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2. European Action programmes 2014-2020 per sector

2.5 Civic Participation

2.5.1 Europe for citizens

PROGRAMME/CALL	Europe for Citizens Programme 2014-2020
Programme	<p>Europe for Citizens, the new European Programme which promotes European citizenship and improves the conditions for democratic and civic participation at EU level.</p> <p>Europe for Citizens will substantially follow the homonymous 2007-2013 Programme, with a simplified structure.</p>
Objectives and priorities	<p>Its goal is to promote civic participation, help to raise citizens awareness and knowledge of the European Union to bridge the gap that sometimes exists between them and the European institutions.</p> <p>The new Europe for Citizens 2014-2020 is composed by 2 strand:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>European remembrance</u> 2. <u>Democratic engagement and civic participation</u>, which is divided in 3 specific measures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Town Twinning; – Networks of towns; – Civil society projects. <p>The two strands shall be complemented by the <u>horizontal actions</u>: “<u>Valorisation</u>” for analysis, dissemination and use of project results.</p> <p>In addition to them, the Programme will also cofinance Operating Grants providing financial support for regular and usual activities of an organisation.</p> <p>To get citizens closer to the European dimension, the general objectives of the Programme are related to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • contribute to citizens’ understanding of the EU, its history and diversity; • foster European citizenship and to improve conditions for civic and democratic participation at EU level. <p>The specific objectives of the Programme are related to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • raise awareness of remembrance, common history and values and the Union's aim that is to promote peace, its values and the well-being of its peoples by stimulating debate, reflection and development of networks; • encourage democratic and civic participation of citizens at EU

	<p>level, by developing citizens' understanding of the EU policy making-process and, by promoting opportunities for societal and intercultural engagement and volunteering at EU level.</p>
<p>2014 Priorities</p>	<p>Priorities for the year 2014 should be taken into consideration when developing projects to be submitted within year 2014, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For Strand 1 - <u>European remembrance</u>: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 100th anniversary of the start of World War I; - 25th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall; - 10th anniversary of the European Union enlargement to Central and Eastern Europe. • For Strand 2 - <u>Democratic engagement and civic participation</u>: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the elections to the European Parliament; - the participation of citizens in the democratic life of the European Union; - deepening the debate on the future of Europe;
<p>Type of projects funded</p>	<p>The Europe for Citizens Programme promotes projects as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>European remembrance</u>: This strand will support activities that encourage reflection on European cultural diversity and on common values in the broadest sense, taking into account gender equality. It aims to finance projects reflecting on causes of totalitarian regimes in Europe's modern history (especially, but not exclusively, Nazism that led to the Holocaust, Fascism, Stalinism and totalitarian communist regimes) and to commemorate the victims of their crimes. The strand will also encompass activities concerning other defining moments and reference points in recent European history. Projects under this strand should: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - include different types of organisations, such as: local authorities, NGOs, research institutes etc.; - develop different types of activities, such as: research, exhibitions, public debates, non-formal education etc. - involve citizens from different target groups; - be implemented on a transnational level, or with a clear European dimension. In particular, it will give preference to actions which encourage tolerance, mutual understanding, intercultural dialogue and reconciliation as a means of moving beyond the past and building the future, in particular with a view to reaching the younger generation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <u>PARTNERSHIP</u>: project must involve <u>organisations from at least 1 member state</u>. <u>Preference will be given to transnational projects</u>. 2. <u>Democratic engagement and civic participation</u>, This strand supports activities covering civic participation, focusing in particular on European Union policies and initiatives

	<p>developing opportunities for mutual understanding, intercultural learning, solidarity, societal engagement and volunteering at EU level. In particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Town Twinning</u> - supporting projects bringing together citizens from twinned towns. By mobilising citizens at local and EU levels to debate on concrete issues from the European political agenda, this measure will seek to promote civic participation in the EU policy making process and develop opportunities for societal engagement and volunteering at EU level. ➤ PARTNERSHIP: A project must involve <u>municipalities from at least 2 eligible countries</u>, of which at least one is an EU Member State. A project must involve a minimum of 25 invited participants. "Invited participants" are international participants sent by the eligible partner/s. - <u>Networks of towns</u> - providing funding to municipalities and associations working together on a common theme in a long term perspective, and wishing to develop networks of towns to make their cooperation more sustainable. Networks of Towns are expected to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrate a range of activities around the subject(s) of common interest to be addressed in the context of the Programme's objectives or annual priorities • Have defined target groups for which the selected themes are particularly relevant and involve community members active in the subject area (i.e. experts, local associations, citizens and citizens' groups directly affected by the theme, etc.); • Serve as a basis for future initiatives and actions between the towns involved, on the issues addressed or possibly on further issues of common interest. ➤ PARTNERSHIP: A project must involve <u>municipalities from at least 4 eligible countries</u>, of which at least one is an EU Member State. A project must involve a minimum of 30% of invited participants. "Invited participants" are international participants sent by the eligible partner/s. - <u>Civil society projects</u> - supporting projects gathering citizens in activities directly linked to EU policies, providing an opportunity for direct participation in the policy making process. This can be achieved at all stages, and with all institutional interlocutors, and includes notably: agenda-setting activities, advocating during the preparation phase and negotiation of policy proposals, providing feedback on relevant initiatives
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	<p>that are implemented. To that end, those projects will invite citizens to act together or debate on the annual priority themes of the Programme at local and European level.</p> <p>A Civil Society Project must include at least two of the following three types of activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotion of societal engagement and solidarity: activities able to promoting debate/campaigns/actions on the themes of common interest in the larger framework of the rights and responsibilities of the Union citizens and making the link to the European political agenda and policy making process. • Gathering of opinions: activities aiming at gathering the individual opinions of the citizens on a specific topic to be yearly defined, favouring a bottom up approach (including the use of social networks, webinars, etc.) and media literacy. • Volunteering: activities promoting solidarity among Union citizens and beyond. <p>➤ PARTNERSHIP: A project must involve <u>organisations from at least 3 eligible countries</u>, of which at least one is an EU Member State.</p> <p>3. <u>Horizontal action: “Valorisation”</u> This action will be defined for the Programme overall and will be applicable to both strands 1 and 2. It will support initiatives that boost the transferability of results, provide better return on investment and increase learning from experience. The <i>raison d’être</i> of this action is the further ‘valorisation’ and use of the results of the initiatives launched in order to ensure their lasting effect. It will include ‘capacity building’ — the development of support measures to exchange best practices, to pool experiences between stakeholders at local and regional levels including public authorities, and to develop new skills, for example through training. The latter could include peer-to-peer exchange, training for trainers, as well as, for example, the development of ICT tools providing information on the organisations or projects funded by the Programme.</p>
Eligible activities	<p>In order to achieve its objectives, the Programme shall finance, inter alia, the following types of action, implemented at transnational level or with a European dimension:</p> <p>A. <u>Mutual learning and cooperation activities</u> such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - citizens' meetings, town-twinning, networks of twinned towns; - projects implemented by transnational partnerships including different types of stakeholders listed below;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - remembrance projects with a European dimension; - exchanges based, inter alia, on the use of information and communication technologies (ICT) and/or social media; <p>B. <u>Structural support for organisations</u> such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - bodies pursuing an aim of general Union interest such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. a body involved in education, training, information, innovation or research and study in European policies, any activities contributing to the promotion of citizenship or human rights, or an European standards body; b. an entity representing non-profit bodies active in the Member States, in the candidate countries or in the potential candidate countries and promoting principles and policies consistent with the objectives of the Treaties; - Europe for Citizens Contact Points; <p>C. <u>Union level analytical activities</u> such as: studies focusing on issues relating to the objectives of the Programme;</p> <p>D. <u>Awareness raising and dissemination activities</u> designed to use and further valorise the results of the supported initiatives and to highlight good practices, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Union level events including conferences, commemorations and award ceremonies; - peer reviews, expert meetings and seminars.
Eligible organizations	<p>The beneficiaries of the Programme are key actors in promoting European integration, such as Public bodies or non-profit organisations with a legal personality with particular reference to the various strands of the eligible subjects are divided by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>European remembrance</u>: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Public local/regional authorities; - non-profit organisations, including civil society organisations, survivors' associations and cultural, youth, educational and research organisations; - associations of twinned towns. 2. <u>Democratic engagement and civic participation</u>, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Town Twinning</u>; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Town/municipalities; - their twinning committees representing local authorities; - other non-profit organisations representing local authorities. - <u>Networks of towns</u>; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Town/municipalities; - their twinning committees or networks;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - other levels of local/regional authorities; - federations/associations of local authorities; - non-profit organisations representing local authorities. - non-profit civil society organisations can be <u>partners</u> to those projects. <p>- <u>Civil society projects</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Non-profit organisations, including civil society organisations; - educational, cultural or research institutions. <p><u>As partners only:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Public local/regional authorities - Non-profit organisations, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ civil society organisations, ▪ educational, cultural or research institutions, ▪ town-twinning committees and networks. <p>The Programme may support joint activities in the field covered by it, with relevant international organisations, such as the Council of Europe and Unesco, on the basis of joint contributions and in accordance with the Financial Regulation.</p>
<p>Eligible countries</p>	<p>The Programme is open to the 28 EU Member States, and provided they have signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Commission, to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accession countries, candidate countries and potential candidates*; • EFTA countries party to the EEA agreement* <p>Specific rules apply for each strand. *The status of the signature of agreements with such countries has to be checked regularly</p>
<p>Duration</p>	<p>Europe for Citizens Programme has a duration of 7 years from 1st January 2014 to 31st December 2020.</p> <p>According to the different strands, the duration of the projects has been established in the following way:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>European remembrance</u>: maximum project duration 18 months. 2. <u>Democratic engagement and civic participation</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Town twinning</u>: maximum project duration 21 days. - <u>Networks of towns</u>: maximum project duration 24 months. - <u>Civil society projects</u>: maximum project duration 18 months.
<p>Budget</p>	<p>The financial reference amount for the implementation of the Programme for the period from 1st January 2014 to 31st December</p>

	<p>2020 is set at 185 468 000 EUR.</p> <p>As an indication, the total budget will approximately allocated as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 20% to the strand 1 <u>European remembrance</u>; - 60% to the strand 2 <u>Democratic engagement and civic participation</u>; - 10% to the <u>horizontal action Valorisation</u>. <p>Regarding the contribution, the maximum eligible grant amounts to be requested for a project is:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>for European remembrance</u>: maximum 100 000 EUR. 2. <u>for Democratic engagement and civic participation</u>: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Town twinning</u>: maximum 25 000 EUR. - <u>Networks of towns</u>: maximum 150 000 EUR. - <u>Civil society projects</u>: maximum 150 000 EUR.
<p>Deadlines</p>	<p>For 2014 the deadlines are established as follows:</p> <p><u>Strand 1 - European remembrance:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4th June 2014 h12:00* for projects starting between 1st August 2014 and 31st January 2015. <p><u>Strand 2: Democratic engagement and civic participation:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Town Twinning</u>; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4th June 2014 h.12:00* for projects starting between 1st July 2014 and 30th September 2015. • 1st September 2014 h.12:00 for projects starting between 1st September 2015 and 31st December 2015 - <u>Networks of towns</u>; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4th June 2014 h.12:00* for projects starting between 1st July 2014 and 30 June 2015. • 1st September 2014 h.12:00 for projects starting between 1st June 2015 and 31st December 2015. - <u>Civil society projects</u>: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st September 2014 h.12:00* for projects starting between 1st September 2014 and 31st January 2015. <p>*Starting from 2015, the first deadline for submission of proposals is foreseen on 1st March of each year. The eligibility period for projects to verify in the Programme Guide vary depending on the different type of</p>

	action.
How to apply	Applicants must have an ECAS (European Commission Authentication Service) account and the PIC code (Participant Identification Code) for each organization, obtained by registering the organization in the Unique Registration Facility (URF) It is necessary to submit exclusively the online application through the eForm.
Award criteria	<p>Proposals are evaluated on the basis of the following award criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Consistency with the objectives of the programme and programme strand</u> (30%) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriateness of the objective of the submitted project with regard to the objectives of the Europe for Citizens Programme, strand and measure. • The proposed activities and expected outcomes should contribute to the achievement of the objectives of the Programme, strand and measure. • The thematic focus must be in line with the objectives of the Programme, strand and measure and preferably taking into consideration the annual priorities. - <u>Quality of the activity plan of the project</u> (35%) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The activities must be appropriate to reach the project's needs and objectives. • Coherence: correspondence between the different objectives of the proposed activities and adaption of the proposed inputs and resources to the objectives. • Effectiveness: effects should be obtained at reasonable cost. • Projects have to present a clearly elaborated European dimension. • Priority is given to projects which gather different types of organisations (local authorities, NGOs, research institutes, etc.) or developing different types of activities (research, non-formal education, public debates, exhibitions, etc.) or involving citizens coming from different target groups. • Priority is given to projects using new working methods or proposing innovative activities or with less opportunities. - <u>Dissemination</u> (15%) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each project supported by the Programme must make the necessary efforts for ensuring the exploitation and dissemination of its results. • The proposed project should create a multiplier effect among a wider audience than that directly participating in the activities. • A realistic and practical dissemination plan should be in place in order to allow an effective transfer and

	<p>exchange of the results foreseen by the project.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Impact and citizen involvement</u> (20%) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each project supported by the Programme must make the necessary efforts for ensuring the exploitation and dissemination of its results. • The proposed project should create a multiplier effect among a wider audience than that directly participating in the activities. • A realistic and practical dissemination plan should be in place in order to allow an effective transfer and exchange of the results foreseen by the project.
Link	<p>Europe for Citizens Programme 2014-2020 Regulation No 390/2014 Europe for Citizens 2014-2020 Programme Guide Europe for Citizens Programme 2014-2020 Official website</p> <p>Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) website</p>

4. Open calls 2014 on European Action programmes

4.4 Europe for Citizens

4.4.1 Strand 1 – European Remembrance

PROGRAMME/CALL	Europe for Citizens Programme 2014-2020 Strand 1 – European Remembrance
Call	Call for proposals 2014
Programme	<p>Europe for Citizens is the European Programme which promotes European citizenship and improves the conditions for democratic and civic participation at EU level.</p> <p>The Strand on European Remembrance aims at raising awareness of remembrance, common history, values and the aim of the EU, in order to keep memories of the past alive as a means of moving beyond the past and building the future.</p>
Main objectives	<p>European Remembrance main objectives are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To contribute to citizens' understanding of the EU, its history and diversity; • To raise awareness of remembrance, common history and values and the aim of the EU. <p>Priorities for the year 2014 should be taken into consideration when developing projects, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – 100th anniversary of the start of World War I; – 25th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall; – 10th anniversary of the European Union enlargement to Central and Eastern Europe. <p>This is in line with the EU's aim to promote peace, its values and well-being of its peoples.</p>
Types of projects funded	<p>The support concerns Action grants, namely actions with a limited timeframe during which specific activities are implemented.</p> <p>Concerning European Remembrance, the support is for activities that encourage reflection on European cultural diversity and on common values in the broadest sense.</p> <p>It aims to finance projects reflecting on causes of totalitarian regimes in Europe's modern history (especially, but not exclusively, Nazism that led to the Holocaust, Fascism, Stalinism and totalitarian communist regimes) and to commemorate the victims of their crimes. The strand will also encompass activities concerning other defining moments and reference points in recent European history.</p>

	<p>In particular, it will give preference to actions which encourage tolerance, mutual understanding, intercultural dialogue and reconciliation as a means of moving beyond the past and building the future, in particular with a view to reaching the younger generation.</p> <p>Projects under this strand should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – include different types of organisations, such as: local authorities, NGOs, research institutes etc.; – develop different types of activities; – involve citizens from different target groups; – be implemented on a transnational level, or with a clear European dimension. <p>PARTNERSHIP: project must involve organisations from <u>at least 1 member state</u>. Preference will be given to <u>transnational projects</u>.</p>
Eligible activities	<p>European Remembrance activities may cover a broad range of activities, such as for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – <u>Mutual learning and cooperation activities</u> (i.e. research, non-formal education, etc.) – <u>Awareness raising and dissemination activities</u> (i.e. events including conferences, commemorations, exhibitions, public debates, etc.) <p>The activities must take place in any of the eligible countries.</p>
Eligible organizations	<p>Eligible types of organizations acting as Applicant or partners are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Public local/regional authorities; - Non-profit organizations, including civil society organizations; survivors' associations; Cultural, youth, educational and research organizations; - Associations of twinned towns.
Eligible countries	<p><u>This strand is open</u> to the 28 EU Member States, and provided they have signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Commission, to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accession countries, candidate countries and potential candidates*; • EFTA countries party to the EEA agreement* <p><u>The Applicant – or sole participant – should be by one Member State.</u></p> <p>*The status of the signature of agreements with such countries has to be checked regularly</p>
Duration	<p>The project can last max 18 months.</p> <p>The project must start between 1st August 2014 and 31st January 2015.</p>
Budget	<p>The maximum grant to be awarded for an European Remembrance project is 100.000 EUR.</p>

	The grant is calculated on two parameters: the number of participants and the number of countries involved.
Deadlines	The deadline is 4th June 2014 . The reference time is set at 12.00 (Brussels time).
How to apply	Organizations willing to apply have to be registered into the Unique Registration Facility (URF) system in the Participant Portal of the European Commission to get a PIC (Participant Identification Code). To access the Participants' portal, participants need an ECAS (European Commission Authentication Service) username and password. The application form can only be submitted electronically using the eForm on this website together with the necessary supporting documents required.
Award criteria	Applications will be evaluated through the following criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Consistency with the objectives of the programme and programme strand</u> (30%) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriateness of the objective of the submitted project with regard to the objectives of the Europe for Citizens Programme, strand and measure. • The proposed activities and expected outcomes should contribute to the achievement of the objectives of the Programme, strand and measure. • The thematic focus must be in line with the objectives of the Programme, strand and measure and preferably taking into consideration the annual priorities. - <u>Quality of the activity plan of the project</u> (35%) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The activities must be appropriate to reach the project's needs and objectives. • Coherence: correspondence between the different objectives of the proposed activities and adaption of the proposed inputs and resources to the objectives. • Effectiveness: effects should be obtained at reasonable cost. • Projects have to present a clearly elaborated European dimension. • Priority is given to projects which gather different types of organisations (local authorities, NGOs, research institutes, etc.) or developing different types of activities (research, non-formal education, public debates, exhibitions, etc.) or involving citizens coming from different target groups. • Priority is given to projects using new working methods or proposing innovative activities or with less opportunities.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Dissemination</u> (15%) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each project supported by the Programme must make the necessary efforts for ensuring the exploitation and dissemination of its results. • The proposed project should create a multiplier effect among a wider audience than that directly participating in the activities. • A realistic and practical dissemination plan should be in place in order to allow an effective transfer and exchange of the results foreseen by the project. - <u>Impact and citizen involvement</u> (20%) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each project supported by the Programme must make the necessary efforts for ensuring the exploitation and dissemination of its results. • The proposed project should create a multiplier effect among a wider audience than that directly participating in the activities. • A realistic and practical dissemination plan should be in place in order to allow an effective transfer and exchange of the results foreseen by the project. <p>A geographical balance will be taken into account, as far as possible, in the selection.</p>
Link	<p>Europe for Citizens Programme 2014-2020 Regulation No 390/2014 Europe for Citizens 2014-2020 Programme Guide Europe for Citizens Programme 2014-2020 – European Remembrance website Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) website</p>

4.4.2 Strand 2 – Democratic engagement and civic participation

2.1 Town Twinning

2.2. Networks of Towns

PROGRAMME/CALL	Europe for Citizens Programme 2014-2020 Strand 2 – Democratic engagement and civic participation 2.1 Town Twinning 2.2. Networks of Towns
Call	Call for proposals 2014
Programme	<p>Europe for Citizens is the European Programme which promotes European citizenship and improves the conditions for democratic and civic participation at EU level.</p> <p>The Strand on Democratic engagement and civic participation supports actions encouraging democratic and civic participation of citizens at Union level.</p> <p>Town twinning refers to actions involving citizens from twinned towns debating on specific topics.</p> <p>Networks of Towns refers to actions involving municipalities and associations working together on a common theme in a long term perspective, and wishing to develop networks of towns to make their cooperation more sustainable.</p>
Main objectives	<p>Democratic engagement and civic participation's main objectives are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To foster European citizenship and improve conditions for civic and democratic participation at EU level; • To encourage democratic participation of citizens at EU level; • To support concrete participation in the EU policy-making process. <p>Priorities for the year 2014 should be taken into consideration when developing projects, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the elections to the European Parliament; • the participation of citizens in the democratic life of the European Union (ranging from local democracy to the empowerment of citizens to play a full part in EU policy); • deepening the debate on the future of Europe, in order to set up an European public space for discussion.
Types of projects funded	<p>The support concerns Action grants, namely actions with a limited timeframe during which specific activities are implemented.</p> <p>This strand supports activities covering civic participation, focusing in particular on European Union policies and initiatives developing opportunities for mutual understanding, intercultural learning, solidarity, societal engagement and volunteering at EU level. In particular:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Town Twinning</u> - supporting projects bringing together citizens from twinned towns around specific topics. By mobilising citizens at local and EU levels to debate on concrete issues from the European political agenda, this measure will seek to promote civic participation in the EU policy making process and develop opportunities for societal engagement and volunteering at EU level. <u>Please note that twinning is intended in a broad sense: it refers to the municipalities which signed or are engaged to sign twinning agreements as well as to municipalities having other forms of partnership fostering their cooperation and cultural links.</u> <p>PARTNERSHIP: A project must involve <u>municipalities from at least 2 eligible countries</u>, of which at least one is an EU Member State. A project must involve a minimum of 25 invited participants. "Invited participants" are international participants sent by the eligible partner/s.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Networks of towns</u> - providing funding to municipalities and associations working together on a common theme in a long term perspective, and wishing to develop networks of towns to make their cooperation more sustainable. Networks of Towns are expected to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrate a range of activities around the subject(s) of common interest to be addressed in the context of the Programme's objectives or annual priorities • Have defined target groups for which the selected themes are particularly relevant and involve community members active in the subject area (i.e. experts, local associations, citizens and citizens' groups directly affected by the theme, etc.); • Serve as a basis for future initiatives and actions between the towns involved, on the issues addressed or possibly on further issues of common interest. <p>PARTNERSHIP: A project must involve <u>municipalities from at least 4 eligible countries</u>, of which at least one is an EU Member State. A project must involve a minimum of 30% of invited participants. "Invited participants" are international participants sent by the eligible partner/s.</p>
Eligible activities	<p>Democratic engagement and civic participation activities may cover a broad range of activities, such as for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Mutual learning and cooperation activities</u> (i.e. citizens' meetings, town twinning actions, etc.) - <u>Awareness raising and dissemination activities</u> (i.e. events

	<p>including conferences, public debates, etc.) The activities must take place in any of the eligible countries. In the case of Networks of Towns, at least 4 events per project have to be foreseen.</p>
Eligible organizations	<p>Concerning Town Twinning, eligible types of organizations acting as Applicant or partners are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Town/municipalities; - their twinning committees representing local authorities; - other non-profit organisations representing local authorities. <p>Concerning Networks of Towns, eligible types of organizations acting as Applicant or partners are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Town/municipalities; - their twinning committees or networks; - other levels of local/regional authorities; - federations/associations of local authorities; - non-profit organisations representing local authorities. - non-profit civil society organisations (this type can only <u>partner</u> in projects).
Eligible countries	<p>This strand is open to the 28 EU Member States, and provided they have signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Commission, to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accession countries, candidate countries and potential candidates*; • EFTA countries party to the EEA agreement* <p><u>At least one EU Member State</u> must be involved.</p> <p>*The status of the signature of agreements with such countries has to be checked regularly</p>
Duration	<p>Concerning Town Twinning, the meeting can last max 21 days. Concerning Networks of Towns, the project can last max 24 months.</p>
Budget	<p>The maximum grant to be awarded for a Town Twinning project is 25.000 EUR. The maximum grant to be awarded for a Networks of Towns project is 150.000 EUR.</p> <p>Concerning Town Twinning, the grant is calculated on one single parameter: the number of participants. Concerning Networks of Towns, the grant is calculated on two parameters: the number of participants and the number of countries involved.</p>
Deadlines	<p>Concerning Town Twinning, the deadlines are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4th June 2014 h.12:00 (Brussels time) for projects starting between 1st July 2014 and 30th September

	<p>2015.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st September 2014 h.12:00 (Brussels time) for projects starting between 1st September 2015 and 31st December 2015 <p>Concerning Networks of Towns, the deadlines are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4th June 2014 h.12:00 (Brussels time) for projects starting between 1st July 2014 and 30 June 2015. • 1st September 2014 h.12:00 (Brussels time) for projects starting between 1st June 2015 and 31st December 2015.
<p>How to apply</p>	<p>Organizations willing to apply have to be registered into the Unique Registration Facility (URF) system in the Participant Portal of the European Commission to get a PIC (Participant Identification Code).</p> <p>To access the Participants' portal, participants need an ECAS (European Commission Authentication Service) username and password.</p> <p>The application form can only be submitted electronically using the eForm on this website together with the necessary supporting documents required.</p>
<p>Award criteria</p>	<p>Applications will be evaluated through the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Consistency with the objectives of the programme and programme strand</u> (30%) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriateness of the objective of the submitted project with regard to the objectives of the Europe for Citizens Programme, strand and measure. • The proposed activities and expected outcomes should contribute to the achievement of the objectives of the Programme, strand and measure. • The thematic focus must be in line with the objectives of the Programme, strand and measure and preferably taking into consideration the annual priorities. - <u>Quality of the activity plan of the project</u> (35%) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The activities must be appropriate to reach the project's needs and objectives. • Coherence: correspondence between the different objectives of the proposed activities and adaption of the proposed inputs and resources to the objectives. • Effectiveness: effects should be obtained at reasonable cost. • Projects have to present a clearly elaborated European dimension. • Priority is given to projects which gather different types of organisations (local authorities, NGOs, research institutes,

	<p>etc.) or developing different types of activities (research, non-formal education, public debates, exhibitions, etc.) or involving citizens coming from different target groups.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority is given to projects using new working methods or proposing innovative activities or with less opportunities. <p>- <u>Dissemination</u> (15%)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each project supported by the Programme must make the necessary efforts for ensuring the exploitation and dissemination of its results. • The proposed project should create a multiplier effect among a wider audience than that directly participating in the activities. • A realistic and practical dissemination plan should be in place in order to allow an effective transfer and exchange of the results foreseen by the project. <p>- <u>Impact and citizen involvement</u> (20%)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each project supported by the Programme must make the necessary efforts for ensuring the exploitation and dissemination of its results. • The proposed project should create a multiplier effect among a wider audience than that directly participating in the activities. • A realistic and practical dissemination plan should be in place in order to allow an effective transfer and exchange of the results foreseen by the project. <p>A geographical balance will be taken into account, as far as possible, in the selection.</p>
Link	<p>Europe for Citizens Programme 2014-2020 Regulation No 390/2014 Europe for Citizens 2014-2020 Programme Guide Europe for Citizens Programme 2014-2020 – Democratic engagement and civic participation website Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) website</p>

4.4.2 Strand 2 – Democratic engagement and civic participation
2.3 Civil society projects

PROGRAMME/CALL	EUROPE FOR CITIZENS 2014-2020 STRAND 2 CIVIL SOCIETY PROJECTS MEASURE
Call	Call 2014
Programme	The “Europe for Citizens” programme fosters the understanding between the European Union and its citizens, helps better comprehending what “being European” means and developing an European identity.
Main objectives	<p>General objectives of the programme for 2014-2020:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ to contribute to citizens' understanding of the Union, its history and diversity; ➤ to foster European citizenship and to improve conditions for civic and democratic participation at Union level. <p>Specific objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ raise awareness of remembrance, common history and values and the Union's aim that is to promote peace, its values and the well-being of its peoples by stimulating debate, reflection and development of networks; ➤ encourage democratic and civic participation of citizens at Union level, by developing citizens' understanding of the Union policy making-process and promoting opportunities for societal and intercultural engagement and volunteering at Union level. <p>The Programme is implemented through two Strands and a horizontal Action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strand 1: European remembrance: Raise awareness of remembrance, common history and values and the Union's aim; • Strand 2: Democratic engagement and civic participation: Encourage democratic and civic participation of citizens at Union level. <p>Strand 2 includes 3 measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Town twinning ○ Networks of towns ○ Civil society projects <p>The annual priorities for 2014 of Strand 2 - Democratic engagement</p>

	<p>and civic participation are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The European Parliament Elections, which will take place between 22 and 25 May 2014 • The citizens' participation in the democratic life of the European Union <p>The deepening of the debate on the future of Europe</p>
Types of projects funded	<p>This measure aims at supporting projects promoted by transnational partnerships and networks directly involving citizens. Those projects gather citizens from different horizons, in activities directly linked to Union policies, with a view to give them an opportunity to concretely participate in the Union policy-making process in areas related to the objectives of the Programme. Those projects will invite citizens to act together or debate on the annual priority themes of the Programme at local and European level.</p> <p>The project should consist in stimulating and organising reflection, debates or other activities related to the annual priority themes of the Programme and propose concrete solutions that can be found through cooperation or coordination at European level, and ensure a concrete link with the policy making process indicated above. Projects should actively involve a large number of citizens in the implementation and aim at setting the basis for, or encouraging the development of, long-lasting networking between many organisations active in the field.</p> <p>This measure supports projects implemented by transnational partnerships promoting opportunities for solidarity, societal engagement and volunteering at Union level.</p>
Eligible activities	<p>Civil Society Projects must include at least two of the following three types of activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotion of societal engagement and solidarity: activities able to promoting debate/campaigns/actions on the themes of common interest in the larger framework of the rights and responsibilities of the Union citizens and making the link to the European political agenda and policy making process; • Gathering of opinions: activities aiming at gathering the individual opinions of the citizens on a specific topic to be yearly defined, favoring a bottom up approach (including the use of social networks, webinars, etc.) and media literacy; <p>Volunteering: activities promoting solidarity among Union citizens and beyond.</p>
Eligible organizations	<p>Applicants: non profit organisations, including civil society organisations, educational, cultural or research institutions.</p> <p>Partners: Public local/regional authorities or non-profit organisations, including civil society organisations, educational, cultural or research institutions, town-twinning committees and networks.</p> <p><u>Organisations from at least 3 eligible countries of which at least one is an EU Member State.</u></p>

Eligible countries	<p>The strand is open to the 28 EU Member States, and provided they have signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Commission, to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accession countries, candidate countries and potential candidates*; • EFTA countries party to the EEA agreement* <p>*The status of the signature of agreements with such countries has to be checked regularly</p>
Duration	Maximum 18 months
Budget	<p>C.a. 110 million Euros (60% of total programme budget) are available for Strand 2 in the period 2014-2020. Maximum granted contribution per project € 150,000</p> <p>The grant is calculated on the base of the lump sum financing system. The same parameters are valid for all participating countries.</p> <p>A) Sums are calculated on two parameters, which constitute the main elements of all citizenship action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of participants • Number of countries involved. <p>Therefore, the sum is determined by taking into account both the number of participants and the number of countries. For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ If the partnership is made up of 4/6 partners, the granted lump sum will be: € 15,000 if there are 25/50 participants in the project, € 27,500 if there are 151/175 participants, and € 40,000 if there are more than 300 participants; ➤ If the partnership is made up of 10-12 partners, the lump sum will be: € 20,000 if there are 25/50 participants, € 32,500 if there are 151/175 participants, and € 45,000 if there are more than 300 participants. <p>The lump sums, determined by taking into account both number of participants and number of countries involved, cover all the eligible costs of the actions, i.e.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - staff costs linked directly to the action; - travel and subsistence costs of participants at events; - rental of room/interpreting and translation needed for the running of events; - communication/dissemination costs linked to the events; - coordination costs generated by the involvement of several organisations; - cost of research and IT tools needed for the preparatory activities under actions 1 and 2.3. <p>B) If some preparatory activities, research activities, or activities linked to social networks are organized, the system provides for limited lump sums, which are in line with the number of participants in these activities. These amounts cover all preparatory activities together; in other words, the lump sum is linked to the total number of participants</p>

	<p>and not to the number of preparatory activities performed. Only one lump sum of this type can be awarded per project.</p> <p>For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ If there are less than 5 participants in the preparatory activities, the lump sum will be € 2,250. ➤ If there are more than 15 participants, the granted lump sum will be € 10,000. <p>The lump sums A and B must be added in order to calculate the grant that can be requested. But remember that the maximum eligible contribution is € 150,000.</p>
Deadlines	<p>Applicants must submit their application within 1st September 2014 at 12:00 (CET) for the projects starting between 1st September 2014 and 31st January 2015</p> <p>Starting from 2015, the first deadline for submission of proposals is foreseen on 1st March of each year for project starting between 1st August of the same year as the deadline and 31st January of the year after the deadline</p>
How to apply	<p>Organizations willing to apply have to be registered into the Unique Registration Facility (URF) system in the Participant Portal of the European Commission to get a PIC (Participant Identification Code).</p> <p>To access the Participants' portal, participants need an ECAS (European Commission Authentication Service) username and password.</p> <p>The application form can only be submitted electronically using the eForm on this website together with the necessary supporting documents required.</p>
Evaluation criteria	<p>Evaluation criteria common to the whole programme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Consistency with the objectives of the programme and programme strand (30%)</u> - <u>Quality of the activity plan of the project (35%)</u> - <u>Dissemination (15%)</u> - <u>Impact and citizen involvement (20%)</u>
Reference documents	<p>Europe for citizens programme and call website Programme Guide Annual priorities 2014</p>