

LEGAL BASIS

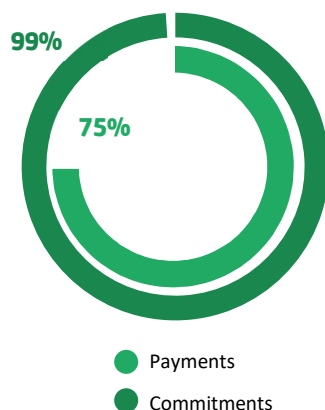
Regulation (EU) No 1381/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council

MORE INFORMATION

<http://europa.eu/dM83WN>

BUDGET ALLOCATION 2014-2020

EUR 435.3 million

OVERALL EXECUTION
(2014-2020)Evaluations/
studies conducted

The key findings of the latest evaluation (interim evaluation) were presented in the programme statements for 2020: <https://europa.eu/YY96WG>
Work on the final/ex post evaluation began in October 2020.

How is it implemented?

The Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers is the lead DG for the implementation of the programme. The programme is implemented through direct management (mainly grants).

RIGHTS, EQUALITY AND CITIZENSHIP PROGRAMME

What is the rights, equality and citizenship programme?

The rights, equality and citizenship programme aims to contribute to the further development of an area where people's equality and rights are promoted and protected. Its specific objectives include promoting non-discrimination, the rights of persons with disabilities, equality between women and men, the rights of the child and the rights deriving from EU citizenship. Furthermore, it aims to combat racism, xenophobia, homophobia and other forms of intolerance; prevent violence against children, young people and women and other groups at risk; and ensure the highest level of data protection and consumer rights.

In the policy area of non-discrimination and Roma integration, the rights, equality and citizenship programme supports actions to ensure that discrimination on the grounds of religion or belief, age, disability and sexual orientation is prohibited whenever possible in the same way it is on grounds of sex and race or ethnic origin.

Important projects are also supported in the fight against racism focusing, among other issues, on antisemitism or anti-Muslim hatred and fostering tolerance, by providing financial support to Member State authorities and civil society organisations. Projects should contribute to the better implementation of existing EU legislation in Member States, and also to supporting the victims of hate crime and hate speech and preventing and countering online hate speech. A particular priority relates to projects aimed at preventing and countering the spread of illegal hate speech online and the development of counter-narratives.



Specific objectives

- To promote the effective implementation of the principle of non-discrimination on the grounds of sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation, and to respect the principle of non-discrimination on the grounds provided for in Article 21 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union.
- To prevent and combat racism, xenophobia, homophobia and other forms of intolerance.
- To promote and protect the rights of persons with disabilities.
- To promote equality between women and men and to advance gender mainstreaming.
- To prevent and combat all forms of violence against children, young people and women, as well as violence against other groups at risk, in particular groups at risk of violence in close relationships, and to protect victims of such violence.
- To promote and protect the rights of the child.
- To contribute to ensuring the highest level of protection of privacy and personal data.
- To promote and enhance the exercise of rights deriving from EU citizenship.
- To enable individuals, in their capacity as consumers or entrepreneurs in the internal market, to enforce their rights deriving from EU law, having regard to the projects funded under the consumer programme.

Why is it necessary?

- The actions funded by the rights, equality and citizenship programme have helped bring tangible benefits to EU citizens. In many areas, such as consumer law, equality and non-discrimination, citizenship or data protection, individuals are protected by EU legislation, but are not sufficiently aware of their rights. Awareness-raising actions at EU level are necessary to fill this national gap. Thanks to EU funding, the political debate on gender equality has improved and several Member States have taken measures to implement new legislation to increase the number of women in decision-making positions or to reduce the gender pay

gap. EU-level intervention has also been particularly relevant in combating racism, xenophobia, homophobia and other forms of intolerance as well as promoting the exercise of rights deriving from EU citizenship, in view of the lack of significant investment in those fields at national level.

Outlook for the 2021-2027 period

- In the next multiannual financial framework, the citizens, equality, rights and values programme will succeed the rights, equality and citizenship programme. It merges it with another current programme, Europe for citizens.

Budget implementation (in million EUR)

EXECUTED COMMITMENTS		EXECUTED PAYMENTS	
63.2	2018	72.2	
65.7	2019	61.8	
69.9	2020	75.4	

Key performance indicators

	Baseline	PROGRESS TO TARGET	Target	Results	Assessment
Member States that set up structural coordination mechanisms on the national Roma integration strategies		> 100%	26	27 compared to 26 Member States	On track
Perception of consumers of being protected	64%	> 100%	75%	81% compared to 75% ratio	On track

% of target achieved by the end of 2020

Where are we in the implementation?

- In 2020, the implementation rate for commitment appropriations reached 98% and covered all objectives of the rights, equality and citizenship programme. 96 % of the payment appropriations were consumed, covering pre-financing and final payments on pre-2020 commitments and 2020 commitments.
- Due to the COVID-19 crisis, the deadline for all calls for proposals for action grants, originally planned in the course of the month of April 2020, was extended by 2 weeks, with the positive result of having received a number of applications in line with previous years. However, many individual beneficiaries of the rights, equality and citizenship programme contacted DG Justice and Consumers to highlight pandemic-related difficulties such as the necessity to cancel or postpone long-planned activities such as conferences, meetings, missions or launching events for studies undertaken under their EU grant. Solutions were found to accommodate beneficiaries on a case-by-case basis and to ensure, via individual contract amendments, that their grant would continue despite difficulties related to lockdown or the impossibility of executing work programmes as defined in the grant agreements. A total of 262 amendments were signed in 2020 compared to 96 in 2019.

Performance assessment

- The rights, equality and citizenship programme facilitated the implementation of policies that address essential rights and needs in people's lives. Over the 2014-2020 period, it co-financed, more than 900 projects to promote non-discrimination, the rights of the child, rights of persons with disabilities, EU citizenship rights and data protection, and the fight against gender-based violence and intolerance. These projects supported training and capacity-building activities as crucial instruments to ensure that discrimination on the grounds of sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation was prohibited. The average funding contribution for a single project was around EUR 350 000, usually representing 80% of the total cost. Belgium, Greece, Spain and Italy were the leading countries in terms of funding received.
- Where data are available, the results show that the programme was on track to achieve all of its objectives by the end of 2020.
- The programme has been able to adapt to new challenges such as the rise of online hate speech due to the increased use of social media, the challenges of gender equality and the protection of children in migration.
- Calls for proposals were in general highly successful, as most received a high number of applications which allowed for a selection of high-quality projects for a full consumption of the budget available. In particular, three calls for proposals performed above expectations, both in terms of quantity and quality: these were for actions to combat violence against women and children, to fight racism and to promote non-discrimination. Only 10-20% of the applications received were then awarded a grant, for projects scoring very high in the evaluation process, indicating the attractiveness of the programme.
- The programme finances more than 30 projects every year to combat discrimination and promote equality and social inclusion. Notably, it has helped to foster social inclusion for Roma children and families, enhancing social cohesion and improving Roma children's experience of the transition to primary school.
- Closing gender gaps and eliminating discrimination and inequalities are key to the advancement of gender equality. The programme promoted gender equality on the basis of the 2016-2019 strategic engagement for gender equality and the European Pact for Gender Equality (2011-2020), in line with the gender pay gap action plan and the initiative on work-life balance for working parents and carers. Since 2014, it has supported more than 85 projects that contributed to narrowing gender gaps over the life cycle and ensured equal participation of women and men in public forums, in leadership positions, in politics and in the corporate sector.
- Overall, the rights, equality and citizenship programme has demonstrated its high EU added value in both its positive impact on participants and target groups and in its role as a complement to other EU funding instruments and policy initiatives. Projects were also funded by looking at the complementarity with other ongoing EU-funded actions. In particular, programme has shown a high added value, as the projects carried out would not have taken place in the absence of EU funding, due to lack of resources at national level. Interventions funded were seen as generating better results and more benefits than those funded through national/local interventions, mainly due to their transnational dimension, greater flexibility and higher quality and innovation as compared to projects funded at the national level.
- The main challenge for the last year of implementation was ensuring the transition and visibility to the new citizens, equality, rights and values programme (2021-2027).

Concrete examples of achievements

31%	81%	27	96%	131
of non-executive directors of boards of listed companies are women (in 2020, up from 16% in 2014).	of Europeans consider themselves to be well or very well informed about the rights they enjoy as EU citizens (in 2020, up from 32% in 2014).	Member States set up structural coordination mechanisms with all stakeholders, including Roma, on the implementation of the national Roma integration strategies by 2020.	of all people consider that domestic violence against women is unacceptable, in 2018, up from 84% in 2014 (Eurobarometer).	grants were awarded to prevent and combat racism, xenophobia, homophobia and other forms of intolerance in the 2014-2020 period.