THE EU RESEARCH & INNOVATION PROGRAMME
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DG RTD.D4 Democracy and European Values
CLUSTER 2 INFODAY CALLS 2022
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Innovative research on democracy and governance

Structure of the session

• Presentation of the 9 topics under the 2022 call “Reshaping democracies”
• Q&A session via Slido

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Horizon Europe work programme 2021-2022

2022 call for proposals: Reshaping democracies (deadline: 20 April 2022)

- Future of democracy and civic participation
- Politics and the impact of online social networks and new media
- Impact of inequalities on democracy
- Artificial intelligence, big data and democracy
- Evolution of political extremism & its influence on social and political dialogue
- Education for democracy
- Media for democracy – democratic media
- Representative democracy in flux
- Global governance for a world in transition: Norms, institutions, actors

Future of democracy and civic participation (RIA)

€ 9 million

Scope

• Review existing R&I findings on civic participation and experience with new forms, e.g. in youth movements for climate and citizens’ assemblies, digital co-creation platforms, social entrepreneurship, etc.

• Cover different scales of participation (local national, EU, global) analysing their depth and effectiveness, incl. agenda-setting, spatial planning

• Develop foresight scenarios for civic participation

• Focus on inequalities in civic participation (gender, digital divide, etc.) and propose remedies,

• Propose new ways to improve mutual feedback between policy-makers and citizens.

Expected outcomes

• Enhance and expand the implementation of civic participation as well as co-creation in democratic life at scale, including the least engaged communities and categories of the population, at all levels from local to European.

• Improve the articulation between deliberative processes and representative institutions in liberal democracies, including through experimental approaches.
Politics and the impact of online social networks (RIA)

Scope

• Build Europe-wide evidence on the extent to which social platforms and new media affect political attitudes.

• Assess whether and how new media functions as a method of news selection and study the resulting perception biases.

• Investigate how political actors use these platforms to shape political behaviour.

• Examine the extent to which platforms and new media actually help democratise political systems.

• Propose and design regulatory innovations in response to the covert use of social platforms for political goals.

Expected outcomes

• Understand the opportunities and challenges presented by social platforms and new media on political behaviour and democratic engagement.

• Produce evidence-based recommendations to address these.

• Enhance capacities for digital citizenship.
HORIZON-CL2-2022-DEMOCRACY-01-03:
The impact of inequalities on democracy (RIA)

€ 9 million

Scope

• Take stock of long-term trends in and types of inequalities, as well as to identify their sources and intersections.
• Model the relation between inequalities and levels of political trust in European societies and the emergence of protest movements and populist discourses.
• What set of policy actions can enhance equality and political engagement amongst the socially excluded and vulnerable?

Expected outcomes

• Evidence base to explain long-term impact of various inequalities (socio-economic, gender, disability, spatial, ethnic, etc.) on political participation, democratic quality and stability.
• Development, validation and piloting of strategies, policies and action plans for tackling inequalities while boosting trust and resilience at different levels of governance.
• Strategies and policies to support inclusion of marginalised groups in democratic and participatory process.
Artificial intelligence, big data and democracy (RIA)

€ 9 million

Scope

- Build evidence, to review and analyse threats to and opportunities for democracy, personal and collective European values stemming from AI and big data.
- Explore how to protect citizens from potential abuse enabled by these technologies in the private and public domains.
- Engage with innovative, inclusive and participative uses of AI and big data for civic engagement and democracy.

Expected outcomes

- Protect fundamental rights and European values from possible threats stemming from unregulated use of artificial intelligence (AI) and big data applications through values-based frameworks.
- Explore the potential of AI and big data to reinforce fundamental rights and European values, including the effectiveness of monitoring protocols of established legislation and non-regulatory measures.
- Innovative uses of AI and big data to enhance citizen engagement and democracy.
HORIZON-CL2-2022-DEMOCRACY-01-05: Evolution of political extremism and its influence on contemporary social and political dialogue

€ 9 million

Scope

• Analyse the various forms of extremist discourses and narratives, their dynamics and disruptive potential.
• Provide psychological, sociological and anthropological analyses of drivers behind violent political transformations.
• Explore the tension between tackling political extremism and human rights law on freedom of speech.
• Map the penetration of extremist ideology and argumentation into general media, social and political discourses.
• Propose evidence-based policy strategies to counter and prevent extremist discourses.

Expected outcomes

• In-depth understanding of the major factors contributing to the present rise of extremist narratives and of their influence on mainstream worldviews, discourses and policies across European countries in their local and global context.
• Formulation of multi-level policy recommendations to help counter these extremist narratives while limiting their spread and impact.
HORIZON-CL2-2022-DEMOCRACY-01-04: Education for democracy (RIA)

€ 9 million

Scope

• Evidence from European countries on the links between economic, social, cultural capital and educational inequalities and levels of political engagement, social trust, participation and inter-cultural tolerance.

• Experimental participatory research to test educational and training tools and demonstrate their impact, including new education and training formats that incorporate creative approaches.

• Involvement of citizens and young people, including NGOs, social partners and grassroots organisations.

Expected outcomes

• Evidence base for redesigned curricula in support of democracy (with active engagement of students).

• Toolkits for enhancing humanistic and civic aspects of education for promoting active democratic citizenship.

• Strengthened democratic processes in education through citizens involvement.
HORIZON-CL2-2022-DEMOCRACY-01-06: Media for democracy – democratic media (RIA)

€ 9 million

Scope

• Examine the political role of traditional and new digital media in performing key democratic functions and reaching out to all segments of society.

• Changes in media markets and the role of economic, commercial, technological as well as political forces in shaping current changes in the role of media.

• Recent transformations in journalism and media technology affecting participation and democratic discourses and a shifting political landscape, with increased polarization, affecting the media

Expected outcomes

• Demonstrate how citizens and policymakers can contribute to a reinvigorated democracy through media.

• Improved quality, accountability and transparency of media production and distribution processes.

• Enhanced citizen’s participation and decision-making through enlightened access to pluralistic media content, toolkits, narratives and methodologies
HORIZON-CL2-2022-DEMOCRACY-01-08: Representative democracy in flux (RIA)

€ 9 million

Scope

• Examine the barriers and opportunities to re-invigorating and enhancing representative democratic systems.
• Knowledge base on long-term developments in terms of trust in, and trustworthiness of, the political institutions of representative democracy and their legitimacy.
• Relate changing voting attitudes at the individual level to wider political and cultural discourses.
• Strategies to address the demands and needs of citizens expressed in other, non-electoral forms of political participation, with a view to active engagement and inclusion.

Expected outcomes

• Comprehensive evidence on the mid- to long-term impacts of current political and social developments on European representative democracies.
• Policy recommendations, toolkits, narratives and methodologies for enhancing trust in political institutions, and boosting transparency, representativeness, and inclusiveness of representative systems.
Global governance for a world in transition: Norms, institutions, actors (RIA)

€ 9 million

Scope

• Propose ways of redesigning, renewing and re-invigorating global and European traditions of cooperation.
• Barriers and opportunities for enhancing the formal legal and institutional architecture of the rules-based global system.
• Identify new actors, norms and processes of participation and representation which can boost the legitimacy, transparency, representativeness and effectiveness of multilateral institutions.
• Analysis of interests and strategies of other international powers in disseminating new collective norms for global governance.

Expected outcomes

• Support EU's role in leading the transformation and defence of multilateralism.
• Develop policy recommendations, institutional frames, toolboxes, narratives and methodologies for supporting action towards transnational democracy
How to get more information & apply

• Find open Horizon Europe calls on funding & tenders web-site: https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/programmes/horizon

• National Contact Points: https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/support/ncp

• Research Enquiry Service: https://ec.europa.eu/info/research-and-innovation/contact/research-enquiry-service_en

• Recorded webinars on how to write proposals etc.: https://www.horizon-europe-infodays2021.eu/document-library

• Horizon Europe rules, Q&A, etc.: https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/how-to-participate/reference-documents;programCode=HORIZON

See also:

• Register as expert: https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/work-as-an-expert

• Funding opportunities under other EU programmes: Funding & Tenders portal, in particular: Citizens, Equality, Rights & Values programme, Justice programme, Digital Europe Programme, Global Europe
Information on H2020 projects & results

Overview:

Web-page on R&I on democracy and governance
Factsheet: EU research and innovation to foster European democracy

H2020 Result Packs:

• Challenges to democracy in Europe: Insights into a complex and turbulent political climate
• Understanding turbulent political times through innovative EU-funded research
• ERC Project Stories

Policy reviews and reports:

• Policy Review: Past, present and future of democracy
• Policy Review: Transformations of European Citizenship: beyond free movement
• Report: Diversity, democracy and solidarity in EU societies

Find projects & results:

• Cordis database on H2020 projects: https://cordis.europa.eu/en
• European Research Council project database with custom search functionality (ERIS): https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/erceris/application/static/eris/index.html
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