

Multiannual financial framework for 2021-2027: negotiations



- The so-called **MFF package** includes, most notably:
 - an MFF regulation - which lays down how much the EU can **spend** to support its policies and programmes
 - a proposal for **own resources** - which defines where EU revenue comes from
- **Unanimity in EU Council is required to secure a deal**
- In parallel, negotiations also take place to define the EU's **sectoral spending programmes** in all policy areas
- The European Commission adopted its MFF package proposal on 2 May 2018
 - **€1,135 billion in commitments** (in 2018 prices) - which represents **1.11% of the gross national income (GNI)** of the EU27
 - **€1,105 billion in payments** (in 2018 prices) - which represents **1.08% of the GNI** of the EU27

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- Regarding expenditure, key elements of the Commission proposals included:
 - increased funding for areas such as **digital transition, young people, external border management, migration and asylum, research and innovation, security and external action**
 - a reduction for the **Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)**
 - a reduction in **cohesion** spending but an increased role for cohesion policy in supporting economic reforms and the long-term integration of migrants
 - a new mechanism to protect the EU budget from financial risks linked to generalised deficiencies regarding the **rule of law** in the member states

Multiannual financial framework for 2021-2027: negotiations



- 16 September – EU Council assesses MFF progress
- EU leaders will hold an **exchange of views in October**, aiming for an **agreement before the end of the year**.
- **Regarding R&V prog - 30/5/2018 - Impact assesment:**
<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52018SC0291&from=EN>
- (counting with budget of EUR 947 million for R&V)
- Challenges:
 - Populist, extremist and nationalist movements are challenging the idea of our open, inclusive, cohesive and democratic society where cultural participation and capability based on education allow for the building of a more resilient way of living together.
 - The fragmented nature and limited resources of current EU funding programmes dedicated to values, rights, citizenship,
 - Need for synergies, budgetary!!

EU budget for the future – opportunities for CSO at EU level



- **Cohesion and values**

- European Solidarity Corps
- Erasmus+: Key Action 3: Support for policy reform (i.e. **Civil Society Cooperation** providing support to European NGOs and EU-wide networks active in the fields of education, training and youth)
- Creative Europe programme
- Justice programme (right to defend)
- Rights and Values programme

- **Natural resources and environment**

- Environment and Climate Action Programme (LIFE)

- **Neighbourhood and the world**

- Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights worldwide)

- Others like EAA grants, Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE

Rights and Values programme 2021 - 2027

WORLD HUMAN RIGHTS





Rights and Values programme 2021 - 2027

- Rights and Values programme — merging the 2014-2020 **Rights, Equality** and **Citizenship** programme
- 30/05/2018 Legislative proposal published by the EC
<https://ec.europa.eu/transparency/regdoc/rep/1/2018/EN/COM-2018-383-F2-EN-MAIN-PART-1.PDF>
- 14/06/2018 LIBE Committee referral announced in Parliament, 1st reading/single reading
- 17/04/2019 **Decision by Parliament**, 1st reading/single reading P8_TA(2019)0407
http://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-8-2019-0407_EN.pdf
- 24/09/2019 LIBE Committee voted on the adopted text by previous EP and **accepted it**
- interinstitutional negotiations





Rights and Values programme 2021 - 2027

- The general objective of the Programme is:
 - to protect and promote rights and values as enshrined in the Treaties, the Charter and in the applicable international human rights conventions, in particular by supporting civil society organisations and other stakeholders active at **local, regional, national** and **transnational** level, and
 - by encouraging civic and democratic participation, in order to sustain and further **develop open, rights-based, democratic, equal and inclusive societies based on the rule of law...**



Grants

- Grants may be awarded in order to finance any of the following:
 - (a) an action intended to help achieve a Union policy objective (**‘action grants’**);
 - (b) the functioning of a body which has an objective forming part of, and supporting, a Union policy (**‘operating grants’**).



Grants

- Grants under the Programme shall be awarded and managed in accordance with Title VIII of the Financial Regulation.
- <https://publications.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/e9488da5-d66f-11e8-9424-01aa75ed71a1/language-en/format-PDF/source-86606884>



Rights and Values programme 2021 - 2027

- Specific objectives which correspond to strands:
 - (-a) to protect and promote Union values (**Union values strand**)
 - (a) to promote rights, non-discrimination, equality, including gender equality, and advance gender and non-discrimination mainstreaming; (**Equality, Rights and Gender Equality strand**),
 - (b) to promote citizens engagement and participation in the democratic life of the Union and exchanges between citizens of different Member States and to raise awareness of the common European history (**Citizens' engagement and participation strand**),
 - (c) to fight violence, including gender-based violence (**Daphne strand**).



Union values strand

- **protecting, promoting and raising awareness** on rights by providing financial support to civil society organisations active at local, regional and transnational level in promoting and cultivating these rights, thereby also strengthening the protection and promotion of Union values and the respect for the rule of law and contributing to the construction of a more democratic Union, democratic dialogue, transparency and good governance.



Equality, Rights and Gender Equality strand

- promoting **equality** and preventing and **combating inequalities** and discrimination on grounds of sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation and respecting the principle of nondiscrimination on the grounds provided for in Article 21 of the Charter;
- supporting, advancing and implementing comprehensive policies:
 - (i) to promote **women's** full enjoyment of rights, gender equality, including work-life balance, women's empowerment and gender mainstreaming
 - (ii) to promote **non-discrimination** and its mainstreaming;
 - (iii) to combat **racism, xenophobia** and all forms of **intolerance** including homophobia, biphobia, transphobia and interphobia and intolerance on the basis of gender identity, both online and offline;
 - (iv) to protect and promote the rights of the **child**;
 - (v) to protect and promote the rights of persons with **disabilities**;
- (ba) protecting and promoting Union **citizenship rights** and the right to the protection of personal data.



Citizens engagement and participation strand

- supporting projects aimed at commemorating defining **events in modern European history**, including the causes and consequences of authoritarian and totalitarian regimes, and at raising awareness among European citizens, of their **common history, culture, cultural heritage and values**, thereby enhancing their understanding of the Union, its origins, purpose, diversity and achievements and of the importance of mutual understanding and tolerance;
- promoting **citizens and representative associations' participation** in and contribution to the democratic and civic life of the Union by making known and publicly exchanging their views in all areas on Union action;
- promoting **exchanges** between citizens of different countries, in particular through **town-twinning and networks of towns**, so as to afford them practical experience of the wealth and diversity of the common heritage of the Union and to make them aware that



Daphne strand

- preventing and combating at all levels all forms of **gender-based violence** against women and girls and domestic violence, also by promoting the standards laid down in the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating **violence against women and domestic violence** (the Istanbul Convention); and
- preventing and combating all forms of **violence against children, young people**, as well as violence against other groups at risk, such as LGBTQI persons and persons with disabilities;
- supporting and protecting all direct and indirect **victims** of such violence, such as domestic violence exerted within the family or violence in intimate relationships, including children orphaned by domestic crimes, and supporting and ensuring the same level of protection throughout the Union for victims of gender-based violence.



Budget

- The financial envelope for the implementation of the Programme for the period 2021 – 2027 shall be EUR 1 627 000 000 in 2018 prices [EUR **1 834 000 000** in current prices].
- -a) EUR 754 062 000 in 2018 prices [EUR **850 000 000** in current prices] (i.e. 46.34 % of the total financial envelope) for the specific objectives referred to in point (-a) of Article 2(2); **Union values**
- (a) EUR 429 372 000 in 2018 prices [EUR **484 000 000**] (i.e. 26.39 % of the total financial envelope) for the specific objectives referred to in points (a) and (c) of Article 2(2); **Equality, Rights and Gender Equality + Daphne**
- (b) EUR 443 566 000 in 2018 prices [EUR **500 000 000**] (i.e. 27.26 % of the total financial envelope) for the specific objectives referred to in point (b) of Article 2(2). **Citizens' engagement and participation**
- The Commission shall allocate at least 50 % of the amounts referred to in points (- a) and (a) of the first subparagraph of this paragraph to support activities carried out by civil society organisations, of which at least 65 % shall be allocated to local and regional civil society organisations

Methods of budget implementation



- a) **directly** ('direct management') as set out in Articles 125 to 153, by its departments, including its staff in the Union delegations under the authority of their respective Head of delegation, in accordance with Article 60(2), or through executive agencies as referred to in Article 69;
- (b) under **shared management** with Member States ('shared management') as set out in Articles 63 and 125 to 129; 1.3. FINANCIAL REGULATION TITLE IV — BUDGET IMPLEMENTATION 103
- (c) **indirectly** ('indirect management') as set out in Articles 125 to 149 and 154 to 159, where this is provided for in the basic act or in the cases referred to in points (a) to (d) of Article 58(2), by entrusting budget implementation tasks to:
 - (i) third countries or the bodies they have designated;
 - (ii) **international organisations** or their agencies, within the meaning of Article 156;
 - (iii) the European Investment Bank ('the EIB') or the European Investment Fund ('the EIF') or both of them acting as a group ('the EIB group');
 - (iv) Union bodies referred to in Articles 70 and 71;
 - (v) **public law bodies, including Member State organisations;**
 - (vi) bodies governed by private law with a public service mission, including Member State organisations, to the extent that they are provided with adequate financial guarantees;
 - (vii) bodies governed by the private law of a Member State that are entrusted with the implementation of a public-private partnership and that are provided with adequate financial guarantees;
 - (viii) bodies or persons entrusted with the implementation of specific actions in the CFSP pursuant to Title V of the TEU, and identified in the relevant basic act.



Opportunity to participate

- The Commission shall set up a **‘Civil Dialogue Group’**
- The Commission shall set up a ‘Civil Dialogue Group’ aimed at ensuring a regular, open and transparent dialogue with the beneficiaries of the Programme and other relevant stakeholders in order to exchange experiences and good practices and to discuss policy developments within the fields and objectives covered by the Programme and related fields – only during the implementation... ☹️



Operating grant

- An operating grant may be awarded without a call for proposals to the **European Network of Equality Bodies (EQUINET)**, under point (a) of Article 6(2), to cover expenditure associated with its permanent work programme. (public defenders of civic rights)

Rights and Values programme 2021 - 2027



- Article **130 Financial framework partnerships** (perhaps a potential option for re-granting)
- Normally used for implementation of EU programmes via large international NGOs, public entities...indirect implementation

Rights and Values programme 2021 – 2027



current situation

- In the subsequent negotiations in spring-summer this year, the European Parliament and the EU Council agreed to substantially amend the proposal of the Commission.
- They expanded the thematic **scope of the programme** as well as the **pool of eligible applicants** by creating a separate **“Union values”** strand which focuses on promotion of democracy, good governance, the rule of law and transparency in public sphere.
- The “Union values” strand is exclusively dedicated to local, national and transnational CSOs.
- The other strands “Equality and non-discrimination”, “Citizen’s engagement” and “Fight against violence (Daphne)” are open to CSOs and other entities: public (local governments) and commercial (e.g. media).



Rights and Values programme 2021 – 2027 current situation

- 24/09/2019 - Committee decision to open interinstitutional negotiations after 1st reading in Parliament
- EP will have very little influence on EU Council decisions
- COD - **Ordinary legislative procedure** (ex-codecision procedure)
- Will go to the first reading in the EU council (max. 3 readings)
- Question? Will the EU Council take back the original strands and allocations?



Thank you for your
attention!