

EVALUATION ROADMAP			
TITLE OF THE EVALUATION	Mid-term evaluation Europe for Citizens programme 2014-2020		
LEAD DG RESPONSIBLE UNIT	HOME.A1 (citizenship sector)	DATE OF THIS ROADMAP	2/05/2016
TYPE OF EVALUATION	Mid-term evaluation	PLANNED START DATE	03 / 2016
		PLANNED COMPLETION DATE	12 / 2017
		PLANNING CALENDAR	http://ec.europa.eu/smart-regulation/evaluation/index_en.htm
This indicative roadmap is provided for information purposes only and is subject to change.			

A. Purpose
(A.1) Purpose
<p>The Europe for Citizens programme established by Council Regulation (EU) N° 390/2014 of 14 April 2014 for the period 2014-2020 (OJ L 115 of 17.04.2014) contributes to citizens' understanding of the Union, its history and diversity, and aims to foster European citizenship and improve conditions for civic and democratic participation at Union level. This programme is divided into two strands: "European remembrance" and "Democratic engagement and civic participation". These strands are complemented by a horizontal action devoted to analysis, dissemination and use of project results. The Europe for Citizens programme is centrally managed by the Education, Audio-visual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA).</p> <p>The purposes of the mid-term evaluation of the Europe for Citizens programme will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to meet the requirements of the programme's Regulation to carry out such a mid-term evaluation; to assess the results and outputs of the programme compared to its objectives; to assess qualitative and quantitative aspects of the programme implementation; <p>The results of the evaluation will be used by the Commission:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to verify in how far the evaluation recommendations of the ex-post evaluation of the previous Europe for Citizens programme 2007-2013 have been followed (final report ex-post evaluation of 2015); to verify if and to which extent the programme is on track for achieving its general and specific objectives. to reflect on the continuation or not of the programme in its current format or its merge with other EU funding programmes after 2020 in view of the communication on the continuation of the programme to be submitted by 31 December 2018 to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions; to reflect on first orientations for a possible successor programme after 2020.

(A.2) Justification

As set out in Article 15.4 of the Council Regulation establishing the Europe for Citizens programme 2014-2020, the European Commission will submit to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions a mid-term evaluation report by 31 December 2017.

B. Content and subject of the evaluation

(B.1) Subject area

The European Commission – via the Europe for Citizens programme 2014-2020 – encourages citizens to play a stronger role in the development of the EU.

The programme supports a wide range of activities and organisations promoting active European citizenship through the involvement of individual citizens (those already active within organisations or institutions, but also those who are not yet engaged). It also supports civil society organisations pursuing an aim of European general interest, municipalities (town twinning and networks of towns), as well as projects initiated by civil society organisations and projects in the area of European remembrance. These projects and activities aim at promoting EU common values, knowledge of Europe's shared history, responsible and democratic civic participation of citizens and feeling of common belonging.

(B.2) Original objectives of the intervention

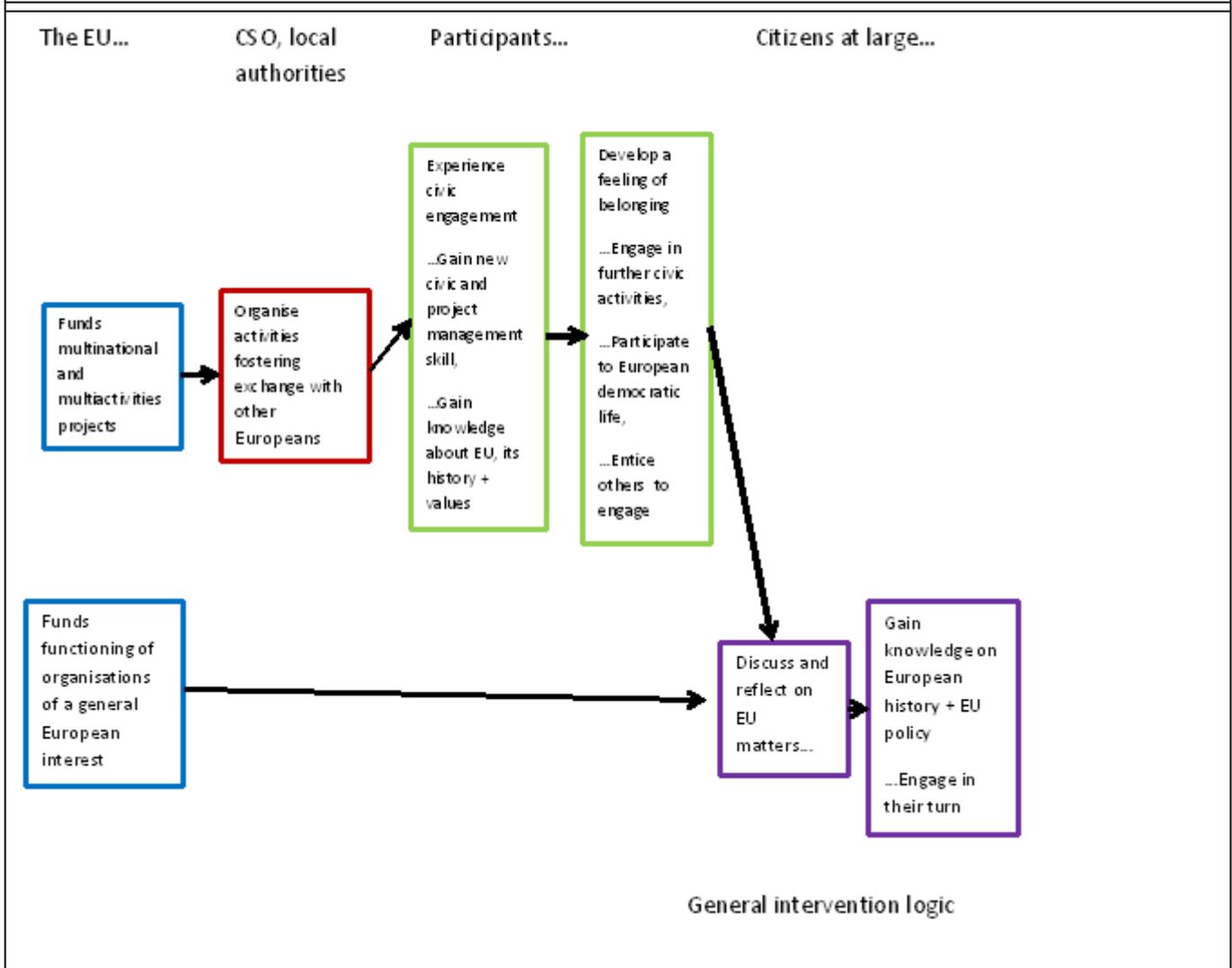
The general objectives of the Europe for Citizens programme 2014-2020 are:

- 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 are:

- 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.

(B.3) How the objectives were to be achieved



C. Scope of the evaluation/FC

(C.1) Topics covered

The evaluation will have to draw conclusions on the implementation and results of the two strands of the Europe for Citizens programme, i.e. strand 1 "European Remembrance", strand 2 "Democratic engagement and civic participation" and the horizontal action "Dissemination and exploitation of results" across the different target levels (citizens at large, participants, civil society organisations and municipalities). It will have to assess qualitative and quantitative aspects of the programme implementation.

The geographical scope will be the following:

- 28 Member States of the European Union;
- 5 participating countries having signed an international agreement on their participation in the Europe for Citizens programme with the European Commission: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

The Commission will present the results of the interim evaluation in a report to be presented to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions by 31 December 2017. These results will notably be used to improve the implementation of Europe for Citizens during the current MFF period. They will also feed into a communication to be presented by 31 December 2018 on the continuation of the programme after 2020.

(C.2) Issues to be examined

The main elements of this interim evaluation (to be further developed through detailed evaluation questions) will include the following aspects:

- Relevance of the programme in relation to the identified needs it aims to address;
- Effectiveness of the programme;
- Efficiency of the programme in relation to resources used and assessment of the potential for procedural simplification and burden reduction;
- Coherence of the programme with other EU instruments that share common objectives;
- EU added value resulting from the 'Europe for Citizens' programme compared to what could have been achieved by participating countries only;
- Available alternative course of actions and their potential impact.

The evaluation questions will be the following (to be developed further during the preparation of terms of references and inception phase):

Relevance:

- To what extent the programme's activities are still relevant to contribute to citizens' understanding of the Union, its history and diversity?
- To what extent the programme's activities are still relevant to foster European citizenship and to improve conditions for civic and democratic participation at Union level?
- In how far were the objectives relevant to the problems to be addressed?

EU added value:

- What does the Europe for Citizens programme offer in addition to other citizenship support schemes available at national or regional level?
- What has been the European added value of the programme? Which observed changes has the EU intervention brought about compared to what could have been achieved at national level?
- What would be the most likely consequences of stopping the Europe for Citizens programme?

Effectiveness and sustainability:

- To what extent the activities undertaken in the framework of Europe for Citizens have been effective in achieving the programme's general and specific objectives? Where objectives are not fulfilled in a satisfactory way, which factors have hindered the programme to be effective? Is the Europe for Citizens programme on the right track at this stage of its implementation?
- How does the programme influence the town twinning movement, European civil society organisations, think-tanks and remembrance organisations participating in the programme?
- Does participation in the programme appear satisfactory in terms of the balance between new organisations and those which have received support previously?
- To what extent the Europe for Citizens programme has been successful in delivering sustainable outcome in relation to its objectives?

Efficiency:

- How efficient were the activities undertaken in the framework of the Europe for Citizens programme so far to reach results at European and at national levels?

- To what extent the resources have been properly used to achieve the programme objectives? Were the positive effects achieved at reasonable costs? What factors influenced the programme efficiency?
- Is there any scope for simplification?
- Are there any differences in costs and/or benefits between Member States, and what is causing them?
- Was the size of the budget appropriate and proportional to achieve the programme objectives?
- Which type of grants (operating grants compared to actions grants) have been the most efficient tool to achieve the objectives of the programme?

Coherence:

- To what extent has the programme so far proved complementarity to other EU funding programmes with related objectives, in particular in the area of citizens' rights, education and culture?
- How well did the Europe for Citizens programme work together with other EU instruments, especially in the area of education, vocational training and youth, sport, culture, fundamental rights, social inclusion, gender equality, combating discrimination, research and innovation, information society, enlargement and the external action of the Union?
- To what extent are the objectives of different strands of the programme consistent and mutually supportive? What evidence exists of synergies between the different strands and actions? How well do both strands work together?

(C.3) Other tasks

The Commission, in cooperation with an external consultant, will launch a public consultation to feed into the evaluation.

D. Evidence base

(D.1) Evidence from monitoring

In cooperation with the Executive Agency, a permanent monitoring system was put in place. It combines the ongoing monitoring of the projects based on the information obtained from beneficiaries with monitoring visits. A synthesis report, based on the results of these visits, is produced once per year by the Executive Agency.

In addition, in the context of its reporting obligations towards the programme committee, the Commission presents every year an annual report on the activities of the Europe for Citizens programme. The conclusion of the annual activity reports 2014 and 2015 has been that the programme is on track for achieving its objectives. Over two years, out of more than 2 000 applications received, around 400 projects were selected, and more than 2 000 000 participants were involved in the activities of the programme.

(D.2) Previous evaluations and other reports

The Europe for Citizens programme builds on the experience of previous citizenship programmes, i.e. the first generation 'Community action programme to promote active European citizenship' (2004-2006)¹ and the first Europe for Citizens programme (2007-2013)².

¹ Council Decision 2004/100/EC of 26 January 2004 establishing a 'Community action programme to promote active European citizenship'.

An interim evaluation and an ex post evaluation of the previous Europe for Citizens programme 2007-2013 were done to assess the results obtained:

- Ecorys: *Interim evaluation of the Europe for Citizens programme 2007-2013*, see: http://ec.europa.eu/citizenship/pdf/ecorys-final_report_europe_for_citizens_en.pdf
- Coffey International and Deloitte: *Interim evaluation of the Europe for Citizens programme 2007-2013*, see: http://ec.europa.eu/citizenship/pdf/final_efcp_final_report_2015_10_15.pdf

On the basis of these external evaluations, the Commission presented evaluation reports to the European Parliament, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions:

- *Report on the mid-term evaluation of the Europe for Citizens programme 2007- 2013*, see: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52011DC0083>
- *Report on the ex post evaluation of the Europe for Citizens programme 2007-2013*, see: http://ec.europa.eu/citizenship/pdf/evaluationreportefc2007-2013_en.pdf

In addition, a study on measuring the impact of the Europe for Citizens programme 2007-2013 had been realised and published in July 2013, see: http://ec.europa.eu/citizenship/news-events/news/11072013_studyefc_en.htm

(D.3) Evidence from assessing the implementation and application of legislation (complaints, infringement procedures)

not applicable

(D.4) Consultation

Several categories of stakeholders will be consulted:

- Beneficiaries of Europe for Citizens action grants (both strands);
- Beneficiaries of Europe for Citizens operating grants (both strands);
- Participants of the "civil dialogue group";
- Europe for Citizens Contact Points in participating countries;
- Members of the programme committee;
- Non-successful applicants.

The proposed consultation strategy will be conducted in three steps:

- a stakeholder consultation meeting with the main European level stakeholder organisations represented within the "civil dialogue group" of the Europe for Citizens programme will be organised to assess the perception of the programme and its results by European stakeholder organisations (scheduled for May/June 2016).
- a consultation meeting with the national Europe for Citizens Contact Points will be organised to reach out to the implementation and the perception of the programme, its results and impact at national level

² Decision N° 1904/2006/EC of the European Parliament and the Council of 12 December 2006 establishing for the period 2007 to 2013 the programme 'Europe for citizens' to promote active European citizenship, OJ L 378 of 27 November 2006.

(scheduled for October 2016).

- an open online public consultation will be conducted by the Commission in cooperation with the consultant in charge of the mid-term evaluation to reach a wide spectrum of respondents including participants and non-participants. The consultation will be internet based. It will run for a period of 12 weeks (scheduled for autumn 2016).