



"Europe for Citizens" Programme 2014-2020

**Northern Ireland European Regional Forum (NIERF)
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THE "EUROPE FOR CITIZENS" PROGRAMME (EFCP)

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"Europe for Citizens"

**The EFCP
put into perspectives**

Why a programme aiming to foster EU citizens' participation ?

→ **Worrisome poll results** (source: Eurobarometer Spring / Autumn 2014)

63 % of surveyed people feel like "citizens of the EU"

... **However** ...

43 % not satisfied with the democratic functioning of the EU

56 % not confident in the EU

69 % not well-informed of the European issues

52 % considering their **voice is not heard**

→ **Disturbing electoral developments at EU level**

Turn-out rate in constant diminishing since 1979

Electoral breakthrough of eurosceptical and europhobic parties

→ What levers of action for the EU?

- ✓ **Legal approach:** raise awareness/effectiveness on EU citizenship's rights
 - EU citizenship: what does it mean? (art. 20 TFEU)
 - Promoting EU citizenship's rights
 - Reinforcing their effectiveness

- ✓ **Participatory approach:** foster civic participation of EU citizens by acting on three parameters
 - A sense of **common belonging**, founded on shared values and history
 - A good **knowledge** of the EU and its policies
 - Opportunities of **participation** in public debates and of engagements

→ Funding projects in which citizens can participate and engage

Projects reflecting on the causes of totalitarian regimes in Europe's modern history

EUROPEAN
REMEMBRANCE
Overcoming divisions
of the past and build
a common future

Projects reflecting on other defining moments in recent European history

Projects allowing citizens to participate in the democratic life of the EU, ranging from local democracy to citizens' empowerment

DEMOCRATIC
ENGAGEMENT
CIVIC PARTICIPATION
Encouraging citizens to play a
greater role in the development
of the EU

Projects of town twinning and networks of towns bringing together citizens to foster debate on EU issues and develop opportunities of engagement



Objectives for the 2014-2020 period

ULTIMATE GOAL

Bring EU citizens
closer to the Union

GENERAL OBJECTIVES

Contribute to the better
understanding of the EU +
Improve conditions of civic
and democratic
participation at EU level

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

By debating, promoting
exchanges / cooperation /
volunteering, networking =>
Raise awareness + Encourage
engagement and participation

ANNUAL PRIORITIES



Priorities for 2015

- Strand 1 – European Remembrance
The 70th anniversary of the end of World War II
- Strand 2 – Democratic Engagement and Civic Participation
The debate on the future of Europe



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Overview of the various strands / measures

Budget and funding opportunities

→ Compared to 2007-2013:

- A **simplified** budgetary **structure**
- A growing percentage of the budget dedicated to the European **Remembrance**
- A **reduced budget**
- A more **strategic approach**

→ For the 2014-2020 period: **185,468 million EUR**

Strand 1 – European Remembrance (+-20 % of the budget)

Strand 2 – Democratic Engagement and Civic Participation (+-60 %)

- Measure 1 : *Town-Twinning Projects*
- Measure 2 : *Networks of Towns*
- Measure 3 : *Civil Society Projects*

Horizontal Action – Valorisation (+-10 %)

→ Two types of grants:

- **Action grants** → to support projects with a limited lifetime during which specific activities are implemented

- **Operating grants** → to support organisations in the conduct of their usual and permanent activities

→ The amount of each type of grants is limited:

- maximum eligible grant for an action, which varies according to the nature and the dimension of the project
- maximum eligible grant for an organisation, which varies according to the nature of the organisation



Strand 1: "European Remembrance"

Statistics of the first year of implementation (2014)

472 applications received (action grants)

36 selected (3,1 million EUR)

8% (success rate)

In 2015: 4,5 million EUR allocated

3,1 million EUR for action grants ⇔ 42 projects
expected to be financed

1,4 million EUR for operating grants ⇔ 7 organisations
expected to be supported

- **Eligible projects under the Strand 1:**
 - *Projects reflecting on the **causes of totalitarian regimes** in Europe's modern history and **commemorating the victims** of their crimes.*
 - *Projects concerning **other defining moments** and reference points **in recent European history**.*
 - *Those projects must encourage tolerance, mutual understanding, intercultural dialogue and reconciliation as a means of **moving beyond the past and building the future**.*
- **Applicant and partners:** Public local/regional authorities or non-profit organisations, including CSO, survivors' associations, and cultural, youth, educational and research organisations, associations of twinned towns. A project must involve **at least one Member State**, but preference is given to transnational projects.
- **Maximum eligible grant for a project:** 100 000 EUR
- **Maximum project duration:** 18 months



Strand 2: "Democratic engagement and civic participation"

Measure 1 : TOWN-TWINNINGS

Statistics of the first year of implementation (2014)

667 applications received

253 selected (3,9 million EUR)

38% (success rate)

In 2015 : 3,9 million EUR allocated

⇔ 312 Projects expected to be financed



➤ **Eligible projects under Measure 1:**

- **Projects which bring together a wide range of citizens from twinned towns** around topics in line with the objectives of the programme and its annual priorities.
- **"Twinning" understood broadly**

➤ **Applicant and partners:**

towns/municipalities or their twinning committees or other non-profit organisations representing local authorities

➤ **Minimum of 25 invited participants**

➤ **Maximum eligible grant for a project:** 25 000 EUR

➤ **Maximum project duration:**

21 days (meeting), 9 months (eligibility period)

Measure 2 : NETWORKS OF TOWNS

Statistics of the first year of implementation (2014)

224 applications received

35 selected (4,5 million EUR)

15,6% (success rate)

In 2015 : 3,9 million EUR allocated

⇔ 35 Projects expected to be financed



➤ **Eligible projects under Measure 2:**

Projects in which municipalities and associations already linked by a series of town twinning **cooperate / work together on a long-term basis to explore common themes**, share resources or interest, face common challenges...

➤ **Applicants:** towns/municipalities or their twinning committees or networks, other levels of local/regional authorities, and non-profit organisations representing local authorities

➤ **Partners:** idem + NGO

➤ A project must involve **municipalities from at least 4 eligible countries**, of which at least one is an EU Member State and **a minimum of 30% of invited participants**

➤ **Maximum eligible grant for a project:** 150 000 EUR

➤ **Maximum project duration:** 24 months, at least 4 events



Measure 3 : CIVIL SOCIETY PROJECTS

Statistics of the first year of implementation (2014)

538 applications received (action grants)

29 selected (3,6 million EUR)

5% (success rate)

In 2015 :

2,8 million EUR for action grants

⇔ 33 projects expected to be financed

5,5 million EUR for operating grants

⇔ 29 organisations expected to be supported

➤ **Eligible projects under Measure 3:**

- Projects promoted by **transnational partnerships and networks directly involving citizens from different horizons**, in activities linked to EU policies, with a view to giving them an opportunity to concretely participate in the EU policy-making process in areas related to the objectives of the Programme
- **Applicants:** non-profit organisations, including civil society organisations, educational, cultural or research institutions
- **Partners:** ONG or public local/regional authorities, town-twinning committees and networks
- A project must **involve organisations from at least 3 eligible countries**, of which at least one is an EU Member State
- **Maximum eligible grant for a project:** 150 000 EUR
- **Maximum project duration:** 18 months



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**Applying for
the Programme:
a Toolkit**

The Applicant's Checklist before applying

- **Either public bodies or non-profit organisations with legal personality**
- **Established in one of the countries participating in the Programme**
- **Which have an eligible project proposal**
- **Respectful of the general features of the Programme** (Equal access, Transnationality and local dimension, Intercultural dialogue, Volunteering)
- **In line with the objectives of the Programme**
- **Whose proposal fully complies with four types of criteria**

Assessment criteria of your proposal

Eligibility

- Submission respecting the **formal requirements**
- Emanating from an **eligible applicant**

Exclusion

- Bankruptcy, **financial difficulties**
- Convicted of offence, serious professional misconduct, non-compliance with **legal obligations**
- **Conflict of interests**, misrepresentation of information required

Selection

- **Financial capacity**
- **Operational capacity**

Award

- **Consistency** with the objectives of the Programme and Programme Strand
- **Quality** of the activity plan of the project
- **Dissemination** and exploitation of its results
- **Impact** and Citizen involvement

The Different Steps of the Selection Procedure

1. **Register your organisation** in the Unique Registration Facility (URF) and obtain your Participant Identification Code (PIC)

2. **Create your application** on the EACEA website, **fill in the official application form** (e.Form) and **obtain your submission number**

3. Your application will be assessed and scored by an **Evaluation Committee** composed of European Commission and EACEA officials, on the basis of a quality assessment undertaken by experts, under the light of assessment criteria

4. Up to the limits of funds available, **eligible proposals with the highest score receive a grant**. Selected applicants receive a Grant Agreement / Grant Decision quoting the amount of the grant awarded by the EU and setting out the **conditions under which the grant is awarded** (non-retroactivity, non-cumulative award, non-profit, deadlines)

Advice : be the most explicit and clear possible when filling in the e.Form



Deadlines for Applications

Deadline for submission	Eligibility period: Projects must start between...
STRAND 1. EUROPEAN REMEMBRANCE	
1 March 2015 (closed)	1 August 2015 and 31 January 2016
STRAND 2. DEMOCRATIC ENGAGEMENT AND CIVIC PARTICIPATION	
Measure 1. Town-Twinning	
1 March 2015 (closed)	1 July 2015 and 31 March 2016
1 September 2015	1 January 2016 and 30 September 2016
Measure 2. Networks of Towns	
1 March 2015 (closed)	1 July 2015 and 30 December 2015
1 September 2015	1 January 2016 and 30 June 2016
Measure 3. Civil Society Projects	
1 March 2015 (closed)	1 August 2015 and 31 January 2016

➔ For more information:

- **Download the « Programme Guide » and visit the "EAC" Executive Agency website**
http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/europe-for-citizens_en
- **Join the nearest national "Europe for Citizens" Contact Point**
- **Join the Unit C1 of the "EAC" Executive Agency**
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Thank you for your attention