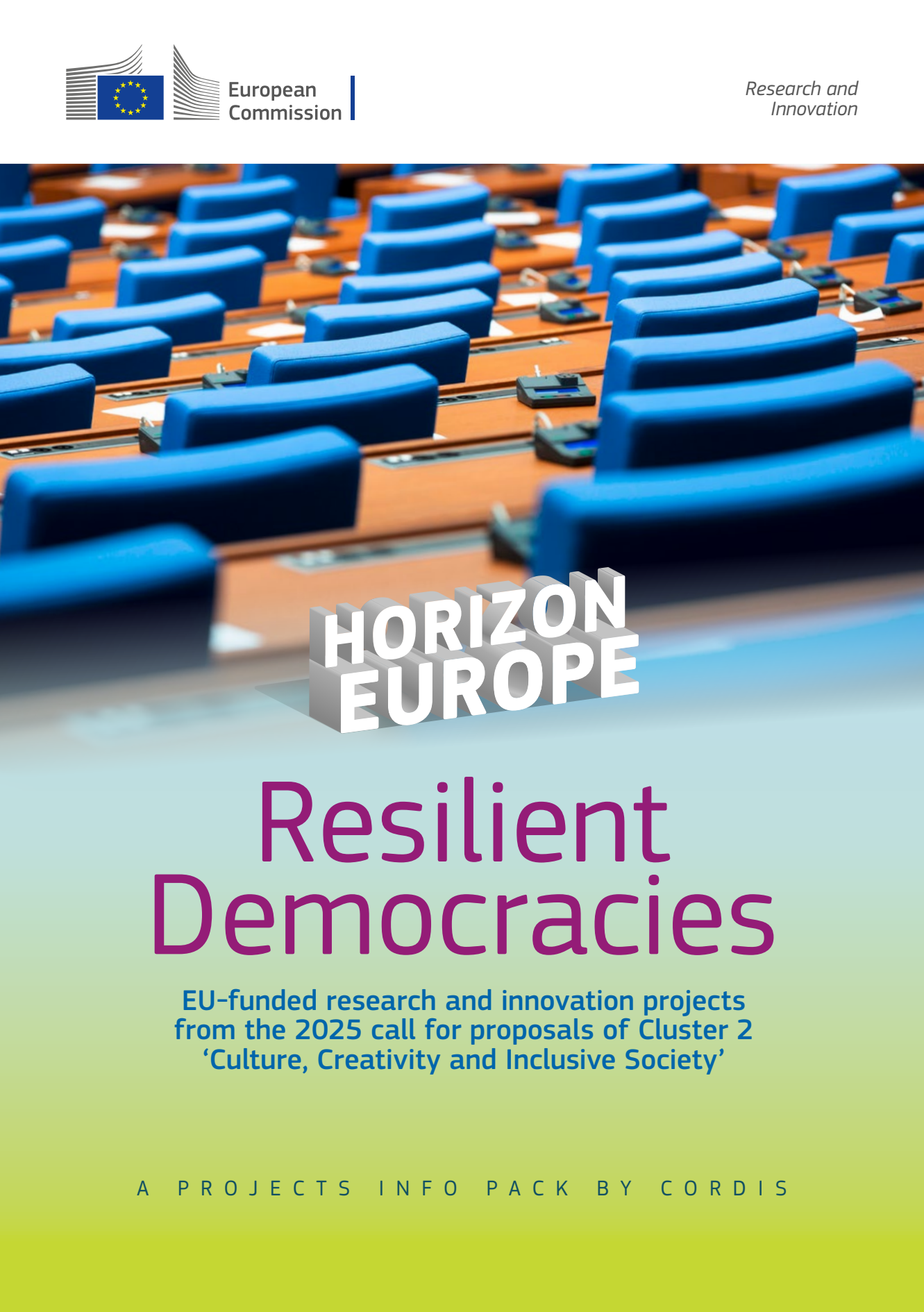




HORIZON
EUROPE

Resilient Democracies

EU-funded research and innovation projects
from the 2025 call for proposals of Cluster 2
'Culture, Creativity and Inclusive Society'

A PROJECTS INFO PACK BY CORDIS

This publication gives an overview of the projects selected under Destination 1 – Innovative Research on Democracy and Governance – of the 2025 call of Horizon Europe's Cluster 2 'Culture, Creativity and Inclusive Society'.

All project information has been sourced from **cordis.europa.eu** and has been carefully curated. As a result, certain words and sentences have been adjusted or combined to better suit the context and its purpose.

For any further information, please contact **RTD-DEMOCRACY-EQUALITY-CULTURE@ec.europa.eu** or visit the page on Research and innovation funding for democracy and governance: **link.europa.eu/jrpmcxpk**.

Introduction

Resilient and strengthened democratic systems, anchored in robust and inclusive political decision-making, are essential to address the complex and interconnected threats facing Europe's citizens and societies.

The 2025 call of Horizon Europe's Cluster 2 'Culture, Creativity and Inclusive Society' mobilises the multidisciplinary expertise of European social sciences and humanities to meet this challenge. This booklet showcases 27 research projects aiming to enhance democratic governance and citizen participation.

As stated in the Political Guidelines for the European Commission 2024-2029, "Europe's future in a fractured world will depend on having a strong democracy and on defending the values that give us the freedoms and rights that we cherish."

The Strategic Foresight Report 2023 recalls how disenfranchisement, growing discontent and the lack of a positive agenda combine into an erosion of trust in public institutions, polarisation and an enhanced appeal of extremist, autocratic or populist movements. In addition, it notes that democracy is increasingly challenged as the governance model best suited to deal with growing socio-economic issues.

The report acknowledges that even in the EU, some of the core requirements for a functioning democracy are impaired. A democratic impairment is manifested in several phenomena, such as challenges to the rule of law, a consistent decrease in electoral turnout in both national and European elections, the personalisation of politics, with political leaders considered more important than political parties, and growing polarisation, all amplified by mis- and disinformation.

Social sciences and humanities research is critical for effectively addressing those challenges. While science will provide knowledge, insights and theoretical frameworks, the involvement of stakeholders on the ground (including community organisations, policymakers and civil society representatives) is essential to facilitate the uptake and impact of research results, and therefore is encouraged in this Destination. This collaborative approach ensures that research is based on real-world experiences and needs, leading to more effective and relevant outcomes.

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Topic HORIZON-CL2-2025-01-DEMOCRACY-01

Advisory support and network to counter disinformation and foreign information manipulation and interference (FIMI)

This call supports research and innovation that strengthens Europe's ability to understand, prevent and counter foreign information manipulation and interference (FIMI) and related disinformation across all sectors.

It aims to equip EU institutions, national authorities, practitioners, civil society organisations and other societal actors with a deeper understanding of the validity and practical applicability of theoretical models, recommendations, toolkits and methodologies designed to address FIMI.

A key ambition of the call is to ensure that practitioners and civil society actors involved in counter-FIMI measures have access to tailored advisory support and a functional network that facilitates knowledge exchange, capacity-building and cross-sector collaboration.

Work funded under this call will provide new tools, analytical methods and operational insights that support the design and implementation of effective initiatives to address tech-driven misinformation, bolstering democratic resilience across the Union.



Creating a European ecosystem for countering disinformation

Disinformation, along with foreign information manipulation and interference, poses a threat to European democracy. While considerable knowledge and a range of tools already exist to address it, efforts remain fragmented and their usability is often limited. In this context, the FIMI-RESIST project aims to strengthen European resilience by integrating results from previous Horizon projects and European Digital Media Observatory hubs. It also seeks to evaluate the effectiveness of existing tools in countering threats. FIMI-RESIST aims to bring together leading AI research centres, policymakers and media actors to develop policy recommendations that strengthen cross-sector collaboration. The goal is to transform fragmented initiatives into a more coherent European ecosystem for addressing evolving disinformation.

FIMI-RESIST

Foreign Information Manipulation and Interference - Robust European Safeguards and Innovative Systems against Threats

Project dates

1 September 2026 – 28 February 2029

Consortium

- JOHANNES GUTENBERG-UNIVERSITÄT MAINZ [DE](#)
- KEMPELENOV INSTITUT INTELIGENTNYCH TECHNOLOGII [SK](#)
- ETHNIKO KENTRO EREVNAS KAI TECHNOLOGIKIS ANAPTYXIS [EL](#)
- UNIVERSITEIT VAN AMSTERDAM [NL](#)
- KREATUR LIMITED [UK](#)
- EXORDE LABS [FR](#)
- CYFLUENCE RESEARCH CENTER GGBH [DE](#)
- DEUTSCHE WELLE [DE](#)
- NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION VOX UKRAINE [UA](#)
- FACTIVERSE AS [NO](#)

Third party

- INSIKT INTELLIGENCE S.L. [ES](#)

Partner

- GRETCHEN AI GMBH [DE](#)

CORDIS factsheet

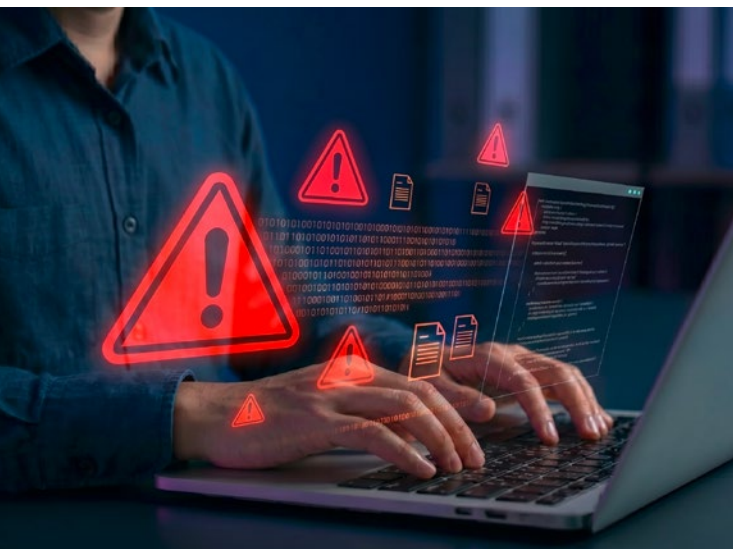
cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101285890

EU contribution

EUR 3 499 728

Keywords

disinformation, FIMI, EDMO, DISARM, democratic resilience



Topic HORIZON-CL2-2025-01-DEMOCRACY-02

Fostering the consolidation of European science diplomacy

Against the background of a rapidly changing geopolitical and scientific-technological environment, with global competitors using science diplomacy in a much more strategic manner, there is a need to consolidate European science diplomacy efforts.

Building on recommendations from the EU Science Diplomacy Working Groups, the call will support a comprehensive taxonomy of European science diplomacy, mapping the full range of actors across academia, policymaking, diplomacy, civil society and business.

A central pillar is the design and launch of a European Science Diplomacy Platform – a community of research and practice that will bring together key players from EU and national levels. Curricula for training, capacity-building and mutual learning in science diplomacy will be developed, drawing on existing mechanisms such as the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) programme.

The work will enhance Europe's science diplomacy outreach, support evidence-based foreign and security policy, and reinforce Europe's ability to project soft power.



Strengthening European science diplomacy

As geopolitical relations shift, European science diplomacy is gaining importance, highlighting the need for open and sovereign research and innovation. The CUSP (Consolidating eUropean Science diPlomacy) project aims to operationalise the European framework for science diplomacy by establishing an integrated system to translate Europe's scientific strength into geopolitical influence. It will develop combined digital, operational and capacity-building infrastructure, including an AI-assisted knowledge base of science diplomacy expertise, a common taxonomy, as well as a permanent platform to produce policy outputs and promote regional dialogue. CUSP will also establish a framework offering tailored training, resources and learning opportunities. By linking networks, skills and policy support, science diplomacy can become more effective in supporting international engagement.

CUSP

Consolidating eUropean Science diPlomacy

Project dates

1 June 2026 – 31 May 2029

Consortium

- ZENTRUM FÜR SOZIALE INNOVATION GMBH [AT](#)
- DEUTSCHES ZENTRUM FÜR LUFT - UND RAUMFAHRT EV [DE](#)
- UNIVERZITA KARLOVA [CZ](#)
- MARIE CURIE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION [BE](#)
- UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION [FR](#)
- CENTRE FOR EUROPEAN POLICY STUDIES [BE](#)
- AARHUS UNIVERSITET [DK](#)
- FUNDACION ESPANOLA PARA LA CIENCIA Y LA TECNOLOGIA, F.S.P., FECYT [ES](#)
- CENTRO INTERNAZIONALE DI ALTISTUDI AGRONOMICI MEDITERRANEI [IT](#)
- ENRICH GLOBAL [FR](#)
- CONSIGLIO NAZIONALE DELLE RICERCHE [IT](#)

CORDIS factsheet

cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101287256

EU contribution

EUR 2 999 684

Keywords

science diplomacy, foreign policy, research policy



Topic HORIZON-CL2-2025-01-DEMOCRACY-03

Preparing the EU for future enlargement: challenges and opportunities

With Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine granted candidate country status, the EU could grow beyond 30 Member States. This call aims to deepen Europe's understanding of the political, social and economic implications of future EU enlargements and strengthen the Union's capacity to manage these accessions.

The three funded projects aim to provide policymakers and public administrations across the EU, candidate countries and potential candidates with thematic insights and lessons learned from previous enlargement rounds, with particular attention paid to democracy, rule of law and governance.

They seek to increase societal awareness of the enlargement process within the Union and in candidate countries by improving public understanding of the consequences of enlargement. A key ambition is to enhance the use of interactive tools that promote educational opportunities in EU integration, ensuring that civil society can engage meaningfully in enlargement debates.

The call invited research that strengthens Member States' knowledge of the historical, political and economic contexts of candidate and potential candidate countries. Projects will reflect on past enlargements, adopt flexible approaches responsive to geopolitical dynamics, and use scenario planning to help anticipate future challenges.

The projects will address fluctuating public support for enlargement, and the rise in euroscepticism and 'enlargement fatigue', and identify ways to foster inclusive communication, early citizen involvement and credible dialogue on EU values and integration benefits.

The projects will examine candidate countries' motivations for joining the EU, assess whether these drivers persist or evolve within Member States, and develop evidence-based approaches to societal dialogue and education on EU integration. They will identify effective tools for public administrations to improve citizens' understanding of enlargement, leveraging emerging digital technologies and piloting solutions in at least four Member States.

Based on this research, the funded projects will deliver policy recommendations that support strategic communication, citizen engagement and reform processes in candidate countries.



Building citizen participation and awareness around EU enlargement

Informed and inclusive public debate on EU enlargement is essential, as future accessions will reshape Europe's security, economy, society and democracy. CitiSense develops a citizen-centred approach to enlargement: enlargement for, by and with citizens. The project examines how citizens in EU Member States and candidate countries understand enlargement, what concerns and expectations they have, and how their perspectives can inform more legitimate and responsive policymaking. Bringing together 16 partners – universities, think tanks and civil society organisations – CitiSense combines evidence-based research, dialogue and participatory engagement. It will map public attitudes, develop country reports, educational resources and multimedia outputs, and test formats that connect citizens, experts and policymakers. The project supports a more transparent, inclusive and politically sustainable enlargement process.

CitiSense

Making Sense of EU Enlargement for, with and by Citizens

Project dates

1 October 2026 – 30 September 2029

Consortium

- EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY INSTITUTE [IT](#)
- UNIVERSITEIT MAASTRICHT [NL](#)
- SIHTASUTUS RAHVUSVAHELINE KAITSEUURINGUTE KESKUS [EE](#)
- ISTITUTO AFFARI INTERNAZIONALI [IT](#)
- CEU GMBH [AT](#)
- UNIVERSITAET DUISBURG-ESSEN [DE](#)
- INSTITUT FÜR EUROPAISCHE POLITIK EV [DE](#)
- EUROPEAN PARTNERSHIP FOR DEMOCRACY [BE](#)
- STOCKHOLMS UNIVERSITET [SE](#)
- TRANS EUROPEAN POLICY STUDIES ASSOCIATION [BE](#)
- UNIVERZITA KOMENSKÉHO V BRATISLAVE [SK](#)
- UNIWERSYTET SWPS [PL](#)
- ILIA STATE UNIVERSITY [GE](#)
- NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF KYIV-MOHYLA ACADEMY [UA](#)
- ASOCIATIA OBSTEASCA INSTITUTUL PENTRU POLITICI SI REFORME EUROPENE [MD](#)
- INSTITUT ZA DEMOKRATIJA SOCIETAS CIVILIS SKOPJE [MK](#)

CORDIS factsheet

cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101286806

EU contribution

EUR 3 484 797

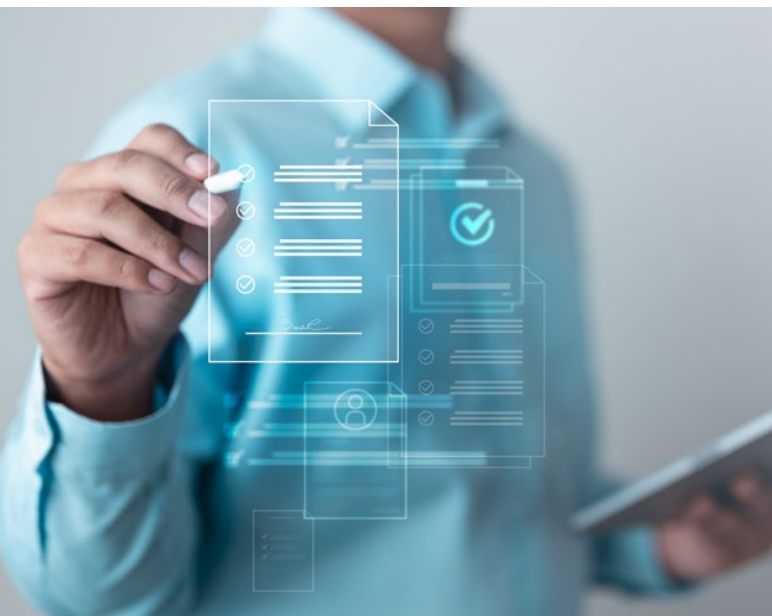
Keywords

EU enlargement, citizen engagement, dialogue, participation



Supporting a digitally enabled and integrated EU

Digital transformation is reshaping democratic governance and EU enlargement processes, creating new opportunities to explore how digitalisation can support democratisation, institutional reform and alignment with EU values in candidate countries. In this context, the DIGI-ENLARGE project investigates how digital tools, governance frameworks and civic technologies can strengthen citizen participation and policy convergence in the EU. The project will develop and pilot innovative digital solutions in key areas such as digital democracy, civic education, media freedom, migration governance, gender equality and the digital economy. By bringing together academic institutions, NGOs, public authorities and technology developers, the project aims to support a more inclusive and values-driven future for the EU.



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DIGI-ENLARGE

Digital Transformation for Building Democratic Resilience

Project dates

1 September 2026 – 31 August 2029

Consortium

- TALLINNA TEHNIKAÜLIKOOL [EE](#)
- QENDRA SHKENCE DHE INOVACION PER ZHVILLIM [AL](#)
- MEDIA AND CIVIL SOCIETY DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION MEDIACENTAR [BA](#)
- UNIWERSYTET WROCLAWSKI [PL](#)
- FAKULTETA ZA INFORMACIJSKE STUDIJE V NOVEM MESTU [SI](#)
- JAVNA USTANOVA UNIVERZITET CRNE GORE PODGORICA [ME](#)
- UNIVERSITATEA DE STAT DIN MOLDOVA [MD](#)
- YAROSLAV MUDRYI NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY [UA](#)
- SHOTA RUSTAVELI STATE UNIVERSITY [GE](#)
- GALATASARAY UNIVERSITY [TR](#)

CORDIS factsheet

cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101286675

EU contribution

EUR 2 720 206

Keywords

digital transformation, EU enlargement, democratic resilience, institutional reform

Rethinking EU enlargement for a diverse neighbourhood

As the EU prepares for enlargement, understanding why accession reforms succeed in some candidate countries but stall in others matters. The OWN-EU project seeks to improve enlargement policy by examining the relationship between political ownership of reforms and the territorial capital available to candidate countries in the Eastern Neighbourhood and the Western Balkans. Bringing together researchers, policymakers and citizens, it will analyse lessons from previous enlargement rounds while exploring how state capacity, territorial inequalities and development assets shape accession outcomes. Through comparative research, living labs, pilot actions and stakeholder engagement, the project will co-create evidence-based policy recommendations. By developing practical tools and differentiated approaches, it will support a more effective and inclusive enlargement process tailored to candidate countries' needs and characteristics.



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OWN-EU

ENHANCING THE SUCCESS OF ENLARGEMENT THROUGH THE POLITICAL OWNERSHIP - TERRITORIAL CAPITAL NEXUS

Project dates

1 September 2026 – 31 August 2029

Consortium

- UNIVERSITATEA ALEXANDRU IOAN CUZA DIN IASI [RO](#)
- FACULTY OF ECONOMICS NIS [RS](#)
- SHOTA RUSTAVELI STATE UNIVERSITY [GE](#)
- FOREIGN POLICY COUNCIL 'UKRAINIAN PRISM' [UA](#)
- UNIWERSYTET WARSZAWSKI [PL](#)
- EUROPEAN CITIZEN ACTION SERVICE [BE](#)
- INSTITUT FÜR DEN DONAURAUM UND MITTELEUROPA [AT](#)
- LOUGHBOROUGH UNIVERSITY [UK](#)
- ASSOCIATION OF CITIZENS FOR THE RESEARCH OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND EUROPEAN AFFAIRS PRESPI INSTITUTE SKOPJE [MK](#)
- UNIVERSITEIT GENT [BE](#)
- UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY [IE](#)
- LUNDS UNIVERSITET [SE](#)
- ROSKILDE UNIVERSITET [DK](#)
- UNIVERSIDADE DO MINHO [PT](#)
- UNIVERSITÄT LEIPZIG [DE](#)
- RIJKSUNIVERSITEIT GRONINGEN [NL](#)
- INSTITUTI PER DEMOKRACI DHE NDERMJETESIM [AL](#)
- INSTITUTUL PENTRU DEZVOLTARE SI INITIATIVE SOCIALE VIITORUL [MD](#)

CORDIS factsheet

cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101290576

EU contribution

EUR 3 471 175

Keywords

EU enlargement, territorial capital, Eastern Neighbourhood and Western Balkans

Topic HORIZON-CL2-2025-01-DEMOCRACY-04

Open strategic autonomy, economic and research security in EU foreign policy

Europe needs strong conceptual, analytical and policy foundations for open strategic autonomy and economic security, including research security, across all major policy domains.

The two projects funded under this call topic will provide EU institutions, national authorities and practitioners with consolidated concepts, workable definitions and a robust evidence base that clarifies the meaning, drivers and historical evolution of open strategic autonomy and economic security.

They will deepen understanding of how these concepts can benefit the EU, its Member States, associated countries, Neighbourhood and developing countries, while analysing the implications of divergent national approaches. A central ambition is to deliver policy recommendations that enhance Europe's autonomy and security without harming economic and societal actors or diminishing the EU's geopolitical influence.

These projects will analyse the expanding scope of open strategic autonomy, from energy, research, health, media, technology and defence to food systems, industry, development cooperation and human rights. They will examine how geopolitical shifts – particularly Russia's invasion of Ukraine – have reshaped vulnerabilities and dependencies.

The projects seek to assess the threat landscape, map relevant actors, trends and risks, and explore the correlation between open strategic autonomy, economic security and research security in light of the European economic security strategy's three pillars: promoting competitiveness, protecting against risks and collaborating with partners that share EU interests.

They will offer recommendations on balancing openness with necessary safeguards, considering impacts such as unintentionally encouraging global protectionism or weakening multilateralism, and evaluate the proportionality, effectiveness and costs of autonomy-related policies, including implications for open science, academic freedom, research integrity and science diplomacy.



Advancing open strategic autonomy in the EU

There is a growing call from EU institutions, practitioners and national decision-makers for greater clarity and practical guidance on achieving open strategic autonomy (OSA) in the EU. The QUEST project responds to this need. OSA represents a paradigm shift in how the EU defines its global role, balancing openness with autonomy. Achieving this balance requires navigating complex dilemmas and trade-offs in international relations while upholding EU values and principles. To date, neither academic research nor policy advice has provided answers on managing these tensions. QUEST addresses this gap by developing a conceptual framework highlighting multiple ways OSA can be understood and enacted. Moving beyond existing approaches, it conceptualises OSA through political capabilities and institutional competences, offering conceptual clarity and practical guidance.

QUEST

The European Union's Quest for a Relational Open Strategic Autonomy

Project dates

1 October 2026 – 30 September 2030

Consortium

- KATHOLIEKE UNIVERSITEIT LEUVEN [BE](#)
- UNIVERSITETET I OSLO [NO](#)
- UNIVERSITY COLLEGE DUBLIN, NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF IRELAND, DUBLIN [IE](#)
- UNIVERZITA KARLOVA [CZ](#)
- QUEEN MARY UNIVERSITY OF LONDON [UK](#)
- SABANCI UNIVERSITESI [TR](#)
- UNIVERSIDAD COMPLUTENSE DE MADRID [ES](#)
- UNIWERSYTET JAGIELLONSKI [PL](#)
- UNIVERSITY INDUSTRY FOUNDATION YONSEI UNIVERSITY [KR](#)
- UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL [UK](#)

CORDIS factsheet

cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101288808

EU contribution

EUR 3 499 567

Keywords

open strategic autonomy, external action, international relations



Building a resilient economic security framework for the EU

Balancing responses to economic security threats with the need to preserve an open global economy is an increasingly critical capability. The RESURGE project seeks to enhance the EU's capacity to respond to immediate economic security risks and to protect Europe from the weaponisation of interdependence without undermining global economic openness. Bringing together an international consortium with strong ties to policy, business and research communities, the project examines vulnerabilities that extend beyond import dependence. By considering that next shocks may come through exports, profit repatriation, asset expropriations, financial channels, coercive technology transfers, digital interconnections and climate effects, it will develop evidence-based policy recommendations to strengthen resilience and better anticipate future risks.

RESURGE

Redefining Economic Security for an Upgraded, Resilient and Geopolitical Europe

Project dates

1 October 2026 – 30 September 2029

Consortium

- BRUEGEL [BE](#)
- STICHTING NEDERLANDS INSTITUUT VOOR INTERNATIONALE BETREKKINGEN CLINGENDAEL [NL](#)
- INSTITUT MONTAIGNE [FR](#)
- EUROPEAN COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS (ECFR) E.V. [DE](#)
- FUNDACION REAL INSTITUTO ELCANO DE ESTUDIOS INTERNACIONALES Y ESTRATEGICOS [ES](#)
- LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND POLITICAL SCIENCE [UK](#)
- POLSKI INSTYTUT SPRAW MIĘDZYNARODOWYCH [PL](#)
- TURUN YLIOPISTO [FI](#)
- FUTURE NEEDS MANAGEMENT CONSULTING LTD [CY](#)

CORDIS factsheet

cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101288288

EU contribution

EUR 3 499 228

Keywords

open strategic autonomy, economic security, foresight





Topic HORIZON-CL2-2025-01-DEMOCRACY-05

Countering and preventing radicalisation, extremism, hate speech and polarisation

To prevent and counter radicalisation, extremism, hate speech and polarisation, EU institutions, national authorities, researchers, educators, practitioners and media organisations must be equipped with the necessary knowledge, tools and evidence.

The three projects emanating from this call topic will work towards a comprehensive understanding of how social and economic inequalities interact with polarisation, contributing to pathways of radicalisation and hatred. They will deliver actionable recommendations, tools, narratives, methodologies and innovative solutions that support effective prevention and response measures.

A core ambition of the call is to deepen policymakers' insights into radicalisation, extremism and hate speech, including their impact on young people. These projects seek to strengthen our understanding of the mechanisms behind extremist and hate campaigns, examining diverse political environments and communication modes.

The work will improve methodologies for mapping online hate ecosystems using qualitative and quantitative tools, supporting enforcement of laws against racist, xenophobic and misogynistic hate speech and protecting potential victims.

They focus on the link between disinformation – including foreign information manipulation and interference – and hate speech, radicalisation and extremism, and further our understanding of the impact of media consumption patterns, a polarised public sphere, and the emergence of citizen-led media content.

The projects will examine how traditional media, online platforms, social media and artificial intelligence can counter mis- and disinformation narratives. By developing improved tools for source reliability, meta-tagging systems, and journalistic practices, these projects seek to enhance the quality of public debate. They will also expand the availability of training tools, materials and methods for educators and educational organisations, strengthening their capacity to counter hate, extremism and polarisation.



Dialogue as a pathway to de-escalating extremism and polarisation

Extremism, polarisation, disinformation and hate speech are growing threats to democracy and social cohesion across Europe, with young people particularly exposed and vulnerable. The DEEP DIALOGUE project investigates how polarisation escalates into radicalisation and democratic fragility by developing evidence-based interventions to strengthen resilience and civic participation. Combining comparative surveys, social media analysis, qualitative research and innovative modelling, the project generates new insights into the psychosocial dynamics of polarisation. Building on this evidence, the project will design and evaluate four dialogue formats (offline, online, hybrid and mediated by former extremists), tested through randomised controlled trials. It seeks to also develop AI-enabled monitoring tools, educational resources and policy recommendations to support educators, journalists, youth organisations and policymakers in countering extremism.



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DEEP DIALOGUE

De-Escalating Extremism & Polarization through Dialogue

Project dates

1 September 2026 – 31 August 2029

Consortium

- LUNDS UNIVERSITET [SE](#)
- UNIVERSITE DE SHERBROOKE [CA](#)
- UNIVERSITATEA BABES BOLYAI [RO](#)
- UNIVERSITE RENNES II [FR](#)
- STIFTELSEN FRYSHUSET [SE](#)
- CENTRUL PENTRU STUDIUL COMPARAT AL MIGRATIEI [RO](#)
- CENTRE FOR EUROPEAN POLICY STUDIES [BE](#)
- ACEEU GMBH [DE](#)
- MIA TECHNOLOGIES LLC [UA](#)
- EUROPEAN STUDENTS' UNION [BE](#)
- ERASMUS STUDENT NETWORK AISBL [BE](#)
- A WORLD OF NEIGHBOURS STICHTING [NL](#)
- ASOCIATIA INSTITUTUL AUSCHWITZ PENTRU PREVENIREA GENOCIDULUI SI A ATROCITATILOR IN MASA-AUSCHWITZ INSTITUTE FOR THE PREVENTION OF GENOCIDE AND MASS ATROCITIES ASSOCIATION [RO](#)
- RAOUL WALLENBERG INSTITUTET FOR MANSKIGA RATTIGHETER OCH HUMANITAR RATT STIFTELSEN [SE](#)

CORDIS factsheet

cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101289062

EU contribution

EUR 3 479 441

Keywords

polarisation, radicalisation, dialogue, youth resilience, democratic resilience

Identifying and countering online misogyny

Misogyny is often reproduced online through subtle, aestheticised visual forms. The FEMVision project aims to better map this problem by focusing on mainstream digital environments frequented by young Europeans. It will examine how algorithmic feeds and private or semi-private interactions may contribute to the normalisation of gender inequality. By combining AI-driven methods with digital ethnography and qualitative research, the project seeks to better understand the contexts and practices in which such content emerges and circulates. Its main outputs include guidelines for policymakers, an innovative educational toolkit and games to support the prevention of indirect forms of hate, as well as an AI conversational companion to help boost critical reflection.

FEMVision

Fighting Everyday Misogyny in Visual Online Cultures

Project dates

1 October 2026 – 30 September 2029

Consortium

- UNIVERSITA' DEGLI STUDI DI URBINO CARLO BO [IT](#)
- IT-UNIVERSITETET I KOBENHAVN [DK](#)
- TALLINN UNIVERSITY [EE](#)
- UPPSALA UNIVERSITET [SE](#)
- UNIVERSITAET SIEGEN [DE](#)
- UNIVERZA V LJUBLJANI [SI](#)
- FONDAZIONE GIANGIACOMO FELTRINELLI [IT](#)
- STICHTING ARE WE EUROPE [NL](#)

CORDIS factsheet

cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101289333

EU contribution

EUR 3 370 943

Keywords

misogyny, gender equality, social media, education, radicalisation



Preventing the spread of covert hate speech

Hate speech is evolving in increasingly covert forms, but it is no less harmful. In this context, the PROCLAIM project addresses the invisible threat of covert hate speech (CHS). Unlike overt hate speech, CHS embeds exclusionary narratives within seemingly neutral language protected under freedom of expression, enabling extremist ideologies and inciting violence. It contributes to polarisation and radicalisation while bypassing EU regulatory frameworks and spreading rapidly through AI technologies. Without decisive action, CHS risks undermining democratic values and eroding public trust. PROCLAIM is developing the first European interdisciplinary strategy to detect and counter covert hate speech. Its consortium brings together expertise in political theory, law, AI, psychology and dissemination to deliver innovative tools, policy solutions and safer digital spaces.

PROCLAIM

Polarization, Radicalization and extremism Online – identifying Covert hate speech in state-of-the-art Artificial Intelligence technologies and social Media

Project dates

1 October 2026 – 30 September 2029

Consortium

- TILBURG UNIVERSITY- UNIVERSITEIT VAN TILBURG [NL](#)
- UNIVERSITAT DE LES ILLES BALEARS [ES](#)
- HELSINGIN YLIOPISTO [FI](#)
- STICHTING VU [NL](#)
- QUEEN MARY UNIVERSITY OF LONDON [UK](#)
- UNIVERSITATEA BABES BOLYAI [RO](#)
- SWANSEA UNIVERSITY [UK](#)
- STICHTING INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR COUNTER-TERRORISM [NL](#)
- DE KIESMANNEN B.V. [NL](#)
- STICHTING NEDERLANDS HELSINKI COMITE [NL](#)

CORDIS factsheet

cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101286537

EU contribution

EUR 3 499 882

Keywords

hate speech, polarisation, radicalisation, AI, social media



Topic HORIZON-CL2-2025-01-DEMOCRACY-06

Towards a European research hub on contemporary antisemitism and Jewish life and culture

Generations after the end of the Shoah, antisemitism is worryingly on the rise, in Europe and beyond. In 2021, the European Commission adopted the first-ever EU strategy on combating antisemitism and fostering Jewish life.

This call aims to establish a durable, Europe-wide research hub dedicated to contemporary antisemitism and Jewish life, supporting the implementation of the EU strategy on combating antisemitism and fostering Jewish life.

It will provide a sustained space for academic exchange, training and career development, particularly for early-career researchers, and help recruit, train and retain expert capacity in the field.

Ultimately, the hub will deepen links between research and policymaking within and for Jewish communities, ensuring that evidence-based insights inform policies that nurture Jewish life and counter contemporary antisemitism, strengthening Europe's leadership in this critical research domain.



Combating antisemitism and improving Jewish life in Europe

Antisemitism remains a persistent challenge across Europe, while research on Jewish life and antisemitism is often fragmented and insufficiently connected to policy and practice. The NERON project establishes a resilient, multidisciplinary and methodologically robust European research network to support evidence-based policymaking and the EU strategy on combating antisemitism and fostering Jewish life (2021–2030). Through mapping and networking, co-creation workshops, reporting and other activities, the project will identify research gaps, strengthen methodological standards and enhance links between research and policy. It will also explore pathways for institutionalising the field and develop a strategic plan for a sustainable European research hub. Ultimately, it seeks to promote a research ecosystem that supports Jewish life and combats antisemitism across Europe.

NERON

Network for European Research ON Jewish life and antisemitism

Project dates

1 October 2026 – 30 September 2029

Consortium

- EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY INSTITUTE 
- THE INSTITUTE FOR JEWISH POLICY RESEARCH 

CORDIS factsheet

cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101287234

EU contribution

EUR 3 437 216

Keywords

Jewish identity, Jewish experience, antisemitism, discourse



Topic HORIZON-CL2-2025-01-DEMOCRACY-07

The autocratic appeal: nature, drivers and strategies

In many parts of the world, democracies are under attack. This call aims to deepen Europe's understanding of the rising appeal of autocratic politics, examining the social, political, economic and cultural drivers that shape citizens' attraction to authoritarianism. Projects funded under the call seek to analyse the mechanisms through which autocratic tendencies emerge, spread and consolidate, identifying the conditions that make individuals or groups receptive to anti-democratic messaging.

This research will generate robust evidence of how autocratic actors operate within democratic systems, including their communication strategies, mobilisation techniques, and exploitation of grievances, inequalities or identity-based tensions. The three projects are also investigating how external autocratic regimes influence public opinion, political behaviour and democratic resilience within the EU.

Autocratic appeal across Member States and regions will be mapped, recognising variations in political culture, institutional trust, media ecosystems and socio-economic conditions. The projects funded under this call topic are exploring the role of digital technologies, social media platforms and algorithmic amplification in shaping exposure to autocratic narratives, and how these interact with political dynamics offline. They are also analysing how polarisation, disinformation, foreign interference and declining trust in democratic institutions create openings for autocratic actors, and assessing the vulnerabilities within democratic systems that enable such influence.

To counter autocratic appeal, these projects will examine the strategies used by democratic actors, civil society and institutions, identifying effective approaches to strengthen democratic participation, civic engagement and trust. This includes analysing communication practices, education initiatives, community-level interventions and policy tools that reinforce democratic values and resilience, and drawing lessons from comparative regions experiencing similar trends.

Their findings will provide EU and national policymakers with actionable insights, evidence-based recommendations and strategic guidance for understanding and countering the growing appeal of autocratic politics. By clarifying the drivers, mechanisms and impacts of authoritarian influence, funded projects will support efforts to safeguard democratic governance, strengthen societal resilience and uphold fundamental rights across Europe.



Countering autocratic appeal in contemporary democracies

Democracy is increasingly under pressure across the European Union and globally. At the centre of this trend lies autocratic appeal, which is the capacity of authoritarian projects to resonate with citizens. Because its drivers remain poorly understood, the DeAppeal project develops an interdisciplinary framework to explain why autocratic configurations gain traction and how democratic appeal can be strengthened. Using an assemblage approach, it will analyse how affective, discursive and material factors interact across the domains of gender, youth, everyday life, institutions and transnational spaces. By combining large-scale quantitative analysis with mixed-methods case studies, it will also closely examine digital authoritarianism and resistance. DeAppeal aims to advance theoretical models and co-create interventions with citizens, activists, educators, journalists and policymakers.

DeAppeal

Deconstruct and Resist Autocratic Appeal to Reinstantiate Democracy

Project dates

1 October 2026 – 30 September 2029

Consortium

- CENTRO DE ESTUDOS SOCIAIS [PT](#)
- INSTITUTE OF DEVELOPMENT STUDIES [UK](#)
- UNIVERSIDAD DE LA IGLESIA DE DEUSTO ENTIDAD RELIGIOSA [ES](#)
- HELSINGIN YLIOPISTO [FI](#)
- UNIVERSIDAD POMPEU FABRA [ES](#)
- INTERNATIONAL PSYCHOANALYTIC UNIVERSITY BERLIN GMBH [DE](#)
- UNIWERSYTET WARSZAWSKI [PL](#)
- STICHTING HIVOS (HUMANISTISCH INSTITUUT VOOR ONTWIKKELINGS SAMENWERKING) [NL](#)
- ASOCIATIA MEDIAMISE SOCIETY [RO](#)
- ISTANBUL POLITIK ARASTIRMALAR DERNEGI [TR](#)

Partner

- CENTRO BRASILEIRO DE ANÁLISE E PLANEJAMENTO [BR](#)

CORDIS factsheet

cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101289057

EU contribution

EUR 3 642 637

Keywords

autocracy, democratic resilience, digital authoritarianism, human rights



Strengthening democracy through trust and participation

Democratic institutions are facing growing social, economic and information pressures that can undermine trust, inclusion and public participation. The RADAR project helps institutions, communities and stakeholders face these challenges by strengthening democracy and advancing fundamental rights. Combining interdisciplinary research with practical action, the project will build a comparative knowledge base and test how different public messages are received. It will also develop a digital tool to help users evaluate problematic online narratives and produce practical resources for civil society organisations, journalists, educators and public authorities. It will also support peer-learning exchanges, mentoring, training and policy engagement. Through these activities, RADAR will translate research into actionable solutions that improve the quality of public information and promote informed participation.



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RADAR

Reclaiming Democracy Advancing Rights

Project dates

1 September 2026 – 31 August 2029

Consortium

- THE LISBON COUNCIL FOR ECONOMIC COMPETITIVENESS ASBL [BE](#)
- SCUOLA NORMALE SUPERIORE [IT](#)
- UNIWERSYTET GDANSKI [PL](#)
- ARISTOTELIO PANEPISTIMIO THESSALONIKIS [EL](#)
- KOC UNIVERSITY [TR](#)
- ELTE TARSADALOMTUDOMANYI KUTATOKOZPONT [HU](#)
- VRIJE UNIVERSITEIT BRUSSEL [BE](#)
- NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF IRELAND MAYNOOTH [IE](#)
- UNIVERSITÄT KONSTANZ [DE](#)
- PERFORMANCE TECHNOLOGIES ANONYMOS ETAIRIA PLIROFORIKIS [EL](#)
- MELITEK EOOD [BG](#)
- INNOB O.E. [EL](#)
- FUNDACIO ULEX [ES](#)
- CITIZEN CROSSROADS [EL](#)
- FUNDACJA ZATOKA [PL](#)
- TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL EV [DE](#)
- PAGKOSMIO KENTRO EREVNAS KAI KAINOTOMIAS STIN PSIFIKI EPIKOINONIA ASTIKI MI KERDOSKOPIKI ETAIREIA [EL](#)

CORDIS factsheet

cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101290722

EU contribution

EUR 3 498 240

Keywords

democratic resilience, digital authoritarianism, autocracy, civic society

Resisting globally interconnected authoritarianism

Authoritarianism is gaining ground worldwide, threatening democratic institutions, rights and freedoms through processes that are both contextually specific and globally interconnected. In this context, the RESISTANCE project is developing a novel 'interscalar' framework to explain how authoritarian networks and coalitions work across local, national and transnational scales, and how they can be resisted. Combining insights from political science and human geography, the project will investigate diverse manifestations of authoritarianism, including executive aggrandisement, digital authoritarianism and anti-gender politics. Through innovative site-based research in Europe and beyond, the project aims to generate new evidence and practical tools, including an early warning system, a democracy defence playbook and a global stakeholder network to help policymakers, journalists and civil society strengthen democratic resilience.

RESISTANCE

Resisting InterScalar Authoritarian Networks and Coalitions

Project dates

1 September 2026 – 31 August 2029

Consortium

- THE UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM [UK](#)
- EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY INSTITUTE [IT](#)
- UNIVERSITE LIBRE DE BRUXELLES [BE](#)
- UNIVERZITA MATEJA BELA V BANSKEJ BYSTRICI [SK](#)
- UNIVERSITEIT VAN AMSTERDAM [NL](#)
- UNIVERZITET U BEOGRADU – FAKULTET POLITIČKIH NAUKA [RS](#)
- UNIVERSITA DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO [IT](#)
- WISSENSCHAFTSZENTRUM BERLIN FÜR SOZIALFORSCHUNG GGMH [DE](#)
- FUNDACJA IM. STEFANA BATOREGO [PL](#)
- BALKANSKA ISTRAŽIVACKA MREŽA [RS](#)
- CARNEGIE EUROPE FOUNDATION [BE](#)
- EUROPEAN PARTNERSHIP FOR DEMOCRACY [BE](#)
- NADACE FORUM 2000 [CZ](#)

CORDIS factsheet

cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101286676

EU contribution

EUR 3 472 891

Keywords

authoritarianism, democratic resilience, digital authoritarianism, anti-gender politics



Topic HORIZON-CL2-2025-01-DEMOCRACY-08

Economic inequalities and their impact on democracy

Economic inequalities pose a significant challenge to democratic societies. Over recent decades, inequality has risen in numerous countries as economic growth has not been evenly distributed, exacerbating political polarisation and fuelling distrust in democratic institutions worldwide.

The three projects funded under this call topic aim to generate a comprehensive understanding of how economic inequalities affect democratic participation, trust, governance and institutional legitimacy across Europe. The projects will analyse the multiple dimensions of inequality: income, wealth, regional disparities, labour market segmentation and access to services, and assess how these shape citizens' perceptions of democracy, political efficacy and social cohesion.

A core ambition of the call topic is to provide policymakers with robust evidence of how inequalities contribute to political disengagement, polarisation, support for anti-democratic actors, and declining trust in public institutions.

The projects will examine the historical evolution of inequalities in Europe, identifying structural drivers such as technological change, globalisation, industrial transitions, regional development and demographic shifts. Projects are expected to analyse how inequalities intersect with gender, age, ethnicity, disability and migration status, and how these intersections influence democratic participation and representation.

This work will shed light on how economic insecurity affects citizens' attitudes towards democratic institutions, public policies and redistribution, and how perceptions of unfairness or exclusion shape political behaviour. The role of the media, political discourse and digital platforms in amplifying narratives around inequality will be analysed, as will how these actors influence democratic engagement. Projects will also assess the effectiveness of existing policy tools aimed at reducing inequalities and strengthening democratic resilience.

The results will equip EU and national decision-makers with evidence-based recommendations to address the democratic consequences of economic inequalities. By clarifying the mechanisms through which inequalities erode trust, participation and institutional legitimacy, funded projects will support the design of policies that promote fairness, inclusion and democratic stability across Europe.



From inequality to democratic support in Europe

Rising economic inequalities create tensions and affect how citizens perceive fairness and political legitimacy in Europe. In this context, the EDGE project will examine how inequalities shape democratic support across Europe. It seeks to develop an interdisciplinary framework linking inequality, resentment and democratic attitudes, revealing ways in which resentment towards political elites can fuel support towards powerful executives at the expense of justice and transparency. Combining empirical methods with policy-oriented research, the project integrates surveys, experiments, media analysis, satellite data and participatory town halls to measure inequalities in a comparative way. Its policy ambition is to design, test and disseminate interventions sensitive to structural and identity-based inequalities, developing actionable tools for policymakers and civil society.

EDGE

Enhancing Democratic Support under Conditions of Geographic and Intersectional Inequalities in Europe

Project dates

1 October 2026 – 30 September 2029

Consortium

- GESIS-LEIBNIZ-INSTITUT FÜR SOZIALWISSENSCHAFTEN EV [DE](#)
- KING'S COLLEGE LONDON [UK](#)
- ARISTOTELIO PANEPISTIMIO THESSALONIKIS [EL](#)
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- UNIVERSITEIT VAN AMSTERDAM [NL](#)
- COPENHAGEN BUSINESS SCHOOL [DK](#)
- STIMMULI FOR SOCIAL CHANGE O.E. [EL](#)
- MOUVEMENT EUROPEEN [BE](#)
- AALBORG UNIVERSITET [DK](#)

CORDIS factsheet

cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101287185

EU contribution

EUR 3 499 608

Keywords

economic inequality, democracy, geography, intersectionality, data science



Reducing inequality to strengthen democratic trust

Inequality and democracy are deeply interconnected, yet a lot remains to be known about the actual mechanisms linking them. The INDEMTRUST project explores how different dimensions of inequality interact and how they shape democratic legitimacy, focusing particularly on experiences in the workplace. Combining economic agent-based modelling with inclusive, participatory action research and mutual learning labs, the project aims to generate new evidence while involving citizens and stakeholders in the co-creation of policy solutions. Overall, the INDEMTRUST project aims to deliver practical insights to strengthen democracy in an era of growing social and economic divides.



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INDEMTRUST

INEQUALITY AND DEMOCRACY IN EUROPE: TRUST, PARTICIPATION, AND RESILIENCE

Project dates

1 October 2026 – 30 September 2029

Consortium

- CEU GMBH [AT](#)
- UNIVERSITA POLITECNICA DELLE MARCHE [IT](#)
- STREDOEUROPSKY INSTITUT PRE VYSKUM PRACE [SK](#)
- MASARYKOVA UNIVERZITA [CZ](#)
- OREBRO UNIVERSITY [SE](#)
- FRAUNHOFER GESELLSCHAFT ZUR FORDERUNG DER ANGEWANDTEN FORSCHUNG EV [DE](#)
- LISER - LUXEMBOURG INSTITUTE OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC RESEARCH [LU](#)
- UNIVERSITA DEGLI STUDI DI ROMA LA SAPIENZA [IT](#)

Partners

- MARIE JAHODA - OTTO BAUER INSTITUT [AT](#)
- NEXT NUOVA ECONOMIA PER TUTTI [IT](#)
- SCUOLA DI ECONOMIA CIVILE SRL [IT](#)
- GLOPOLIS OPS [CZ](#)
- FONDAZIONE LELIO E LISLI BASSO-ETS [IT](#)
- FOUNDATION FOR EUROPEAN PROGRESSIVE STUDIES [BE](#)
- OSTERREICHISCHER GEWERKSCHAFTSBUND [AT](#)
- DR.-KARL-RENNER-INSTITUT KÄRNTEN [AT](#)
- INITIATIVE MINDERHEITEN VEREIN ZURFORDERUNG DES ZUSAMMENLEBENS VON MINDERHEITEN UND MEHRHEITEN BZW KURZINITIATIVE MINDERHEITEN [AT](#)

CORDIS factsheet

cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101289817

EU contribution

EUR 3 468 816

Keywords

inequality, democratic resilience, marginalised groups, trust

Mapping territorial inequalities and democratic disengagement in Europe

Despite apparent convergence in national indicators, inequalities within European countries are widening, institutional trust is declining, and many territories experience perceptions of neglect and invisibility. The JUSTPLACE project investigates how democratic disaffection emerges at the intersection of individual and territorial disadvantage, while examining how a people-in-places approach can help renew democratic resilience. Through comparative research, participatory experimentation using the Democracy Studios initiative established across seven pilot regions, and policy innovation activities, the project will gather evidence and real-world insights over a 36-month period. The project will also develop new tools, including a multilevel database, an interactive atlas and a simulation model to analyse territorial inequalities and democratic dynamics.

JUSTPLACE

JUSTice and Participation through LocAlised and Citizen-centred Engagement - Redesigning democracy through people-in-places territorial strategies.

Project dates

1 September 2026 – 31 August 2029

Consortium

- INSTITUT D'ECONOMIE SCIENTIFIQUE ET DE GESTION [FR](#)
- POLITECNICO DI MILANO [IT](#)
- UNIVERSITATEA ALEXANDRU IOAN CUZA DIN IASI [RO](#)
- LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND POLITICAL SCIENCE [UK](#)
- PARIS-LODRON-UNIVERSITAT SALZBURG [AT](#)
- EREVNITIKO PANEPISTIMIAKO INSTITOUTO PERIFERIAKIS ANAPTIXIS [EL](#)
- UNIWERSYTET WARSZAWSKI [PL](#)
- PANEPISTIMIO THESSALIAS [EL](#)
- WHITE RESEARCH SRL [BE](#)
- RIJKSUNIVERSITEIT GRONINGEN [NL](#)
- UNIVERSITAT DE BARCELONA [ES](#)
- EKONOMICKA UNIVERZITA V BRATISLAVE [SK](#)
- ASSOCIATION EUROPEENNE DES AGENCES DE DEVELOPPEMENT [BE](#)
- FORUM CIVIQUE EUROPEEN [FR](#)

Partner

- ECOLE DE MANAGEMENT DE NORMANDIE [FR](#)

CORDIS factsheet

cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101286505

EU contribution

EUR 3 489 114

Keywords

inequality, territorial justice, trust, regions



Topic HORIZON-CL2-2025-01-DEMOCRACY-09

Fighting against disinformation while ensuring the right to freedom of expression

Freedom of expression is a fundamental human right that involves the right to hold and express one's opinions, as well as the right to receive and impart information and ideas. Yet in an unmoderated information space, mis- and disinformation campaigns can thwart political and societal responses to external challenges such as climate change, public health and migration.

This call topic aims to strengthen Europe's ability to counter disinformation while safeguarding the fundamental right to freedom of expression. The three projects funded under this call are analysing the complex relationship between disinformation, democratic debate, media ecosystems and regulatory frameworks, providing policymakers with evidence-based tools to address harmful content without undermining civil liberties.

The projects will clarify how disinformation spreads across digital and traditional media, how it interacts with political polarisation, and how regulatory or technological interventions can be designed to respect freedom of expression.

They will examine the effectiveness and proportionality of existing measures to counter disinformation, including content moderation, fact-checking, media literacy initiatives, and legal frameworks, and analyse how these measures impact democratic participation, journalistic freedom, minority voices and public trust.

The role of emerging technologies – including artificial intelligence, recommendation algorithms and automated content moderation – in both amplifying and mitigating disinformation will be investigated. The projects will assess risks such as algorithmic bias and unintended censorship, and propose approaches that enhance transparency, accountability and user empowerment.

A foundation of strong evidence is crucial to balance effective disinformation mitigation with robust protection of freedom of expression. By clarifying the legal, technological and societal dimensions of this balance, funded projects will support the development of policies that defend democratic debate, uphold fundamental rights and strengthen resilience against manipulation.



Discerning disinformation and democratic debate

Balancing freedom of expression with efforts to counter disinformation remains a key democratic challenge, raising fundamental questions about how disagreement is institutionally and technologically mediated. The ANTIGONE project hypothesises that online antagonism often arises not from extremist views alone but from the systems that shape and amplify political expression. It develops theoretical and practical tools to distinguish harmful disinformation from legitimate democratic contestation and to support digital environments that enable agonism or disagreement without exclusion. Combining interdisciplinary research and human-AI methods, the project examines ‘grey zones’ of online speech, including climate denial, identity-based violence and extremism. It also co-develops AI-assisted tools, governance frameworks and policy guidance to support democratic digital ecosystems that accommodate contestation without escalating conflict.

ANTIGONE

from ANTagonism to aGOnism iN digital Ecosystems

Project dates

1 June 2026 – 31 May 2029

Consortium

- VRIJE UNIVERSITEIT BRUSSEL [BE](#)
- EU DISINFOLAB [BE](#)
- QUEEN MARY UNIVERSITY OF LONDON [UK](#)
- THE UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD [UK](#)
- ETHNIKO KENTRO EREVNAS KAI TECHNOLOGIKIS ANAPTYXIS [EL](#)
- EUROPEAN FACT CHECKING STANDARDS NETWORK [FR](#)
- AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE [FR](#)
- UNIVERSITEIT VAN AMSTERDAM [NL](#)
- INSTITUTE FOR STRATEGIC DIALOGUE GGMBH [DE](#)

Third party

- MEDIACONNECT [FR](#)

CORDIS factsheet

cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101287848

EU contribution

EUR 3 477 085

Keywords

freedom of expression, disinformation, digital media, AI, OSINT



Mapping the evolving mis/disinformation ecosystem

Online information ecosystems are becoming increasingly complex, shaped by rapid technological change and evolving manipulation tactics such as AI-driven astroturfing and political gaslighting. The COMPASS project seeks to map the mis/disinformation landscape using a temporal trichotomy framework across past, present and future contexts. It will also examine the underexplored 'paraplatform' environment and actor motivations opposing regulatory and societal countermeasures, while assessing the impact of EU regulatory tools in identifying gaps and improving vulnerabilities. These empirical foundations will support a robust co-creation process involving policymakers, media and civil society organisations, resulting in a suite of empowerment toolkits, crisis communication protocols and evidence-based policy guidelines.

COMPASS

Countering Manipulation while Preserving Authentic Speech and Society

Project dates

1 September 2026 – 31 August 2029

Consortium

- TALLINN UNIVERSITY [EE](#)
- KING'S COLLEGE LONDON [UK](#)
- AVOIN YHTEISKUNTA RY [FI](#)
- UNIVERSITÄT DUISBURG-ESSEN [DE](#)
- UNIVERSITÄT INNSBRUCK [AT](#)
- NEWS MEDIA EUROPE [BE](#)
- REICHMAN UNIVERSITY [IL](#)
- STICHTING THE TACTICAL TECHNOLOGY COLLECTIVE (TTC) [NL](#)

CORDIS factsheet

cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101287085

EU contribution

EUR 3 497 622

Keywords

propaganda, AI, regulatory governance, paraplatforms



Building policymakers' capacity to recognise and counter disinformation

Online disinformation is eroding trust in institutions and threatening democratic integrity, so cultivating resilience against disinformation should be placed at the first line of policymaking defence. While the EU has advanced digital regulation, its effectiveness is uncertain, highlighting the need for more proactive approaches to create lasting resistance. In this context, the Polinoculate project will develop CounterCoach, a freely accessible, AI-powered tool that uses psychological inoculation techniques to help policy stakeholders recognise, resist and counter information manipulation while safeguarding freedom of expression. Through interdisciplinary research, co-developed cognitive and digital tools, educational resources and evidence-based policy recommendations, the project will strengthen policymakers' capacity to counter disinformation and help safeguard democratic values in Europe.

Polinoculate

Inoculating and coaching policymakers to resist disinformation

Project dates

1 September 2026 – 31 August 2029

Consortium

- TURUN YLIOPISTO [FI](#)
- THE UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD [UK](#)
- UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL [UK](#)
- UNIVERSITÄT PASSAU [DE](#)
- EÖTVÖS LORÁND
TUDOMÁNYEGYETEM [HU](#)
- GLOBSEC [SK](#)

CORDIS factsheet

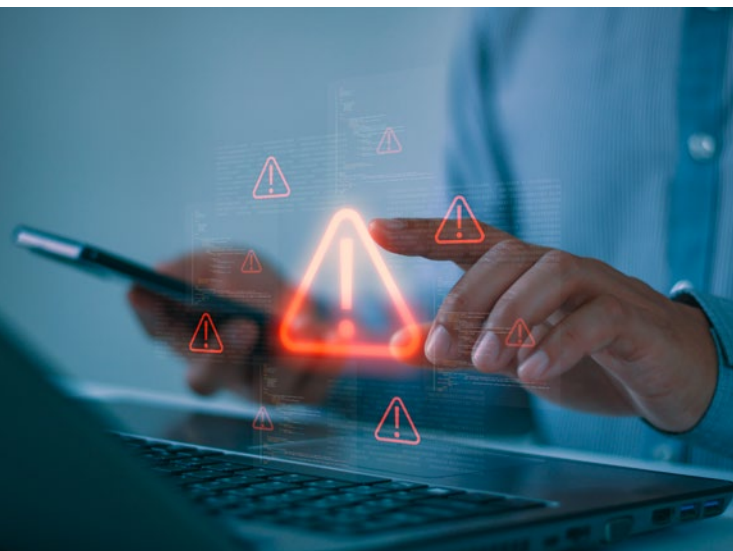
cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101288495

EU contribution

EUR 3 491 045

Keywords

freedom of expression, disinformation, democratic resilience, psychological inoculation, media



Topic HORIZON-CL2-2025-01-DEMOCRACY-10

The role of civic and citizenship education for strengthening civic and democratic participation and support for common European values

Amid growing social concerns and political polarisation, and the sometimes insufficient engagement of young people in democratic life, Europe needs effective educational and training tools to strengthen civic engagement and democratic participation.

This call topic aims to bolster civic and citizenship education as a foundation for democratic participation, trust in institutions, and support for common European values. The three projects funded under this call topic seek to understand how educational systems, learning environments and pedagogical approaches shape citizens' understanding of democracy, rights, responsibilities and civic engagement.

By providing policymakers with evidence-based tools to enhance civic education across Member States, the projects will ensure that young people and adults alike can develop the skills, knowledge and motivation needed for active democratic participation.

This research will examine existing civic education practices across Europe, identifying strengths, gaps and disparities in access, quality and effectiveness. It will analyse how civic education interacts with social, cultural and economic contexts, and how it can address challenges such as polarisation, disinformation, declining trust and democratic disengagement.

These projects explore innovative pedagogical approaches, including experiential learning, digital tools, community-based initiatives and cross-border exchanges. They will also investigate how civic education can support a greater understanding of EU values, institutions and decision-making processes, and how it can empower citizens to engage constructively at local, national and European levels.

Through analysis of the role of teachers, schools, universities, civil society organisations and informal learning environments, the work will shed light on how to deliver effective civic education.

The work will equip EU and national authorities with the tools and guidance needed to strengthen civic and citizenship education as a cornerstone of democratic resilience. By clarifying what works, for whom and under what conditions, funded projects will support the development of inclusive, effective and future-ready civic education systems that reinforce democratic participation and shared European values.



Building trust through youth participation and democratic innovation

Pressing societal challenges require more inclusive and participatory approaches to democratic decision-making. The CITADEL project addresses this need by empowering young people (15–29), educators and policymakers to co-create innovative policy solutions through regional policy labs. Bringing together youth and local stakeholders, the project strengthens civic participation, civic education, democratic competences and political agency while promoting the inclusion of marginalised groups. By combining formal and non-formal learning, citizen science and participatory governance, the project aims to pilot democratic innovations in real-world settings. Using a structured and evidence-based approach adapted to local contexts and needs, CITADEL aims to build more resilient, participatory and trusted democratic systems, ultimately strengthening public trust in institutions.

CITADEL

CITizenship And Democracy through policy Labs: Inclusive Transitions for Participation, Trust and Fair Governance

Project dates

1 September 2026 – 31 August 2029

Consortium

- UC LIMBURG [BE](#)
- VEREIN DER EUROPAISCHEN BURGWEISSENSCHAFTEN - ECSA EV [DE](#)
- THE HUB NICOSIA LTD [CY](#)
- VIDZEMES AUGSTSKOLA [LV](#)
- NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR STATISTICS [RO](#)
- ACADEMIA DE STUDII ECONOMICE DIN BUCURESTI [RO](#)
- CESU NOVADA PASVALDIBA [LV](#)
- ARADIPPOU MUNICIPALITY [CY](#)
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Partners

- MAGYAR AGRAR- ES ELETUDOMANYI EGYETEM [HU](#)
- UNIVERSITATEA LUCIAN BLAGA DIN SIBIU [RO](#)
- KESZTHELY VÁROS ÖNKORMÁNYZATA [HU](#)

CORDIS factsheet

cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101289021

EU contribution

EUR 4 319 893

Keywords

citizenship, democracy, policy labs, civic education, inclusion



Participatory theatre for inclusive citizenship education

Climate change, digital transformation and geopolitical instability are increasing the need for more inclusive citizenship education. In this context, the CIVIC STAGE project explores how participatory theatre, combined with formal and non-formal learning and gamified digital practices, can strengthen young people's civic engagement and awareness of European values. The project will develop and pilot innovative participatory theatre methods, with an emphasis on marginalised groups, enabling young people to co-create narratives around societal challenges and democracy. Through a mixed-methods and co-creative approach involving educators, artists and policymakers, the project will assess the impact of experiential learning. Key outputs will include training sessions to promote engagement across 11 countries, eight training modules and policy recommendations to support scalability and long-term impact.



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CIVIC STAGE

Citizenship-, Identity-, European Values-, Inclusion-, and Community development through Societal Participatory Theatre Activities in a Global Europe

Project dates

1 October 2026 – 30 September 2029

Consortium

- HOGSKULEN PA VESTLANDET [NO](#)
- THE PROVOST, FELLOWS, FOUNDATION SCHOLARS & THE OTHER MEMBERS OF BOARD, OF THE COLLEGE OF THE HOLY & UNDIVIDED TRINITY OF QUEEN ELIZABETH NEAR DUBLIN [IE](#)
- THE UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND [NZ](#)
- ROYAL HOLLOWAY AND BEDFORD NEW COLLEGE [UK](#)
- IDEA ASSOCIACAO INTERNACIONAL DE TEATRO EDUCACAO [PT](#)
- PANELLINIO DIKTYO GIA TO THEATRO STIN EKPAIDEFSI [EL](#)
- CITOYENNETE JEUNESSE EN SEINE-SAINT-DENIS [FR](#)
- INSITE DRAMA OKTATASI, KULTURALIS ES SZOLGALTATO NONPROFIT KORLATOLT FELELOSSEGU TARSASAG [HU](#)
- PERIFEREIAKI DIEFTHYNSI PROTOVATHMIAS KAI DEFTEROVATHMIAS EKPAIDEFSIS PELOPONNISSOU [EL](#)
- OSRODEK ROZWOJU EDUKACJI [PL](#)

CORDIS factsheet

cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101288029

EU contribution

EUR 3 500 000

Keywords

civic education, theatre, European values, pedagogical tools

Embedding democratic pedagogy in education

Gaps in citizenship education and democratic participation among disadvantaged young people require new approaches embedding democracy in everyday learning. In this context, the DEMOCREATE project seeks to transform secondary, vocational, higher and non-formal education settings into spaces where democracy is not simply abstract knowledge but experienced in practice, across five European countries. Building on the validated Community-Led Research and Action methodology, the project enables students, educators and community partners to co-create democratic learning through participatory research and collective action. By engaging educational institutions and local communities, the project seeks to strengthen civic competences, democratic culture and institutional capacity while generating evidence-based tools, curricula and policy recommendations to support the long-term integration of democratic pedagogy across European education systems.



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DEMOCREATE

Transforming European Democracy Education Through Community-Led Research and Action

Project dates

1 October 2026 – 30 September 2029

Consortium

- COVENTRY UNIVERSITY [UK](#)
- ACADEMICA UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES BV [NL](#)
- STICHTING HOGER BEROEPSONDERWIJS HAAGLANDEN [NL](#)
- MESTENHAUSER INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION, Z. Ú. [CZ](#)
- TAMPEREEN AMMATTIKORKEAKOULU OY [FI](#)
- KNOWLEDGE INNOVATION CENTRE (MALTA) LIMITED [MT](#)
- UNIWERSYTET LODZKI [PL](#)
- GHETTO FOUNDATION [KE](#)
- NARODNI AKREDITACNI URAD PRO TERCARNI VZDELAVANI [CZ](#)
- EUROPEAN FORUM OF TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING [BE](#)
- THE CIVICS INNOVATION HUB GGBH [DE](#)
- STICHTING MOVISIE [NL](#)

Third parties

- PEOPLESFUTURE LIMITED [UK](#)
- CU ACADEMIC SERVICES LIMITED [UK](#)

CORDIS factsheet

cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101288155

EU contribution

EUR 3 498 121

Keywords

community-led research, citizenship, mixed methods, professional learning communities

Topic HORIZON-CL2-2025-01-DEMOCRACY-11

Independence of the judiciary as an aspect of rule of law compliance

A deeper understanding of judicial independence is crucial to supporting the EU's capacity to proactively promote rule of law, fundamental human rights and democracy.

This call aims to support rule of law compliance and democratic governance through analysis of the conditions, mechanisms and institutional safeguards that ensure an independent judiciary.

The three projects funded under this call topic examine how political, social, economic and technological pressures affect judicial autonomy across Member States. The work will provide policymakers with robust evidence of how judicial independence contributes to democratic stability, public trust, accountability and effective protection of fundamental rights.

This research examines variations in judicial independence across Europe, identifying structural vulnerabilities, emerging risks and best practices. It analyses how political interference, institutional design, resource constraints, media pressure, public opinion and digital technologies influence judicial functioning. It also explores how judicial independence interacts with broader rule of law principles, including separation of powers, checks and balances, transparency and accountability.

The work is expected to investigate how judicial independence is supported or challenged by EU and national rule of law mechanisms such as monitoring frameworks, conditionality tools, peer review processes and judicial cooperation. It analyses the role of judicial councils, professional associations, training institutions and civil society organisations in safeguarding autonomy and integrity.

Projects will also assess how digitalisation of justice systems affects independence, including opportunities for efficiency and risks related to algorithmic decision-making, data governance and cybersecurity.

Collectively, this work will strengthen judicial independence as a cornerstone of democratic governance. By clarifying the drivers, risks and impacts of judicial autonomy, funded projects will support the development of policies and institutional reforms that reinforce rule of law compliance, protect fundamental rights and enhance trust in justice systems across Europe.



New insights into open justice, privacy and judicial behaviour

Open justice is a fundamental principle of democratic governance. Across the European Union, however, courts often anonymise litigants' names. This practice is usually framed as a trade-off between privacy and transparency. The Incognito Justice project challenges this view by examining how judicial anonymisation affects independence, accountability, consistency and public trust. Combining comparative legal analysis, computational methods and behavioural experiments among the public, judiciaries and media, it investigates whether anonymity protects judges from external pressures or, by reducing scrutiny, allows bias to influence decisions. As the first comprehensive interdisciplinary assessment of judicial anonymisation, the project will provide evidence to inform European policy while deepening understanding of a procedural practice with significant implications for the rule of law.

Incognito Justice

How Party Anonymity Impacts Judicial Independence and the Rule of Law

Project dates

1 September 2026 – 31 August 2029

Consortium

- THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM [IL](#)
- RHEINISCHE FRIEDRICH-WILHELMS-UNIVERSITÄT BONN [DE](#)
- ÉCOLE POLYTECHNIQUE [FR](#)
- THE CHANCELLOR, MASTERS AND SCHOLARS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD [UK](#)
- INSTITUTUL DE CERCETARI PENTRU INTELIGENTIA ARTIFICIALA [RO](#)
- ACCESS INFO EUROPE [ES](#)
- UNIwersytet warszawski [PL](#)
- FUNDATIA CENTRUL DE RESURSE JURIDICE [RO](#)
- KENTRO EVROPAIKOU SYNTAGMATIKOU DIKAIO IDRYMA THEMISTOKLI KAI DIMITRI TSATSOU [EL](#)

CORDIS factsheet

cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101287401

EU contribution

EUR 3 499 786

Keywords

anonymisation, open justice, judicial independence, public trust, NLP



Innovative methods for monitoring judicial independence

Judicial independence is under pressure across Europe – not only from overt political interference but from informal practices, institutional cultures and everyday dynamics that existing, top-down monitoring tools cannot easily detect. The JUST-IN project is tackling this gap through an innovative bottom-up, mixed-methods approach combining legal analysis, socio-legal research, political science and AI-assisted data analysis methods. JUST-IN will establish the so-called Citizens' Observatories of Judicial Independence, engaging all stakeholders to examine how judicial independence is actually experienced on the ground. Their findings will power the Embedded Judicial Independence Tracker (EJIT), a multilingual digital platform integrating formal legal safeguards, national case law and citizen-generated evidence. An AI-assisted cross-citation tool will further strengthen transnational judicial cooperation while respecting the legal diversity of Member States.



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JUST-IN

JUSTICE-IN-CONTEXT: SOCIAL PRACTICES, LOCAL REALITIES, AND THE EVERYDAY WORK OF JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE IN EUROPE

Project dates

1 October 2026 – 30 September 2029

Consortium

- UNIVERSITAET BREMEN [DE](#)
- CSI CENTER FOR SOCIAL INNOVATION LTD [CY](#)
- UNIVERSITE PARIS XII VAL DE MARNE [FR](#)
- EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY INSTITUTE [IT](#)
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- INSTITUTE OF COMPARATIVE LAW [RS](#)
- ASSOCIATION DE RECHERCHE SUR L'ADMINISTRATION DE LA JUSTICE - JAR ASSOCIATION [FR](#)

CORDIS factsheet

cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101289801

EU contribution

EUR 3 378 256

Keywords

judicial independence, embeddedness, mixed methods, law and technology, AI

In-depth analysis of judicial independence in the EU

Judicial independence in the EU faces structural and cultural pressures that endanger its identity as a community of law. In several Member States, politicised appointments, selective disciplinary measures and unequal access to justice undermine court legitimacy and public trust. The Law in crisis project examines judicial independence not only as a constitutional principle but also as an institution rooted in Europe's diverse legal traditions. Combining comparative legal analysis with empirical indicators, it develops an interdisciplinary framework assessing how independence, impartiality and integrity work in practice. By integrating legal, cultural and societal dimensions, the project identifies blind spots in existing monitoring tools. Its main output – the Judicial Cultures Toolkit – supports institutional self-assessment and strengthens EU rule of law policy and judicial reform.

Law in crisis

Judicial Cultures of Independence and their meaning for the Rule of Law Compliance: Law in crisis

Project dates

1 September 2026 – 31 August 2029

Consortium

- RHEINISCHE FRIEDRICH-WILHELMS-UNIVERSITÄT BONN [DE](#)
- UNIVERSITÉ PARIS I PANTHEON-SORBONNE [FR](#)
- UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI MESSINA [IT](#)
- UNIVERSITÉ PARIS-PANTHEON-ASSAS [FR](#)
- UNIwersytet Warszawski [PL](#)
- REICHMAN UNIVERSITY [IL](#)

CORDIS factsheet

cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101289158

EU contribution

EUR 3 439 865

Keywords

law as culture, rule of law, crisis framework, legal belief, legal community



Topic HORIZON-CL2-2025-01-DEMOCRACY-12

Community of democracy practitioners and researchers

The aim of this call is to build a sustainable, Europe-wide community of democracy researchers and practitioners able to strengthen democratic governance, support evidence-based policymaking, and enhance societal resilience.

Through capacity-building and knowledge-exchange events such as conferences, workshops and training programmes, the funded work will foster collaboration between democracy-relevant actors including academics, policymakers, civil society organisations, public authorities, educators and journalists.

This will drive the development of policy briefs, guidance documents, monitoring tools and communication strategies that translate research findings into actionable recommendations for policymakers.

The creation of a coordinated community of researchers and practitioners with shared standards, tools and practices will enhance the Union's ability to respond to evolving governance challenges, reinforce democratic resilience, and support the long-term safeguarding of fundamental rights and inclusive citizenship across Europe.



A network of networks for European democratic innovation

Across Europe, democratic systems face increasing fragmentation and complexity, requiring new forms of coordination between practitioners, policymakers and researchers. The Nets4Dem project introduces a network-of-networks approach to building a connected European community of democracy experts. It seeks to bridge fragmented knowledge of democratic innovation and develop solutions and policy recommendations. By introducing participatory, deliberative network governance, it will enable members to co-decide on strategic priorities and respond rapidly to shifts in the political landscape. The network will operate primarily through needs-based, agile and member-driven working groups. The consortium will span 200 cities, 75 national governments, 50 universities and think tanks and 400 civil society organisations, supporting a flexible, Europe-wide democratic infrastructure.

Nets4Dem

Network of Networks for Democracy

Project dates

1 July 2026 – 30 June 2029

Consortium

- DEMOCRACY REPORTING INTERNATIONAL GGMBH [DE](#)
- ASOCIACION CONSORTIUM LOCAL-GLOBAL COGLOBAL [ES](#)
- THE DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY AISBL [BE](#)
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- INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR DEMOCRACY AND ELECTORAL ASSISTANCE [SE](#)
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- OPEN GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP EUROPE [BE](#)
- PEOPLE POWERED GLOBAL HUB FOR PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRACY COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE [IE](#)
- MISSIONS PUBLIQUES [FR](#)
- TRANS EUROPEAN POLICY STUDIES ASSOCIATION [BE](#)
- EGMONT - INSTITUT ROYAL DES RELATIONS INTERNATIONALES [BE](#)
- LODZ-MIASTO NA PRAWACH POWIATU [PL](#)
- STADT LEIPZIG [DE](#)

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EU contribution

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Keywords

inclusion, democratic innovation, connecting knowledge, democratic resilience



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