policies and through the expansion of active and inclusive citizenship empowered by the safeguarding of fundamental rights.		
TOPICS	PROBLEM DRIVERS	Impact of inequalities on political participation, trust and polarisation	Impact of social media and new media on politics, liberal democracy and citizens' engagement	Challenges to EU external relations and multilateral global governance
	R&I EXPECTED OUTCOMES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce impact of inequalities on democracy while boosting trust and resilience at different levels of governance; • Counter extremist narratives while limiting their spread and impact 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More democratic media; • Channel the impact of online social networks and new media on democracy; • Harness artificial intelligence and big data for democracy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance global governance for a world in transition: • Promote democratic politics in the EU's neighbourhood

Horizon Europe work programme 2021-2022

2022 call for proposals: Reshaping democracies

(deadline: 20 April 2022)

- Artificial intelligence, big data and democracy
- Future of democracy and civic participation
- Impact of inequalities on democracy
- Education for democracy
- Evolution of political extremism & its influence on social and political dialogue
- Media for democracy – democratic media
- Politics and the impact of online social networks and new media
- Representative democracy in flux
- Global governance for a world in transition: Norms, institutions, actors

Full text of call topics https://ec.europa.eu/info/research-and-innovation/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe/cluster-2-culture-creativity-and-inclusive-society_en

HORIZON-CL2-2022-DEMOCRACY-01-01: Artificial intelligence, big data and democracy (RIA)

€ 9 million

Scope

- Build evidence, to review and analyse threats to and opportunities for democracy, personal and collective European values stemming from AI and big data.
- Explore how to protect citizens from potential abuse enabled by these technologies in the private and public domains.
- Engage with innovative, inclusive and participative uses of AI and big data for civic engagement and democracy.

Expected outcome

- Protect fundamental rights and European values from possible threats stemming from unregulated use of artificial intelligence (AI) and big data applications through values-based frameworks.
- Explore the potential of AI and big data to reinforce fundamental rights and European values, including the effectiveness of monitoring protocols of established legislation and non-regulatory measures.
- Innovative uses of AI and big data to enhance citizen engagement and democracy.

HORIZON-CL2-2022-DEMOCRACY-01-07

Politics and the impact of online social networks (RIA)

€ 9 million

Scope

- Build Europe-wide evidence on the extent to which social platforms and new media affect political attitudes.
- Assess Whether and how new media functions as a method of news selection and study the resulting perception biases.
- Investigate how political actors use these platforms to shape political behaviour.
- Examine the extent to which platforms and new media actually help democratise political systems.
- Propose and design regulatory innovations in response to the covert use of social platforms for political goals.

Expected outcomes

- Understand the opportunities and challenges presented by social platforms and new media on political behaviour and democratic engagement.
- Produce evidence-based recommendations to address these.
- Enhance capacities for digital citizenship.

HORIZON-CL2-2022-DEMOCRACY-01-03: The impact of inequalities on democracy (RIA)

€ 9 million

Scope

- Take stock of long-term trends in and types of inequalities, as well as to identify their sources and intersections.
- Model the relation between inequalities and levels of political trust in European societies and the emergence of protest movements and populist discourses.
- What set of policy actions can enhance equality and political engagement amongst the socially excluded and vulnerable?

Expected outcomes

- Evidence base to explain long-term impact of various inequalities (socio-economic, gender, disability, spatial, ethnic, etc.) on political participation, democratic quality and stability.
- Development, validation and piloting of strategies, policies and action plans for tackling inequalities while boosting trust and resilience at different levels of governance.
- Strategies and policies to support inclusion of marginalised groups in democratic and participatory process.

HORIZON-CL2-2022-DEMOCRACY-01-04: Education for democracy (RIA)

€ 9 million

Scope

- Evidence from European countries on the links between economic, social, cultural capital and educational inequalities and levels of political engagement, social trust, participation and inter-cultural tolerance.
- Experimental participatory research to test educational and training tools and demonstrate their impact, including new education and training formats that incorporate creative approaches.
- Involvement of citizens and young people, including NGOs, social partners and grassroots organisations.

Expected outcomes

- Evidence base for redesigned curricula in support of democracy (with active engagement of students).
- Toolkits for enhancing humanistic and civic aspects of education for promoting active democratic citizenship.
- Strengthened democratic processes in education through citizens involvement.

HORIZON-CL2-2022-DEMOCRACY-01-05: Evolution of political extremism and its influence on contemporary social and political dialogue

€ 9 million

Scope

- Analyse the various forms of extremist discourses and narratives, their dynamics and disruptive potential.
- Provide psychological, sociological and anthropological analyses of drivers behind violent political transformations.
- Explore the tension between tackling political extremism and human rights law on freedom of speech.
- Map the penetration of extremist ideology and argumentation into general media, social and political discourses.
- Propose evidence-based policy strategies to counter and prevent extremist discourses.
- **Expected outcome**
- In-depth understanding of the major factors contributing to the present rise of extremist narratives and of their influence on mainstream worldviews, discourses and policies across European countries in their local and global context.
- Formulation of multi-level policy recommendations to help counter these extremist narratives while limiting their spread and impact.

HORIZON-CL2-2022-DEMOCRACY-01-06: Media for democracy – democratic media (RIA)

€ 9 million

Scope

- Examine the political role of traditional and new digital media in performing key democratic functions and reaching out to all segments of society.
- Changes in media markets and the role of economic, commercial, technological as well as political forces in shaping current changes in the role of media.
- Recent transformations in journalism and media technology affecting participation and democratic discourses and a shifting political landscape, with increased polarization, affecting the media

Expected outcomes

- Demonstrate how citizens and policymakers can contribute to a reinvigorated democracy through media.
- Improved quality, accountability and transparency of media production and distribution processes.
- Enhanced citizen's participation and decision-making through enlightened access to pluralistic media content, toolkits, narratives and methodologies

HORIZON-CL2-2022-DEMOCRACY-01-07

Politics and the impact of online social networks (RIA)

€ 9 million

Scope

- Build Europe-wide evidence on the extent to which social platforms and new media affect political attitudes.
- Assess Whether and how new media functions as a method of news selection and study the resulting perception biases.
- Investigate how political actors use these platforms to shape political behaviour.
- Examine the extent to which platforms and new media actually help democratise political systems.
- Propose and design regulatory innovations in response to the covert use of social platforms for political goals.

Expected outcomes

- Understand the opportunities and challenges presented by social platforms and new media on political behaviour and democratic engagement.
- Produce evidence-based recommendations to address these.
- Enhance capacities for digital citizenship.

HORIZON-CL2-2022-DEMOCRACY-01-08: Representative democracy in flux (RIA)

€ 9 million

Scope

- Examine the barriers and opportunities to re-invigorating and enhancing representative democratic systems.
- Knowledge base on long-term developments in terms of trust in, and trustworthiness of, the political institutions of representative democracy and their legitimacy.
- Relate changing voting attitudes at the individual level to wider political and cultural discourses.
- Strategies to address the demands and needs of citizens expressed in other, non-electoral forms of political participation, with a view to active engagement and inclusion

Expected outcome

- Comprehensive evidence on the mid- to long-term impacts of current political and social developments on European representative democracies.
- Policy recommendations, toolkits, narratives and methodologies for enhancing trust in political institutions, and boosting transparency, representativeness, and inclusiveness of representative systems.

HORIZON-CL2-2022-DEMOCRACY-01-09: Global governance for a world in transition: Norms, institutions, actors (RIA)

€ 9 million

Scope

- Propose ways of redesigning, renewing and re-invigorating global and European traditions of cooperation.
- Barriers and opportunities for enhancing the formal legal and institutional architecture of the rules-based global system.
- Identify new actors, norms and processes of participation and representation which can boost the legitimacy, transparency, representativeness and effectiveness of multilateral institutions.
- Analysis of interests and strategies of other international powers in disseminating new collective norms for global governance.

Expected outcomes

- Support EU's role in leading the transformation and defence of multilateralism.
- Develop policy recommendations, institutional frames, toolboxes, narratives and methodologies for supporting action towards transnational democracy

How to get more information & apply

- **Find open Horizon Europe calls** on funding & tenders web-site: <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/programmes/horizon>
- **National Contact Points:** <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/support/ncp>
- **Recorded webinars** on how to write proposals etc.: <https://www.horizon-europe-infodays2021.eu/document-library>
- **Horizon Europe rules, Q&A, etc.:** <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/how-to-participate/reference-documents;programCode=HORIZON>
- **InfoDay** on 2022 calls under cluster 2: 7th of December – details tbc.

See also:

- **Register as expert:** <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/work-as-an-expert>
- **Funding opportunities under other EU programmes:** [Funding & Tenders portal](#), in particular: [Citizens, Equality, Rights & Values programme](#), [Justice programme](#), [Digital Europe Programme](#), [Global Europe](#)

Follow Horizon
Europe on Twitter:
HorizonEU

Information on H2020 projects & results

Overview:

[Web-page on R&I on democracy and governance](#)

[Factsheet: EU research and innovation to foster European democracy](#)

H2020 Result Packs:

- [Challenges to democracy in Europe: Insights into a complex and turbulent political climate](#)
- [Understanding turbulent political times through innovative EU-funded research](#)
- [ERC Project Stories](#)

Policy reviews and reports:

- [Policy Review: Past, present and future of democracy](#)
- [Policy Review: Transformations of European Citizenship: beyond free movement](#)
- [Report: Diversity, democracy and solidarity in EU societies](#)

Find projects & results:

- **Cordis** database on H2020 projects: <https://cordis.europa.eu/en>
- **European Research Council** project database with custom search functionality (**ERIS**): <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/erceris/application/static/eris/index.html>

How can you make your voice heard?

Share an idea

Engage in the debates: share your own ideas & your expertise re. the ideas of other citizens <https://futureu.europa.eu>

Organise an event

Organise events on what citizens want for the future of Europe & how research and innovation can contribute to making this future become real

Attend an event

Join events digitally & live <https://futureu.europa.eu/meetings>

Follow CoFE on Twitter: #TheFutureIsYours



Conference
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The future is in your hands

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Thank you!



Questions?