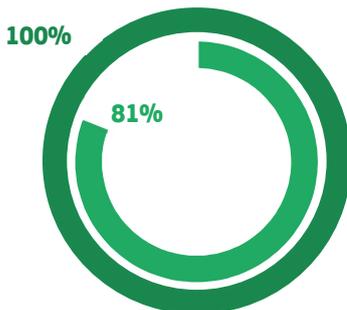


LEGAL BASISCouncil Regulation (EU)
No 390/2014**MORE INFORMATION**<https://europa.eu/!xt64Vh>**BUDGET ALLOCATION 2014-2020**

EUR 195.5 million

**OVERALL EXECUTION
(2014-2020)**

- Payments
- Commitments

**Evaluations/
studies conducted**

The midterm evaluation of the Europe for Citizens programme was carried out in 2017. For further information, see: <https://europa.eu/!pJ44xP>

How is it implemented?

DG Justice and Consumers is responsible for developing the programme, guiding its implementation and evaluating its results. The Commission has delegated implementation to the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency.

EUROPE FOR CITIZENS

What is Europe for citizens?

The Europe for Citizens programme aims to contribute to citizens' understanding of the EU, its history and its diversity, in order to foster European citizenship and improve conditions for civic and democratic participation at EU level.

The Europe for Citizens programme is implemented through the two strands: 'European remembrance' and 'democratic engagement and civic participation', which offer co-funding for European remembrance projects, town-twinning activities, networks of towns and civil society projects. The two strands are complemented by horizontal actions for dissemination and use of project results.

**Specific objectives**

- To raise awareness of the importance of remembrance, contributing to a better understanding of the EU's history, common values and cultural diversity, and promoting peace, the values of the EU and the well-being of its peoples, by stimulating debate, reflection and the development of networks.
- To encourage the democratic and civic participation of citizens at EU level, by developing their understanding of the EU policymaking process and promoting opportunities for societal and intercultural engagement and volunteering.

Why is it necessary?

The programme demonstrates a clear European added value as all activities funded under it either have a cross-border dimension, involving citizens and organisations from several participating countries, or are related to the European Union itself. Remembrance activities, town twinning and pan-European networks are intended to broaden perspectives and to develop a sense of European belonging and identity.

'European remembrance' supports activities that encourage reflection on European cultural diversity and on common values in the broadest sense. This strand of the programme also encompasses activities concerning other defining moments and reference points in recent European history.

'Democratic engagement and civic participation' supports activities that relate to civic participation in the broadest sense, and focuses in particular on constructing methods to ensure that funded activities have a lasting effect on increasing the democratic participation of young people and the participation of women in political and economic decision-making.

'Valorisation' covers the whole programme. It focuses on the analysis, dissemination, communication and valorisation of the results of the projects. Common tools

are developed to collect best practices and ideas about how to strengthen remembrance, European citizenship and civic participation and facilitate transnational exchange.

The European citizens' initiative aims to increase the contribution of the European citizens to the development of EU policies. It is a unique way for citizens to help shape the EU by calling on the European Commission to propose new laws. Once an initiative has reached 1 million signatures from at least seven Member States, the Commission decides on what action to take.

Outlook for the 2021-2027 period

In May 2018, the Commission proposed the rights and values programme for the next multiannual financial framework. It merges two current funding programmes: the rights, equality and citizenship programme and the Europe for citizens programme.

Budget implementation (in million EUR)

EXECUTED COMMITMENTS			EXECUTED PAYMENTS	
27.6		2018		28.5
28.7		2019		24.7
37.6		2020		25.3

Key performance indicators

	Baseline	PROGRESS TO TARGET	Target	Results	Assessment
Participants directly involved in projects		 75%	1.30 m	0.98 out of 1.30 million participants	On track
People indirectly reached by the programme		 76%	1.55m	1.18 million people reached compared to a target of 1.55 million	On track
First-time applicants to projects		 > 100%	40%	60% first-time applicants compared to a target of 40%	On track
Transnational partnerships including different types of stakeholders		 100%	2	2 out of 2 partnerships	On track
Geographical coverage of the activities – number of countries involved	15	 100%	28	28 out of 28 Member State partners or co-partners	On track

 % of target achieved by the end of 2020

Where are we in the implementation?

- The programme is implemented through action grants and operating grants; the available budget is spent relatively evenly across the strands each year.
- In 2020, 100% of commitment appropriations were implemented according to the annual work programme and covering both strands of the Europe for citizens programme. 100% of the payment appropriations were used, covering pre-financing and final payments on pre-2020 commitments and 2020 commitments.
- The programme was affected by the COVID-19 crisis. By 9 April 2021, 271 amendment requests had been submitted, most of them related to the extension of the eligibility period. The payment implementation will be postponed accordingly.
- In 2020, the Europe for citizens programme was implemented in 33 eligible participating countries: 27 Member States and six other participating countries, i.e. Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo ⁽⁷⁾, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia.

Performance assessment

- The Europe for citizens programme played a positive overall role in encouraging civic participation and democratic engagement, while strengthening the sense of belonging together and supporting mutual understanding and identification with Europe. It thereby helped to support the European integration process in the longer term. By working directly with citizens, the programme offered a forum for involving them through a grassroots approach.
- As evidenced by the midterm evaluation, Europe for citizens has successfully demonstrated its added value at EU level both in terms of its impact on participants and through its complementary role to other EU funding programmes and policy initiatives in the fields of education, culture and EU citizenship. Aspects that have been identified for improvement mostly relate to increasing the programme's visibility, amending the monitoring indicators and strengthening the synergies with other relevant EU funding programmes and initiatives
- The Europe for citizens programme is on track to achieve its objectives, as underlined by data obtained on the basis of indicators. Out of 1 761 applications received, 419 projects were selected, and around 1 250 000 participants were expected to be involved in programme activities. The number of projects funded, and the continuously increasing number of participants since 2014, suggests that the programme has achieved its general objectives.
- In a challenging political, social and economic climate, the programme helps to foster the civic engagement of citizens across Europe. It has encouraged people to participate more actively in the development of the EU and to promote its fundamental values such as tolerance, solidarity and non-discrimination, through action and operating grants. A large number of projects directly address current political and societal issues, such as migration and the elections to the European Parliament.
- The rise of Euroscepticism experienced in the EU in recent years highlights the relevance of the programme and the need to encourage the development of a shared sense of European identity. Against this background, the programme has offered a public forum giving people the opportunity to express their ideas about the future of Europe through a grassroots approach.
- In the area of town twinning, the programme achieves results by increasing and encouraging mutual understanding and friendship between citizens at a local level. Networks of towns complemented the traditional town twinning by offering towns and municipalities the opportunity to develop larger-scale projects, thus increasing the projects' impact and sustainability.
- Overall, the programme targeted civil society organisations through operating grants and civil society projects. The participation of stakeholder organisations has influenced their own perceptions of Europe. Most participating organisations noted positive effects on their knowledge of Europe and were committed to becoming more engaged with civil society.
- Since 2018, Europe for citizens has contributed to the implementation of the European citizens' initiative, fostering people's participation in the democratic life of the EU. The programme has most notably supported the development and evolutive maintenance of the IT tools supporting the initiatives, as well as communication and guidance. The dedicated communication campaign to raise awareness of the European citizens' initiative led to a significant increase in the number of initiatives compared to the years prior to the start of the campaign.

Concrete examples of achievements

28	976 331	1 180 000	419
European citizens' initiatives were registered between 2018 and 2020.	people were reached directly by the programme in 2020.	people were reached indirectly by the programme in 2020.	projects were selected in 2020.

⁽⁷⁾ This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.