THE EU RESEARCH & INNOVATION PROGRAMME

2021 – 2027

ALBERTO DOMINI (RTD)

Italian Info Days 2023

27 October 2023

Research and Innovation

HORIZON EUROPE

Democracy & Governance (2024)

Disclaimer: information not legally binding

European Commission

Policy context

European Commission policy priorities 2019-2024:

A new push for European democracy

Promoting the European way of life

A Europe stronger in the world

A Europe fit for the digital age

A European Green Deal

An economy that works for the people

European Commission

Policy context

Rights and Democracy

- European Democracy Action Plan
- Defence of Democracy Package
- Media Freedom Act
- EU Action plan on Human Rights and Democracy (2020-2024)
- EU Charter of Fundamental Rights
- A Union of Equality: Gender Equality Strategy (2020-2025)

European Commission

Past, Present & Future of Democracies (2024)

12 topics

- 11 Research & Innovation Actions (RIA)
- 1 Coordination & Support Action (CSA)

European Commission

Intervention Area Democracy & Governance

The proposed research aims to contribute to the protection and nurturing of democracies, with a WP that is both "**reactive**" and "**proactive**".

→ On the "**reactive**" side, we want to facilitate **evidence-based responses** to protect democracies.

→ On the "**proactive**" side, we are looking into how to make democracies **more resilient from within**.

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**.

TO DO LIST

- ☑ Always take **gender** into account
- ☑ **Clustering** and **cooperation** with other projects encouraged

European Commission

HORIZON-CL2-2024-DEMOCRACY-01- 01
Protest politics and cultures of opposition in democracy (RIA)

€ 9 million

- Participative methodologies
- Int'l cooperation (esp. MENA)
- Clustering & cooperation with other projects
- JRC can participate

Scope

- Citizens increasingly disengage from traditional party politics and voting YET diverse forms of political protest (online + offline) flourish
- What drivers? + contextualise (historically + geographically)
- Potential foci: youth; extremist movements; role of social networks

Expected outcomes

- Practical understanding of role, evolution, impact of all forms of opposition
- Innovative forms of non-conflictual constructive engagement to channel social and community mobilisation
- Rebuild citizens' trust
- Policy recommendations

HORIZON-CL2-2024-DEMOCRACY-01-02
Multilevel governance in times of digital and climate transitions (RIA)

€ 9 million

- Partnerships with government authorities at the relevant levels
- JRC can participate

Scope

- EU Green Deal and digital strategy, and their national and local implementation strategies
- Where is collaboration and collective agenda-setting most effective, in order for climate and digital roadmap goals to be met?
- Potential focus: border regions
- Should experiment with community-led innovations in one or both policy areas, such as through deliberative processes, or engaging social innovation partners and citizens representatives

Expected outcomes

- Encourage international cooperation on this through better understanding of the articulation between local, regional, international and transnational governance.
- Encourage the development and implementation of policy for digital and climate transitions in multi-level governance systems
- Identification of where tensions and opportunities are in top-down and bottom-up policymaking + community-based innovations
- Policy recommendations on improvements and alternative pathways for the national and local implementation of EU law (incl. experimentation in deliberative processes)

HORIZON-CL2-2024-DEMOCRACY-01-03:
What is the long-term impact of rule of law and European values on socio-economic outcomes? (RIA)

€ 9 million

- Clustering and cooperation

Scope

- use network theories for the creation of value to study important public/common goods such as rule of law and the various human and fundamental rights and freedoms
- Variables under scrutiny may go beyond those used in the European Commission's annual Rule of Law Report
- Should map this type of value creation in a quantitative manner

Expected outcomes

- Knowledge of the social cost aspects of debilitating rule of law
- Robust quantification strategies in the area of rights and freedoms in the national and European context
- New datasets for this area of research
- Policy recommendations

HORIZON-CL2-2024-DEMOCRACY-01-04:
The interrelation between social, cultural and political identities, as well as the sense of belonging, and democracies (RIA)

€ 9 million

- Participatory methods
- JRC can apply
- Clustering & cooperation

Scope

- Europe has experienced an increased fragmentation of identities
- Need to better understand social identities and their role in shaping political and social discourse
- Identify and explore barriers and factors that limit/impact the engagement of certain communities in democratic processes
- Group membership: can also study social representations and intergroup stereotypes

Expected outcomes

- Critical insights into the ways in which processes of social, cultural and political participation can contribute to foster sense of belonging *or* antagonistic identities
- Policy recommendations to address, prevent and correct negative trends, including piloting of strategies and frameworks
- Comprehensive analysis

HORIZON-CL2-2024-DEMOCRACY-01-05:

Gender-roles in extremist movements and their impact on democracy (RIA)

€ 9 million

- Build on past EU-funded projects
- Synergies with HORIZON-CL3-2024-FCT-01-04: Radicalisation and gender

Scope

- Rise of extremist movements, intensified by the pandemic and online platforms, leading to violence towards marginalised groups
- Engagement with these movements to comprehend their views on socio-political change and perceived threats to gender identity.
- Interrelation between top-down hyper-masculinistic leadership styles and other bottom-up extremist movements developing in online spaces and their impact on democracy
- Proposals encouraged to incorporate interdisciplinary approaches, communication technologies (including AI), diverse forms of masculinity, and historical experience of leadership in crisis situations

Expected outcomes

- Critical understanding of the construction and performance of gender roles in extremist, identitarian and nationalist movements and their impact on democracy, EU values and fundamental rights
- Evidence-based insights into the role of online communities in the promotion of those ideals
- Examination of gender roles in political leadership styles and narratives and their impact on democratic participation
- Development of innovative methods, policy approaches and tools to tackle antidemocratic narratives and tendencies

HORIZON-CL2-2024-DEMOCRACY-01-06:
Computational Social Science (CSS) approaches in research on democracy (RIA)

€ 9 million

- Clustering & coopertaion

Scope

- Social sciences have not yet fully embraced the breakthrough of computational science + quality of & access to datasets varies greatly
- Free to choose focus (in area of democracy)
- Data produced must be FAIR by design; should use data & services of EU Research infrastructures and European Open Science Cloud (EOSC)

Expected outcomes

- Use CSS to identify systematic patterns to test working hypotheses
- Develop and test methodologies that combine and integrate CSS and other SSH methods to study democratic governance
- Harmonise CSS approaches with GDPR guidelines

HORIZON-CL2-2024-DEMOCRACY-01-07: Digital democracy (RIA)

€ 9 million

- JRC may participate
- Involve stakeholders

Scope

- COVID-19 pandemic made e-democracy more relevant
- Digital democracy platforms expand the opportunities for democratic deliberations through better and faster political information exchange, public dialogue, engagement etc
- Increased level of participation between government and citizens requires radical changes and major investment
- Pay particular attention to digital inclusion & consider the citizens' perspectives

Expected outcomes

- Increased understanding of state of the art; challenges & opportunities
- Informed investment decisions of (any level) government

HORIZON-CL2-2024-DEMOCRACY-01-08:
Culture, the arts and cultural spaces for democratic participation and political expression, online and offline(RIA)

€ 9 million

- JRC can participate
- International cooperation encouraged
- Gender, decoloniality and intersectionality
- Field research and participative methods
- Can involve culture and art practitioners and art-based research
- Clustering & cooperation

Scope

- Decrease in electoral turnout but citizens find alternative outlets to express political opinions (physical + virtual spaces)
- Proposals could look at art and cultural productions (in the broader sense, online and offline) as vectors of political expression

Expected outcomes

- Recommendations on how to foster civic participation through a deep analysis of the use of spaces beyond classic democratic institutions
- Policy recommendations to ensure that digital spaces (including metaverses and social networks) can, by design, have a positive impact on democratic life and limit potential threats to democracy
- Experimentation of solutions, methods and tools to support democratic behaviour and social well-being for the next generation of social media

HORIZON-CL2-2024-DEMOCRACY-01-09:
The role and functioning of public administrations in democratic systems (RIA)

€ 9 million

- JRC can participate
- Must engage with national government officials

Scope

- Governments are excessively under pressure today to adapt and respond to rapidly changing global trends
- How are European Union governments are approaching public administration and governance reform?
- Focus on the role and functioning of public institutions in nurturing democratic systems

Expected outcomes

- Better understanding of the changing concept and practices of public administrations and approaches to public management
- Mapping emerging innovative solutions in public management and institutional framework conditions that enable innovation in public administrations and deepen democratic governance.
- Eecommendations for European Union Member States on key focus areas & actions

HORIZON-CL2-2024-DEMOCRACY-01-10: Political participation in multilingual spaces (RIA)

€ 6 million

- JRC can participate
- Consider outcomes from the Conference on the Future of Europe
- Can use participative methodologies and experimental methods
- Clustering and cooperation encouraged
- Consider social innovation

Scope

- The European Union is made up of a population with a multitude of languages (including sign languages) and dialects → managing political participation in multilingual spaces is a challenge, particularly with a view to creating a European public space for citizen deliberation
- How to ensure that multilingual deliberations focus on the content, rather than the form of what is said?
- Multilingual spaces are almost always also multicultural

Expected outcomes

- Development of a European public space for citizen deliberation
- Better management of linguistic diversity in political participation, from the local to the European level
- Effective use of automated language tools and multilingual means of communication

HORIZON-CL2-2024-DEMOCRACY-01-11:
Future scenarios and young visions for European democracy 2040 (RIA)

€ 4 million

- JRC can participate

Scope

- Political democracies are looking for new balances in fast-changing societal contexts while facing countless number of internal and global challenges and changes in power relations
- Growing need to combine solid scientific forecasting methods with a series of iterative, large-scale engagements
- Build alternative future scenarios that can empower young people living in the EU to proactively shape their collective future

Expected outcomes

- Future scenario workflows, roadmap and strategy playbook to achieve the most preferred scenarios for democracy in the European Union 2040
- Understand the visions of the next generation and how to provide them with the tools to put those visions in practice

HORIZON-CL2-2024-DEMOCRACY-01-12:
Testing and implementation of research results fostering democracy and governance (CSA)

€ 4 million

Scope

- The aim is to bring to society the benefits from previously EU-funded research in the field of democracy and governance, be it in Horizon 2020 or other relevant programmes (such as Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme or the Global Europe Programme).
- Address issues in line with the European Democracy Action Plan or EU policy initiatives that emanated from this Action Plan

Expected outcomes

- Testing and uptake of research results on democracy and governance relevant for the future of democracy in the EU, **involving stakeholders** + explore readiness to implement solutions
- Increase understanding of policymakers, practitioners and researchers

- **JRC** can participate
- Legal entities established in **Algeria, Azerbaijan, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine and Syria** may exceptionally participate as beneficiaries
- Include as beneficiaries at **least two non-academic [end-user] organisations** from at least **two** different EU Member States or Associated Countries
- Draw on the results of research and innovation projects that were **publicly funded** and ended **after 01/01/2023**
- actions must **not duplicate or replace** dissemination and exploitation activities that are part of the initial R&I projects (go beyond)
- **Lump sum**
- **Cascade funding ok**

Collaboration with JRC

1. taking part in an advisory board of the projects selected for funding.
2. hosting a community of practice and networking
3. capacity building on citizen engagement
4. JRC Makerspace in Ispra, Ialy.

Tips

Read the **call text,** the **general introduction** and the **general annexes** very carefully !

Start **early**

Do **not** draft online (use Word doc)

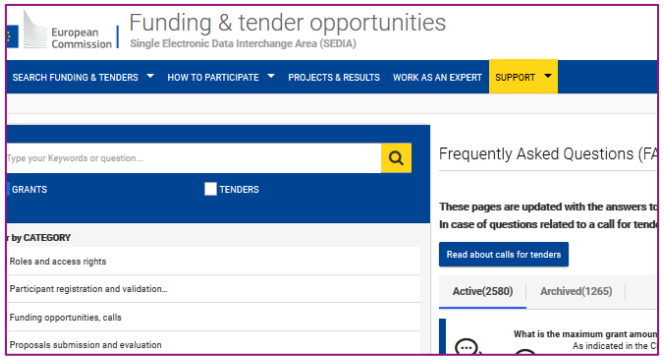
Submit **before** the deadline

European Commission

Need help?

Recorded webinars

« How to prepare a successful proposal » etc



FAQ:
research enquiry service

HORIZON EUROPE NCP PORTAL BETA

National Contact Points

European Commission