



Europe for Citizens 2020 Report

Europe for Citizens Programme Results



More information on the European Union is available on the Internet (<http://europa.eu>).

Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union, 2021

PRINT ISBN: 978-92-9484-632-7

doi:10.2797/873617

EC-03-21-223-EN-C

PDF ISBN: 978-92-9484-633-4

doi:10.2797/812728

EC-03-21-223-EN-N

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FOREWORD

Photo: Didier REYNERS, Commissioner
Justice © Justice Cabinet



It is an honour to invite you to discover the 2020 report presenting the results of the Europe for Citizens programme.

Despite the challenging situation created by the COVID-19 pandemic, the programme continued to mobilise an impressive number of civil society organisations and local authorities in the European Union.

2020 was a difficult year. Travel restrictions, confinement measures and physical distancing prevented citizens from meeting face-to-face, and many of our activities had to take place in new ways. If nothing can really replace meetings in town halls, schools or squares, the sanitary crisis was also an opportunity for applicants and beneficiaries of the programme funding to be creative and develop innovative ways of engaging citizens. A steep learning curve, the lessons of which will surely be useful in the future, has demonstrated a potential to increase impact and inclusiveness, while reducing the carbon footprint of projects.

You will find in this report 15 examples of projects from all over the EU and neighbouring countries that give an overview of the type of activities supported by the Europe for Citizens programme. I wholeheartedly agree with one participant to a town twinning project in Casalvecchio Siculo, Italy, in January 2020 that "solidarity in times of crisis is key to the world. [...] The European Union has made it possible for the continent to emerge from the crisis. We need to defend our achievements, and we Europeans have a key role to play in ensuring peace, security and stability."

This report is also an opportunity to look back at the implementation of the programme throughout the whole budget cycle 2014-2020. The numbers speak for themselves: for a budget of EUR 167 million, we received 14 222 applications and we selected 2 529 projects in total. Each project gathered

many partners across European borders, both in EU Member States and Western Balkans countries.

With the support of civil society organisations and local authorities, the programme has enabled citizens to exchange views and make proposals across borders on the most important topics of the last 7 years: the fallout from the financial and economic crisis that started in 2008, the management of the 2015 migration and asylum crisis, Brexit, the 2019 European elections and the rise of populism, and finally the COVID-19 crisis and its social, economic and health-related consequences. By voicing their ideas on what the EU level of governance does, should do or should not do, participants in the supported projects embody the spirit of European democracy. The programme has also allowed citizens to become more familiar with the European Union — what it is, what it does, how it works — and to reflect on its history, culture and values. As Europe's democracy is challenged from both outside and within, it is crucially important to look back at where our continent comes from.

While 2020 was the last year of the Europe for Citizens programme, for the projects selected it will continue to live on for several years. I trust they will be particularly useful to enable an active participation of European citizens in the Conference on the Future of Europe that starts in 2021.

The programme will be even stronger in the future. Thanks to the excellent work done by civil society organisations and local authorities under Europe for Citizens, the European Parliament and the EU Council have decided to renew their trust in it. They have incorporated it into a new, even more ambitious programme: the 2021-2027 Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme. Building on the experience of Europe for Citizens and joining forces with other EU funding programmes such as the Rights, Equality & Citizenship Programme, I am confident that it will allow us to strengthen the European Union, by its citizens, and for its citizens.

Didier REYNDERS,
European Commissioner for Justice

ACRONYMS

CIV	Civil Society Projects
DG	Directorate-General
DG JUST	Directorate-General Justice and Consumers
EACEA	European Education and Culture Executive Agency
EB	Eurobarometer
ECPs	Europe for Citizens Contact Points
EFC	Europe for Citizens
EP	European Parliament
NT	Networks of Towns
OG	Operating Grants
REM	European Remembrance
TT	Town Twinning

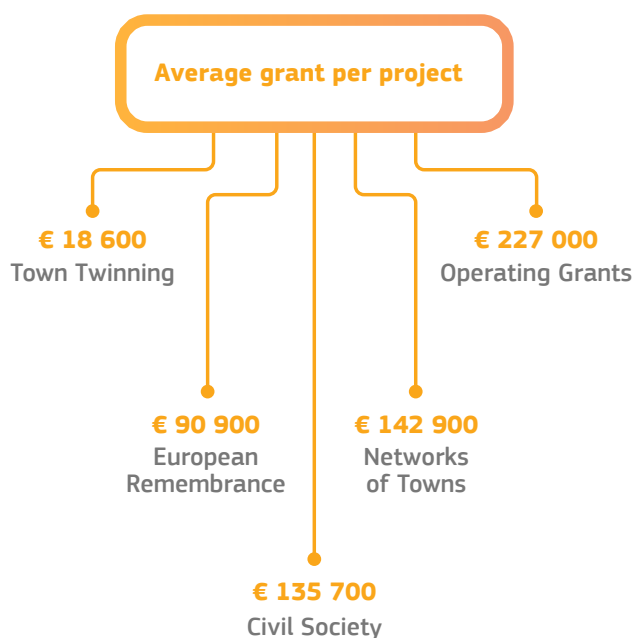
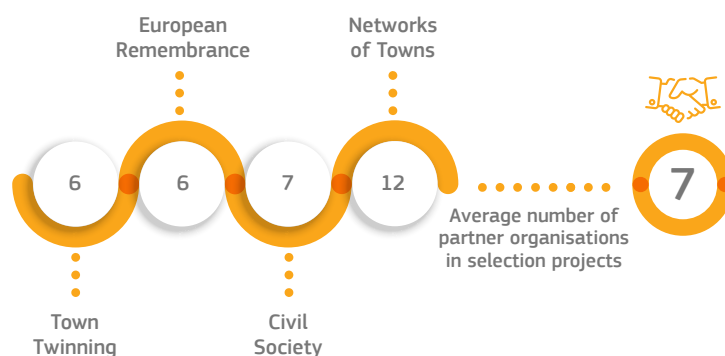
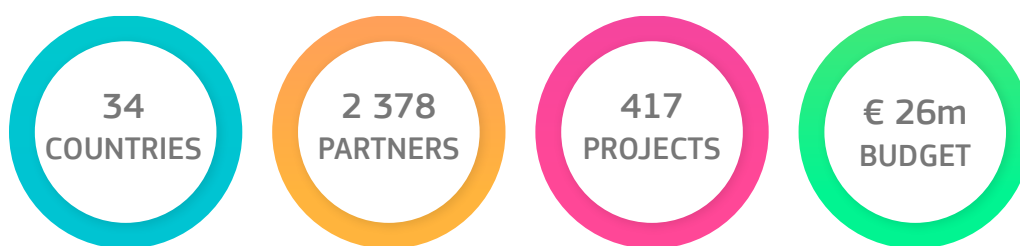


2020 AT A GLANCE

- Out of **1 761 grant applications** submitted in 2020, a total of **417 projects** were selected.
- Countries that submitted the highest number of **applications** (56 % in total) were Germany, Spain, Italy, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia.
- Countries with the highest number of **selected projects** (54 % in total) were Germany, France, Italy, Hungary, Romania and Slovakia.
- The average success rate (ratio between selected projects and submitted applications) is 22% for action and operating grants.
- Countries with the highest **success rate** among all participating countries were Ireland, France, Malta and Netherlands.
- Projects selected in 2020 directly involved **2 378 partner organisations**.
- Partner organisations of selected projects are established in all participating countries

The majority of selected projects under Strand 2 (Town Twinning, Networks of Towns and Civil Society actions) addressed the priority '**Debating the future of Europe and challenging Euroscepticism**', followed by the priorities 'Promoting solidarity as a basic concept' and 'Fostering intercultural dialogue and mutual understanding and combating the stigmatisation of migrants and minority groups'.

For Strand 1 (European Remembrance action), the selected projects mainly addressed the priority '**Commemoration of major historical turning points in recent European history**', followed by the priorities 'Civil society and civic participation under totalitarian regimes', 'Anti-Semitism, Anti-Gypsyism, xenophobia, homophobia and other forms of intolerance: drawing the lessons for today' and 'Democratic transition and accession to the European Union'.



Feeling of being a European



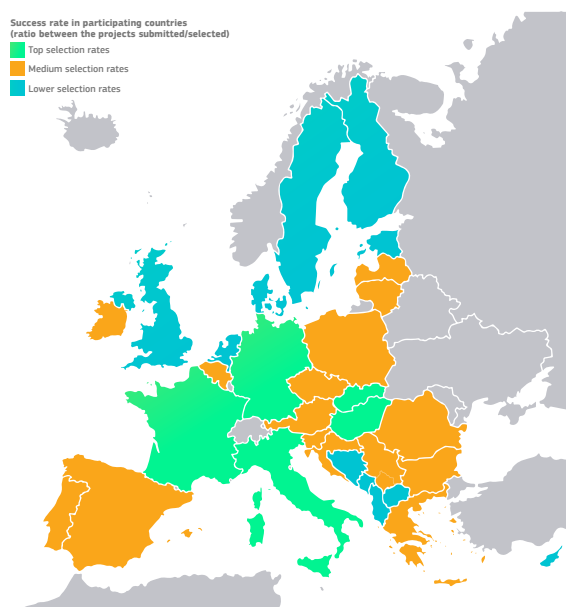
Countries where the feeling of being a European citizen is below 60% : Bulgaria, Greece, France, Italy.

Countries where the feeling of being a European citizen is above 80% : Germany, Ireland, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Poland and Slovakia.

Source : Eurobarometer 93 - <https://europa.eu/eurobarometer/surveys/detail/2262>



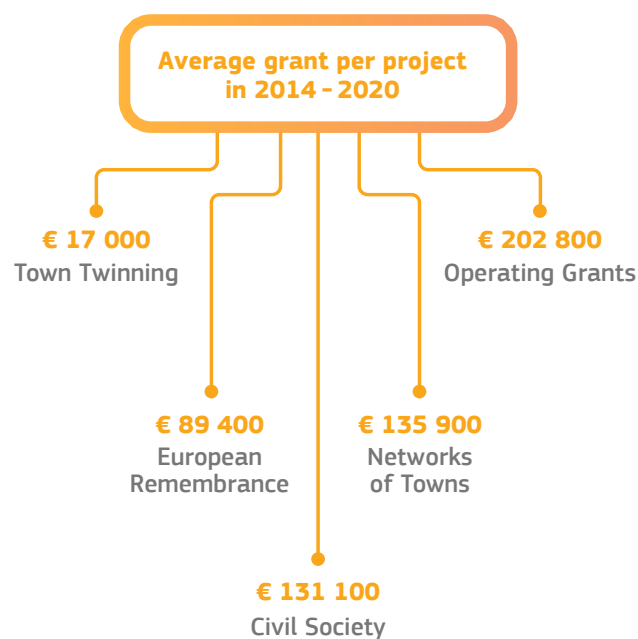
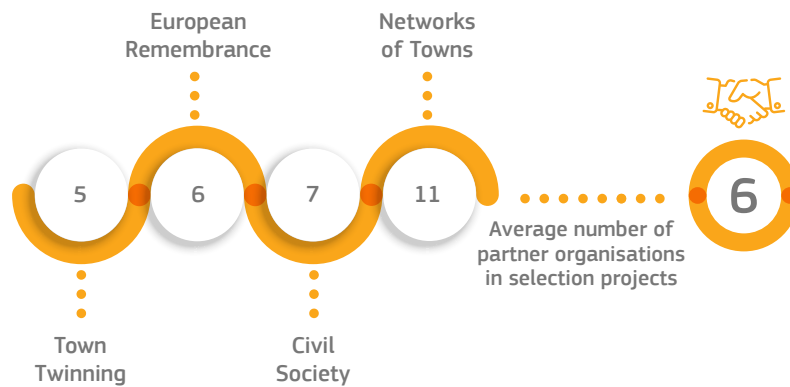
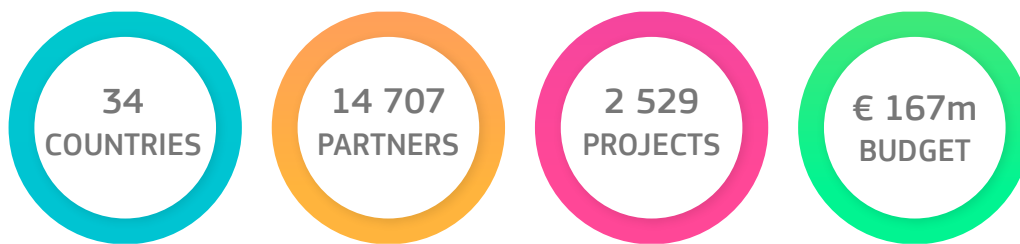
2014-2020 AT A GLANCE



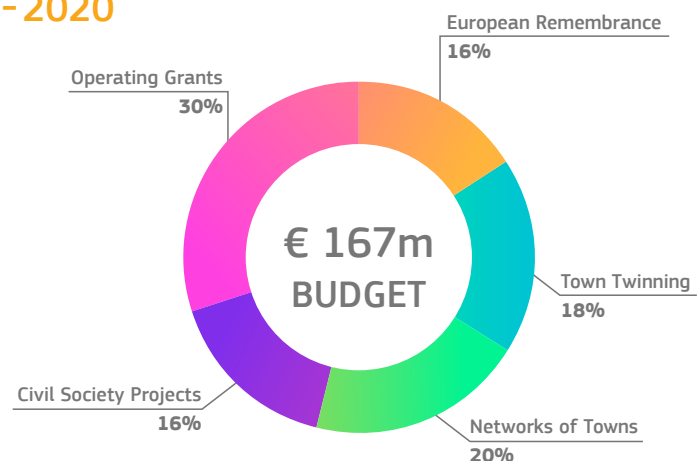
- Out of **14 222 grant applications** submitted in 2014-2020, a total of **2 529 projects** were selected.
- Countries that submitted the highest number of **applications** (54 % in total) were Germany, Italy, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia.
- Countries with the highest number of **selected projects** (61 % in total) were Germany, France, Italy, Hungary, Poland, Romania and Slovakia.

Partner organisations of selected projects are established in all participating countries (28 EU Member States + 6 Non-EU)

Belgium	France	Netherlands	United Kingdom
Bulgaria	Croatia	Austria	Albania
Czechia	Italy	Poland	Montenegro
Denmark	Cyprus	Portugal	Serbia
Germany	Latvia	Romania	Bosnia and Herzegovina
Estonia	Lithuania	Slovenia	Kosovo
Ireland	Luxembourg	Slovakia	North Macedonia
Greece	Hungary	Finland	
Spain	Malta	Sweden	



Budget in 2014 - 2020



PART A

RESULTS 2020

This report has two parts: Part A contains a qualitative analysis of the 2020 results and Part B the quantitative analysis, including main statistical data.

PART A - RESULTS 2020

In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic affected the programme implementation, in particular the project activities that were to gather together citizens travelling from all over Europe. The most impacted action was the Town Twinning as the projects consisted in the organization of one main big event, and given the situation many of them could not take place. Many municipalities requested to postpone the Town Twinning event. Also, many longer-term projects running under European Remembrance, Civil Society and Networks of Towns requested an extension of their duration in order to have the time to adapt the organisation of their project activities to the new situation. These projects managed to rethink the format of their activities and adjust them to the challenging period, while achieving the same objectives. The photos in this report were taken before the COVID-19 crisis.



Set of testimonials during *Europe Day 2020*.



STRAND 1: EUROPEAN REMEMBRANCE

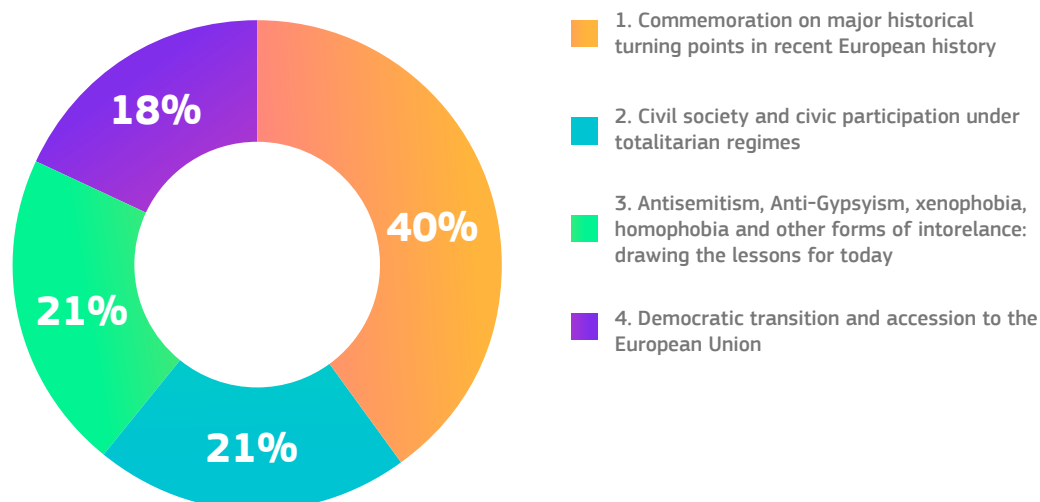
In 2020, the number of applications submitted under the European Remembrance call was stable compared with 2019 (**255 applications** in 2020 versus 262 in 2019) and this confirmed the attractiveness of this action in the final year of the programme. The geographical coverage of submitted applications was good, with **30 of the 34 programme countries** represented among the applicants. In terms of geographical spread including partners, **all eligible countries** were represented in this selection. The main applicant country remained Italy (19%), followed by Poland (13%), Spain (8%) and Germany (7%).

As in previous years, the selection was highly competitive due to good quality applications, resulting in a high threshold of 82.5 points. The **success rate** was stable compared with 2019: 19% in 2020 and 18% in 2019.

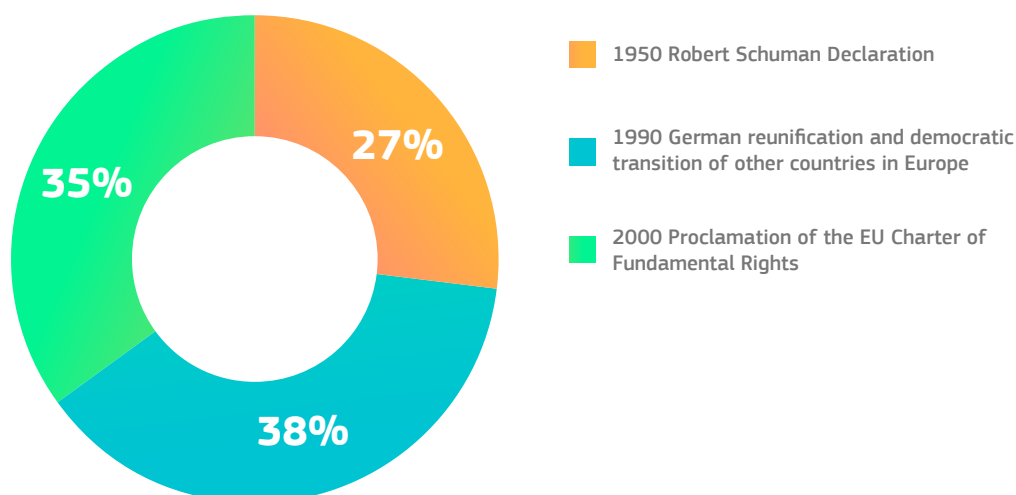
Overall, **54 projects** (including 5 from the reserve list) were **funded**, for a total commitment of EUR 4 912 620. The global score was equal to or higher than 82.5 points out of 100. The geographical spread of the selected projects showed that 26 programme countries were represented.

The projects selected were of **high quality**. They demonstrated a strong European dimension through the topics addressed, strong partnerships, and a capacity to overcome the local dimension with a focus on younger generations.

Selected projects covered the following **thematic priorities**:



1. Commemorations



In 2020, **30 European Remembrance projects** were analysed and finalised. They addressed a wide variety of topics centred on European remembrance and history, engaging a high number of citizens to reflect on European values, how they were shaped in Europe's recent past and how they can be fostered in present-day Europe. In total, **around 76 000 citizens** took part in events organised under the projects finalised in 2020. More than 13 000 000 citizens were also indirectly reached through the dissemination of projects.

These projects, which were selected in 2018 or 2019, mainly addressed the priorities linked to the **commemoration of pivotal events in recent European history**. Many projects focused on the Second World War and its consequences, especially the Jewish and Roma Holocausts. The fall of the Berlin Wall, the 30th anniversary of which was celebrated in 2019, and the democratic transitions in Central and Eastern Europe was also one of the most addressed periods, very often associated with discussions on civic movements under totalitarian regimes. The successive enlargements of the EU and the democratic transition in the former Eastern Soviet Bloc were also popular themes.

More and more projects combined priorities, notably through the celebration of recent events in European history coupled with a reflection on core European values. Examples include the fight against antisemitism and antigypsyism, the promotion of peace, solidarity, diversity of opinions and freedom of speech, and fostering a wider European civic engagement at EU level through volunteering.

Under these projects, a variety of **activities** took place, including conferences, educational workshops, exhibitions, and collections of testimonies. Digitalisation has steadily increased, and was strengthened in the context of the **COVID-19 pandemic**, with digital archives, online quizzes, video games or phone applications being developed as project outputs.

The COVID-19 outbreak had a major impact on running project activities that would have seen significant gatherings of citizens and participants travelling from all over Europe. The European Education and Culture Executive Agency processed 33 amendments to extend project durations. Overall, the organisations showed a remarkable adaptability to this difficult context by transforming activities into online or hybrid formats.

European Remembrance – Best practices

Project title: Observing Walls: 1989-2019

Organisation: Muzej Novejse Zgodovine Slovenije Slovenia

Partner countries: Germany, Italy, Bosnia and Herzegovina

The project **Observing Walls: 1989-2019** explored the issue of the wall as a physical entity and mental reality in the European cities of Berlin, Gorizia/Nova Gorica and Sarajevo. It was implemented by the Slovenian organisation Muzej Novejse Zgodovine Slovenije through a **travelling exhibition** actively engaging citizens. The project highlighted this complex issue in the context of the democratic revolutions in 1989 and also touched upon the 2004 EU enlargement. The project aimed to provide an in-depth analysis of the past, to challenge the prejudices of the present day and to create a **vision of a common European future** drawing on archives of **memory** and collecting personal testimonies from 1989 to 2004.



While many walls were brought down in European history, new ones were also raised, some of them deeply troubling to our society. In order to mobilise youth on this crucial topic, educational workshops and an online contest were organised to show how young people, inspired by the knowledge of the past, face today's mental boundaries of **intolerance, stereotypes, and hatred**.

Project reference: 600944-CITIZ-1-2018-1-SI-CITIZ-REMEM

Project implementation: 01/01/2019 – 30/06/2020

Website: <http://www.muzej-nz.si/en/projects/observing-walls-1989-2019>

Testimonies from participants

"No more borders!"

"When the [Italian - Slovenian] boundary was drawn, I was a child, but these things remain strongly imprinted in your memory."

"If you go to Sarajevo, the memory is about the city without borders and today everything is defined by borders. [...] To what extent is it possible to overcome these divisions?"

"But the real motivation to flee didn't actually become acute until after the Wall was built, when suddenly the gate to good old West Berlin was no longer open. [...] That this gate to the so-called free world had simply closed."

Project title: EnlargEUrope

Beneficiary: Evropski Pokret u Srbiji, Serbia

Partner countries: Croatia, Lithuania, Montenegro, Poland, Romania

Grant awarded: EUR 88 200

The project **EnlargEUrope** involved six European countries, each one representing different phases and experiences of the **EU enlargement process**, from the 2004 big bang enlargement to today's candidate countries. The project contributed to a better understanding of the significance of EU enlargement processes by opening debates on past results, potential **issues** of future enlargements, and direct benefits for the citizens. Examples of good practices and positive experiences were shared by EU citizens from Croatia, Lithuania, Poland and Romania. In order to reach out to the two main target groups – **policymakers and young people** – a series of public events – React! Camp – was



organised in 18 different cities, focusing particularly on **rural areas**. These activities included various educational workshops for youth, such as peer-to-peer knowledge sharing, and a publication: '**It rings for Europe**'.

Project reference: 601116-CITIZ-1-2018-1-RS-CITIZ-REMEM

Project implementation: 01/08/2018 – 31/01/2020

Website: <http://www.emins.org>

Testimonies from participants

"I come from Kosovo. I think the React! Camp is a great opportunity to see the cooperation between the youth of the region, and I think this will be great opportunity for Euro-Atlantic integration in the Western Balkan countries, and I hope one day Kosovo will be a part of it."

"Several months ago I attended a Gong workshop on citizen participation at national and EU level. Until then, I did not know anything about possibilities for citizens to participate in decision-making processes. They exist, you know! The thing that I liked the most is the possibility to join with like-minded people from seven countries and take a European citizens' initiative. Have you heard about it? You need to collect one million signatures among European citizens and your idea of how to improve some EU law will be presented to the European Commission and the European Parliament."

Project title: From Remembrance of the Roma Holocaust to a European Reconciliation Process

Beneficiary: Dokumentations- und Kulturzentrum Deutscher Sinti und Roma EV, Germany

Partner countries: Belgium, Bulgaria, Ireland, Spain, France, Italy, Lithuania, Hungary, Republic of North Macedonia, Netherlands, Austria, Poland, Romania, Slovakia

The project **From Remembrance of the Roma Holocaust to a European Reconciliation Process** had the objective of preserving the memory of Holocaust victims by raising awareness about the Roma genocide and the continuing presence of **antisemitism and antigypsyism**. The project also aimed to strengthen the **engagement and participation** of European citizens in the construction of EU values, culture, history and dialogue.



This project had a significant impact and visibility, playing a fundamental role to advance the recognition of European Holocaust Memorial Day for Sinti and Roma on 2 August. It was the largest and most recognised commemoration activity ever organised for this **Memorial Day** with various conference panels, workshops, artistic events and exhibitions. Some 2 000 participants attended the official commemoration ceremony, which took place in the Auschwitz Memorial Site. This project contributed significantly to the **formal recognition of the Memorial Day** in the European Parliament Resolution of 15 April 2015 and to the EU Roma strategic framework for equality, inclusion and participation for 2020-2030 issued by the European Commission.

Project reference: 601892-CITIZ-1-2018-1-DE-CITIZ-REMEM

Project implementation: 07/09/2018 – 06/03/2020

Website: <https://www.roma-sinti-holocaust-memorial-day.eu/education/project-eacea-remembrance/>

Testimonies from participants

"There is a lot that we European Roma youth have to fight for today. In a number of countries, even after so many years, the Roma Holocaust and the date of its commemoration, 2 August, continue to be officially unrecognised. In a number of countries where the majority of Roma perished as victims of Nazi persecutions, there are still no monuments, memorials or museums dedicated to the Roma victims. Roma youth voices matter and it is high time that we hear them!"

"Let's make sure that we, young Jews and Roma, are at the forefront of building a world of open doors and windows. A world without anti-Roma discrimination, antisemitism, and racism. A world that takes "never again" seriously. A world of true peace."



STRAND 2: DEMOCRATIC ENGAGEMENT AND CIVIC PARTICIPATION

Town Twinning Projects

In 2020, **557** town twinning applications were submitted. Following the trend of previous years, the majority of applications continued to come from Eastern Europe, in particular Hungary and Slovakia, who together accounted for 40% of all the submitted applications, followed by Italy (14%) and Romania (7.5%). In 2020, **28 countries** participated as applicants in the Town Twinning selections, with all **34 programme countries** being represented if partner countries are included. There was a small decrease (5%) in the number of applications submitted in comparison with 2019, possibly due to uncertainties caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The **success rate** of 2020 selections was around 42%, against 44% in 2019 and 38% in 2018.

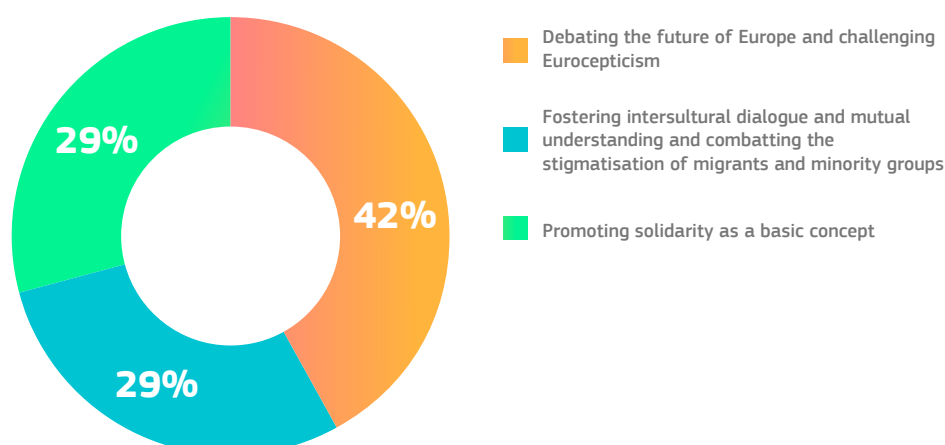
From the applications received, **231 Town Twinning projects were selected** bringing together 1 112 organisations, representing a wide diversity of partnerships (municipalities, NGOs, twinning committees, foundations, associations etc.) In terms of the geographical spread of the selected projects, 25 countries were represented as lead municipalities or organisations, involving partners from 33 countries.

The total amount awarded in grants under the 2020 Town Twinning action was **EUR 4 308 360**, with an average grant per project of **EUR 18 651**. Despite a constant increase in grant amount per project in recent years (EUR 17 355 in 2019 and EUR 16 936 in 2018), the action continues to support projects with smaller budgets led by small municipalities (grants between EUR 5 000 and EUR 10 000 were awarded to 17% of the selected projects).

The selected initiatives will reach out to and **actively involve** citizens at both local and EU level, by engaging them in discussions about topics at the top of the EU policy agenda.

The selected projects managed to **combine various programme priorities** looking for synergies and concrete outputs. The priority **Debating the future of Europe and challenging Euroscepticism** remained the centre of attention, as it was pursued by the highest number of beneficiaries, followed by the priority **Fostering intercultural dialogue and mutual understanding and combating the stigmatisation of migrants and minority groups**. The **remembrance and cultural heritage** components continue to be among the themes addressed by applicants, thus contributing to citizens' understanding of the EU, its history and its diversity, and further promoting active citizenship, tolerance, and EU values.

Selected projects covered the following **thematic priorities**:

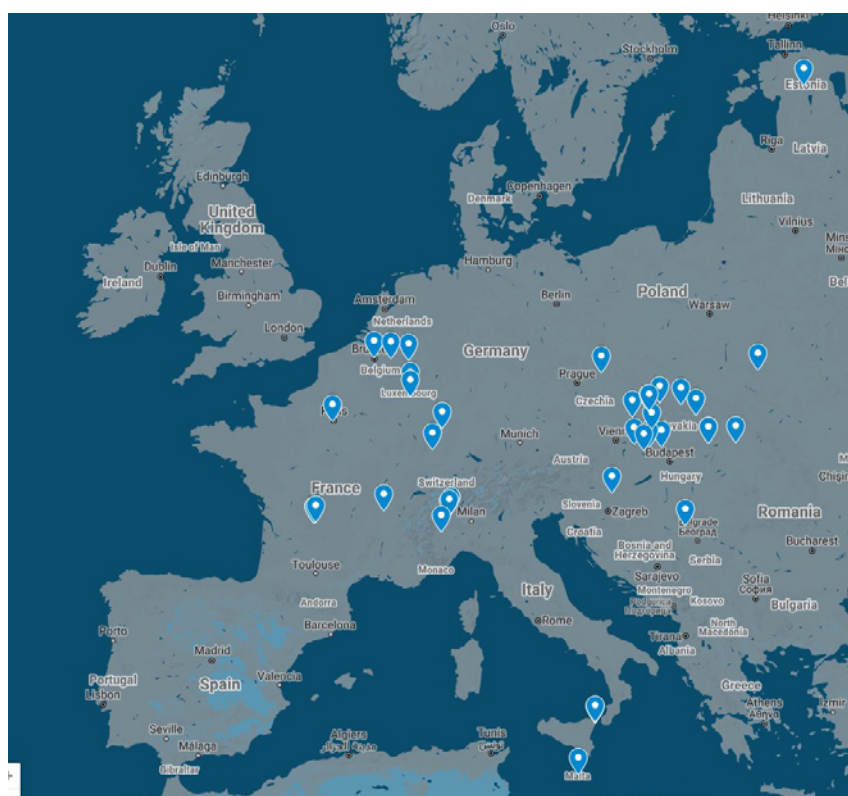


The **COVID-19** pandemic had a significant impact on the organisation of Town Twinning events in 2020. Compared with 2019, fewer cities and towns could host them. Many municipalities could not organise their events in 2020 and requested to extend the eligibility period in order to reschedule them.

Overall, **27 Town Twinning projects** from those selected in 2018 and 2019 were finalised in 2020. These projects involved a total of **146 municipalities**, with an average of **5** organisations per project. The organised events took place in **44 venues** across **12 EU countries**.

The project activities mobilised **12 000 citizens** all over Europe; they participated directly in EU discussions focusing on the programme priorities. The number of citizens reached indirectly (i.e. through dissemination/follow-up actions and online via communication channels such as Twitter, Facebook, project website) was around **1 700 000**. **All age groups** actively participated in Town Twinning project activities, thus indicating equal access to the programme and fostering intergenerational dialogues. The programme continues to attach importance to **youth participation**: the projects implemented in 2020 involved 38% of citizens aged under 30.

Venues of Town Twinning events finalised in 2020



Town Twinning – Best practices

Project title: Solidarity in time of crisis: citizens ask to renew the values of Europe

Beneficiary: Municipality of Casalvecchio Siculo, Italy

Partner countries: Spain, Latvia, Malta, Poland, Slovakia

Grant awarded: EUR 14 615

The Town Twinning project **Solidarity in time of crisis: citizens ask to renew the values of Europe** took place over 7 days in the Italian municipality of Casalvecchio Siculo. The event directly involved 172 participants, and many indirect participants, from the host municipality Casalvecchio Siculo and from municipalities in Spain, Latvia, Malta, Poland and Slovakia. The participants came together to reflect on new policy tools to respond to the challenges that solidarity faces in times of crisis. The project united citizens, local, regional and European politicians, experts, and representatives of the non-governmental sector. The rich and intense programme allowed all the participants to have fruitful exchanges on their experiences, through workshops, brainstorming sessions, exchanges and visits.



Project reference: 608889-CITIZ-1-2019-1-IT-CITIZ-TT

Project implementation: 15/01/2020 – 21/01/2020

Testimonies from participants

"We need to highlight the progress achieved and motivate young people to take active roles in their own communities, with a bold voice through active, informed and motivated participation."

"Solidarity in times of crisis is key to the world. At the same time, thousands of people are crossing the Mediterranean to Europe and it is a duty of everyone to promote, through our example of reception, the values of the EU, encouraging citizens to exchange views and sharing their experiences of life, fostering European cooperation, taking local and regional aspects into account. The European Union has made it possible for the continent to emerge from the crisis. We need to defend our achievements, and we Europeans have a key role to play in ensuring peace, and security and stability."

Project title: We Are All Equal

Beneficiary: Municipality of Spišský Stiaľnik, Slovakia

Partner countries: Czechia, France, Hungary, Poland

Grant awarded: EUR 25 000

The project **We Are All Equal** contributed to the promotion of **intercultural dialogue**, mutual understanding and **destigmatisation of minority groups**. It helped to establish links between different communities, engaging them in common activities, and raised awareness about the European Union.

The exhibition of drawings on the topic of coexistence, by both Roma and by non-Roma children, provided support for **mutual understanding**. The project involved participants of all generations, and promoted **diversity, tolerance and common values** among the 700 local and 190 foreign participants from Czechia, France, Hungary and Poland.



Project reference: 609288-CITIZ-1-2019-1-SK-CITIZ-TT

Project implementation: 13/09/2020 – 15/09/2019

Website: <https://old.spisskystiavnik.sk/we-are-all-equal/>

Testimonies from participants

"A few generations in Spišské Štiavnik already live together with the Roma minority. We have come to our partners to present the programmes we have in the municipality for the Roma minority. We try to take part in activities outside school, sport, and cultural bodies. Let us know that they are equal. Some of these activities were also part of the project. I believe that they inspire our partners abroad to work with minorities."

"It was interesting to see how ordinary children and Roma children together created a joint poster, but also the entire exhibition of images. There were no barriers, no bias. In this way, we should work together for adults. I have seen a variety of interesting projects here at the event, the idea of living together with the Roma community, how to engage them in community activities, but also that they are the European patrimony of musicians. We also have the Roma community in the city, and we are working hard to build with the Roma community. The ideas I have seen here in the course of the project are sure to be applied at home."

Project title: BRIE-Boost Relationships to Interact at European level

Beneficiary: San Giljan Local Council, Malta

Partner countries: Latvia, Hungary, Greece, Italy, Cyprus

Grant awarded: EUR 25 000

The **BRIE Project** had two strands of activities. Local activities took place in each of the involved partner towns, and an international event took place in San Giljan. All countries involved have experienced the impact of **migration** and have shared successful local best practices in the field of **shelter** and **inclusion**. In addition, the project aimed at destigmatising people crossing **borders**. BRIE allowed participants to meet and discuss issues such as shelter and **integration**. It fostered twinning bonds among towns and cooperation at EU level.

The project directly involved 290 citizens, including young people, minorities, migrants, NGOs, volunteers, and third-country nationals legally residing in the EU. It contributed to improving intercultural dialogue and mutual understanding, and to knowledge on EU migration policies, asylum and integration. It set counter-narratives to oppose xenophobic propaganda.



Project reference: 609465-CITIZ-1-2019-1-MT-CITIZ-TT

Project implementation: 28/11/2019 – 02/12/2019

Testimonies from participants

"Throughout this project we had the chance to analyse the migration phenomenon that affects us, particularly because of our geographical position. We discovered the problems other European Countries have, and we learned how it may be possible to solve them."

"Thanks to this Project we could know how amazing it is to stay together and to fight for the same ideas of brotherhood. BRIE was very effective in strengthening human relationships and I hope we can be an example for other small municipalities."

"The starting point of cultural dialogue is respect. Respect is the base for cultural understanding and social and cultural inclusion. It needs to be a two-way process involving the local society on one hand and the migrant community on the other."



Networks of Towns projects

In 2020, **320** Networks of Towns applications were received. Following the trends of previous years, Italy showed the highest interest in this action, accounting for 31% of submitted applications, followed by Spain (11%), Bulgaria (6%) and Hungary (6%). It is positive that **almost all eligible programme countries (31 out of 34)** took part as applicants in the Networks of Towns 2020 selections. In terms of geographical spread including partners, **all 34 eligible countries** were represented in the 2020 selections.

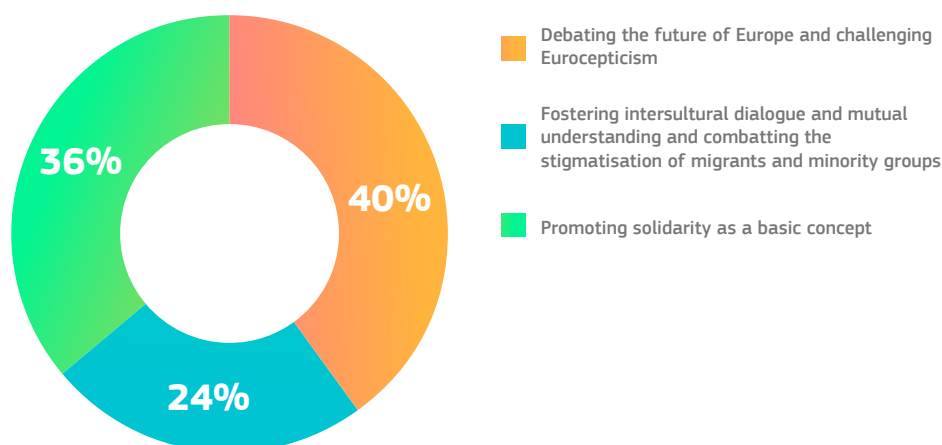
In 2020, **41 projects** were selected for funding, with beneficiaries from **21 programme countries**. The geographical spread of selected projects is even more impressive if we look at the **organisations involved in project partnerships**: they represent all eligible programme countries. The selected projects involve **486 partner organisations** and are characterised by large, diversified and strong partnerships (i.e. on average 12 partner organisations per selected project).

The total amount awarded under the Networks of Towns action in 2020 was **EUR 5 861 880**. The average grant awarded per project was **EUR 142 973**.

The selected projects under the Networks of Towns action managed to **combine various programme priorities** looking for synergies and concrete outputs. The programme priority **Debating the future of Europe and challenging Euroscepticism** was addressed by the highest number of beneficiaries. In addition, debates related to the migration crisis, stigmatisation of migrants and minority groups, and solidarity were at the centre of the selected projects.

Networks of Towns applicants and beneficiaries also discussed climate change and the European Green Deal, together with topics related to remembrance, fundamental rights, discrimination against LGBTIQ communities, gender stereotypes and gender discrimination, and fake news. This contributed to citizens improving their understanding of the EU, its history and its diversity, and further promoting active citizenship, tolerance and EU values.

Selected projects covered the following **thematic priorities**:



In total, **16 Networks of Towns projects** from those selected in 2017 and 2018 were finalised in 2020. These projects involved **155 municipalities and organisations** with an average of **10 organisations** per project, bringing together a variety of participants (NGOs, regions, municipalities, villages, civil society organisations, experts, volunteers, etc.) These projects implemented **more than 103 events**, taking place in **92 towns and cities** across **25 EU countries**. The highest number of events took place in Italy (14), followed by Slovenia (11), Hungary (10) and Poland (8).

The outbreak of the **COVID-19 pandemic** had a significant impact on these projects as their core activities usually envisaged physical meetings, to enable direct exchange among participants from different countries. Facing restrictions for travel and face-to-face meetings, many beneficiaries had to request changes to their original activity plans to transform them to online or hybrid formats.

The project activities mobilised more than **14 000 direct participants** all across Europe. More than **1 200 000 citizens** were reached indirectly, including through the dissemination of project results and follow-up activities.

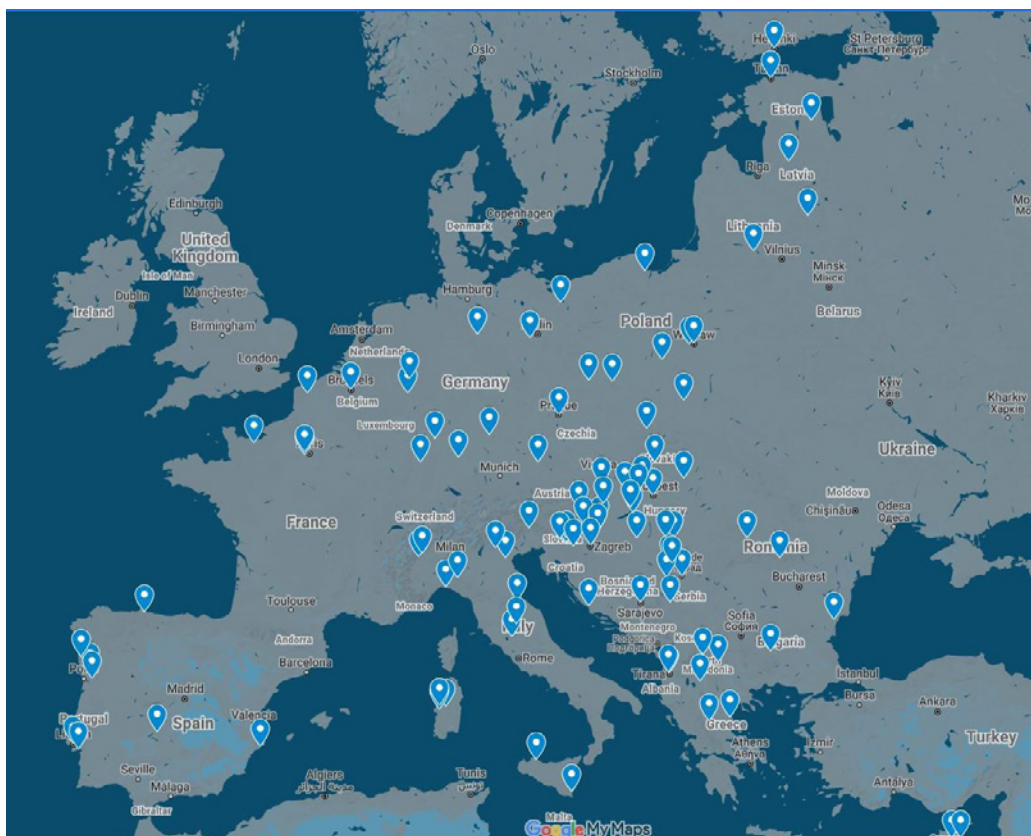
All age groups actively participated in Networks of Towns project activities, ensuring equal access to the programme and fostering intergenerational dialogue. Moreover, the programme continues to give importance to youth participation: some 34% of citizens involved in the Networks of Towns projects finalised in 2020 were under the age of 30.

The implemented activities tackled the challenges faced in big urban centres, as well as issues present in small localities in rural areas. Most of the Networks of Towns activities addressed issues related to **the future of Europe** and debated the challenges that the EU is currently facing. The events highlighted the significance of EU integration and emphasised the role of younger generations in establishing a constructive dialogue with the EU institutions.

When covering the priority **Fostering intercultural dialogue and combating the stigmatisation of migrants and minority groups**, projects presented concrete local and regional policies regarding the integration of migrants into society and in the labour market.

On the priority related to **solidarity**, organisations focused on solidarity mechanisms and exchange of good practices, such as EU solidarity models for sustainability or volunteering at local, national and European level. In addition, participants addressed growing **Euroscepticism** and possible ways to fight populism and extremism. They also motivated young citizens to participate in the **2019 European elections** and promoted common EU values linked to solidarity, cultural heritage and tolerance.

Venues of events of Networks of Towns projects finalised in 2020



Networks of Towns - Best practices

Project title: Integrated approaches to sharing knowledge on social inclusion systems of migrants and the role of EU local authorities (ISLA)

Beneficiary: Unione degli Assessorati delle Politiche Sociosanitarie, dell' Istruzione e del Lavoro, Italy

Partner countries: Croatia, Slovenia and Portugal

Grant awarded: EUR 110 000

The project Integrated approaches to sharing knowledge on social inclusion systems of migrants and the role of EU local authorities brought together eight partner organisations from four different countries: Italy, Slovenia, Croatia and Portugal. The project collected and developed best practices in the area of social integration of migrants and refugees and included a wide range of stakeholders such as citizens of involved municipalities, public bodies, civil society organisations, universities and schools. The activities were diverse. They focused on collecting data on the reception systems in Italy, Croatia, Slovenia and Portugal, and on mapping communication methods, strategies and tools that each country adopted when informing about the migration phenomenon.

The final result was a comparative report of good practices that highlighted communication procedures adopted with migrant communities and virtual methods of interaction. The report also analysed the systems of interaction with migrants for each individual country, with particular reference to the actions of active citizenship through volunteering. Moreover, the publication included a list of procedures, methods and draft recommendations that emerged as good practices from the individual experiences shared during the events.

Testimonies from migrants and operators had an important role in the development of the project, as they also highlighted the delicate issue of policies on the management of reception procedures. The project produced a list of European recommendations.

Project reference: 595320-CITIZ-1-2017-2-IT-CITIZ-NT

Project implementation: 01/01/2018 - 31/12/2019

Website: <http://www.unioneassessorati.it>

Testimonies from participants

"With the help of project ISLA we were familiarised with wider scope of migrations, get to know personal stories that in the media do not get so much attention. Conferences that were organised within the project gave us a clearer picture of what the migration situation is around Europe and new knowledge that can be adapted and used in different areas". "By listening to challenges and good practices in local and national environments of project partners, we gained new information and experiences in the field of implementing rights, opportunities and tolerance toward migrants, by taking into account their differences (culture, values, fears, wishes, hopes). We gained innovative ways of encouraging and developing communication among migrants and citizens of the host county, that we will use in future projects for the greater good of all citizens".

Project title: Europe on a Doorstep

Beneficiary: de Vila Boa do Bispo, Portugal

Partner countries: Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Italy, Latvia, North Macedonia, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Spain

Grant awarded: EUR 148 680

The project **Europe on a Doorstep** brought together 11 partner organisations from 11 countries (Portugal, Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Italy, Latvia, North Macedonia, Poland, Romania, Serbia and Spain). The objective was to raise awareness about the European Union and to talk about **Euroscepticism** and its origins and causes, with a special emphasis on the 2019 elections to the European Parliament.

The project targeted **youth and NEET** (not in education, employment or training) as groups vulnerable to Euroscepticism and radicalisation. A wide variety of activities were organised: **training for future community leaders**, a study visit focused on exchanging experiences, a seminar on European awareness, and a conference focused on presenting and disseminating the results. The six events gathered almost 500 participants, exceeding the expected turnout. The events had a broad outreach with participants coming from 16 countries. The events involved local government decision-makers, civil society organisations, community leaders etc. The activities inspired a few NEET participants from Portugal to create an **informal network of partners - EUdoor Network** - aimed at promoting European values, including through a website.



Key message(s) of citizens involved in the project

The future of Europe is not a responsibility of authorities and decision-makers - we are all going to live in it. It is a process in which all its citizens have a right to participate. By active participation and inclusion, as well as by choosing to be united in protecting human rights, democracy and equality, we are creating a better tomorrow for ourselves and for future generations in our communities and beyond.'

Project reference: 606280-CITIZ-1-2018-2-PT-CITIZ-NT

Project implementation: 01/08/2018 – 31/01/2020

Testimonies from participants

"Europe nowadays is facing a lot of challenges. However, in my opinion, among the biggest is the fact that its citizens start forgetting how important are its values, how many benefits it brings, such as access to education, mobility, human rights, democracy, and we often take it for granted, especially when it comes to young people. This project and its events opened more opportunities for active fieldwork for me and my organisation to promote active citizenship and European values among the youth. Sharing the experience, learning from good practices, creating tools and getting connected with so many like-minded people was one of the most valuable experiences."



Civil society projects

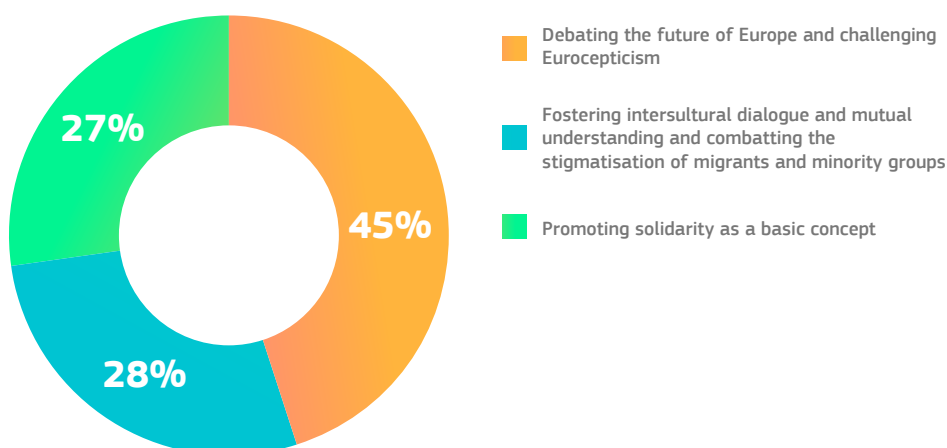
Civil Society projects remain very popular among European civil society and educational, cultural and research organisations. In comparison with 2019, there was a significant increase of 39% in the number of applications received (**571 applications** in 2020 versus 411 in 2019). The geographical spread of applicants and partners showed that **all 34 eligible countries** participated in the selection. The greatest number of applications came from Italy (22%), followed by Spain (8%), Poland (6%) and Belgium (6%).

The **multiannual priorities** were fully addressed by applicants, often successfully combining them. Many different topics were addressed, looking for synergies and concrete outputs. In particular, the priority **Debate on the future of Europe and challenging Euroscepticism** was the most addressed one (54%), followed by **Fostering intercultural dialogue and mutual understanding and combating the stigmatisation of migrants and minority groups** (46%) and **Solidarity as a basic concept** (46%).

The **selection rate in 2020** was the lowest ever in the Europe for Citizens programme (**6%**). Unfortunately, many good projects could not be funded due to lack of available budgetary resources. The 2020 **threshold** for funding was high (82/100), reflecting the high quality of applications submitted.

In 2020, **33 projects** were selected, all with solid and transnational partnerships (with a total of 232 organisations involved and an average of 7 organisations per project). The total amount of funding was EUR 4 478 950 with an average grant of EUR 135 726. The **thematic scopes** of projects were wide and rich, covering various issues of high relevance for the programme and Commission priorities: migration, the debate on the future of the EU, the European Green Deal, e-participation, COVID-19 impact on societies, challenging Euroscepticism, fighting against LGBTIQ discrimination, media literacy, fundamental rights, civic participation and youth engagement. A wide number of direct participants is expected to be involved in the partnership activities.

Selected projects covered the following **thematic priorities**:



In 2020, **24** civil society projects were **finalised**. They involved 171 partner organisations from all across Europe. They carried out a broad range of activities (e.g. workshops, debates, conferences, research, surveys, and webinars) across almost all programme participating countries. In total, these projects gathered more than **45 300 direct participants** and reached out to around **5 200 000 indirect participants** through diverse dissemination activities and project outputs.

As for the other actions, the **COVID-19 pandemic** again had a significant impact on civil society projects monitored in 2020 when they envisaged physical meetings and direct exchanges among participants. Facing restrictions on travel and face-to-face meetings, many beneficiaries requested modifications in the format of their activities (from physical to hybrid or online). In addition, the European Education and Culture Executive Agency processed 18 amendments to extend eligibility periods to allow organisations to postpone their events or activities.

The **projects finalised in 2020** showed a strong commitment to the multiannual priority **debating the future of Europe and challenging Euroscepticism**. Over recent years, the majority of civil society projects chose to focus on this topic. Many of the projects finalised in 2020 discussed the future of Europe in the context of the 2019 European Parliament elections. The projects provided citizens with information on the functioning of the European Parliament, involved them in debates on their concerns and visions for Europe, and motivated them to vote. Many young people, marginalised groups and first time voters participated in these projects, which encouraged democratic involvement at EU level.

Another set of projects focused on the impact of **media and the digital space** on current developments and the challenges Europe is facing. Beneficiaries addressed topics such as fake news, media literacy and e-democracy, and developed diverse platforms, digital tools and educational methodologies to improve the conditions for civic and democratic participation.

Another group of projects strengthened the collaboration and networking between different civil society organisations across Europe. Activities included capacity development and exchange among these organisations at national, regional and European level. Furthermore, some of the projects focused on European rural areas with the specific aim of addressing the concerns and needs of rural citizens.

As in previous years, the promotion of **intercultural dialogue** and the fight against stigmatisation of **migrants and minority groups** continued to be at the centre of many projects. For example, beneficiaries explored the impact of hate speech against migrants and aimed to combat the social exclusion of Roma. Several projects also engaged in promoting **solidarity** between citizens and between Member States. In addition, some projects focused on the role of European **cultural heritage** as a shared source of identity, dialogue, belonging and citizenship in the European Union.

Despite the challenges that they faced in 2020, beneficiaries maintained their strong commitment to enhancing the active participation and democratic engagement of citizens across the EU. Organisations demonstrated their capacity to adapt quickly to new circumstances and at the same time deliver outstanding results.

Civil Society – Best practices

Project title: Smart eDemocracy Against Fake News

Beneficiary: Sabiedrības Līdzdalības Fonds, Latvia

Partner countries: Belgium, Czechia, Estonia, Slovenia, France, Greece

Grant awarded: EUR 138 850

SMARTeD sought to raise awareness on the impact of **fake news** on active citizenship at local, national and European level. The project especially focused on how the growing amount of disinformation affects **e-participation** by citizens and how a skilful use of **e-democracy tools** can address this challenge.

With the aim of involving primarily citizens from rural areas, the project team successfully implemented 12 local workshops in Latvia, Estonia, Czechia, France, Greece and Slovenia. Around 400 workshop participants actively engaged in the debate on the negative consequences of fake news on e-participation and democratic processes, and they improved their practical skills in critical thinking, media literacy and communication.

The main project outputs include a common local workshop methodology, a comprehensive list of interactive and innovative online tools, and common recommendations to policymakers at the national and EU level on how to increase and improve the conditions for e-participation by European citizens.



Project reference: 609288-CITIZ-1-2019-1-SK-CITIZ-TT

Project implementation: 01/09/2018 – 29/02/2020

Website: <https://smartedemocracy.org/>

Testimonies from participants

"Participants of the final conference in Brussels all agreed on the significant consequences of disinformation at local, national, regional and European levels. Particularly, online disinformation affects our society by hampering the ability of citizens to make informed choices, disrupting electoral processes and breaking the integrity of our democratic institutions."

Project title: Words are Stones

Beneficiary: Lunaria - Associazione di Promozione Sociale e Impresa Sociale, Italy

Partner countries: Greece, Spain, France, Austria, Cyprus

Grant awarded: EUR 148 680

The project **Words are Stones** aimed to tackle **hate speech** against migrants, refugees and minorities in the public debate in six European countries: Italy, Greece, Spain, France, Austria and Cyprus. The project activities enabled the analysis of political discourses that exacerbate xenophobia, intolerance and discrimination in the partner countries, producing six national reports and one international report.

In eight transnational meetings, European citizens and civil society activists came together to discuss the crucial elements related to the spread of hostile and violent public rhetoric. The promotion of **intercultural dialogue** and the fight against forms of stigmatisation of migrants and minorities were at the centre of the final online awareness-raising campaign, which had an impact and a visibility beyond expectations.

As part of the campaign, five short video-clips accompanied by 19 memes and infographics were produced, presenting different situations of daily racism with an invitation to pay attention to thoughts and words.



Project reference: 601244-CITIZ-1-2018-1-IT-CITIZ-CIV

Project implementation: 01/09/2018 – 29/02/2020

Website: <http://www.cronachediordinariorazzismo.org/words-are-stones-english/>

Testimonies from participants

"I find that overturning the discourse on immigration as a single discourse, stopping talking only about immigration, could be the right strategy, precisely because now it is not only the rights of migrants that are in danger but also the rights of women, of the LGBTIQ community."

"The fact that today's media earn on the number of clicks received, and therefore on the amount of people accessing or sharing their content, creates a situation in which the media have no interest in stopping hate speech as they are an important source of income."

Project title: Liberty Talks

Beneficiary: Stichting Masterpiece, Netherlands

Partner countries: Germany, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Netherlands, Croatia

Grant awarded: EUR 148 430

The end of the Second World War in 1945 laid the foundation for European cooperation and peace. Its 75th anniversary offered a moment to commemorate as well as to reflect on how to safeguard a free and democratic Europe in the years to come. In this context, the project **Liberty Talks** aimed to encourage the **civic involvement of youth** across Europe, thus fostering European awareness and citizenship. In a series of ACT for Liberty events in the partner countries (Netherlands, Germany, Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina), more than 1 000 participants were invited to debate current challenges to **European freedom**. Young people had the opportunity to engage in seven different topics: **freedom of speech, respect and identity, integration and migration, equality, democracy, fake and reliable news, and cybersecurity and privacy**. Through the development of a dedicated debate toolkit and a central online platform used during the talks, participants were stimulated to formulate their opinions and solutions in a creative way. A final project manifesto summarising the outcomes of the project was disseminated to political stakeholders, including Members of the European Parliament.

Project reference: 601145-CITIZ-1-2018-1-NL-CITIZ-CIV

Project implementation: 15/11/2018 – 15/09/2020

Website: <https://actforliberty.eu/>

Testimonies from participants

"It's okay to have different opinions. Don't be afraid to speak up for yourself." (Freedom of speech)

"Men? Women? Doesn't matter! We are all humans. Success does not depend on your gender, religion or nationality... but in our efforts to achieve something..." (Equality)

"People not numbers." (Migration)

"Cookies! Do I have a choice?" (Privacy)



OPERATING GRANTS

With its operating grants, the Europe for Citizens programme supports regular activities of non-profit organisations contributing to raising awareness of European remembrance (Strand 1) and encouraging democratic and civic participation (Strand 2). In 2020, **EUR 6.8 million** was awarded to **30 organisations**.

As for 2019, the beneficiaries of operating grants were civil society organisations for European remembrance, European public policy research organisations (think tanks), platforms of pan-European organisations and civil society organisations working at the European level. Indirectly they represent over 3 000 organisations in Europe.

The **COVID-19 health crisis** has impacted every area of our lives and this was reflected in the activities implemented with the Europe for Citizens operating grants. Many organisations undertook research and advocacy activities linked to the measures taken across the EU to respond to the pandemic and the way they affected societies. Others focused on analysing the EU's response to the pandemic with a particular emphasis on the EU Recovery Plan.

The planned activities for 2020 have been delivered, although sometimes in a modified format. The year 2020 marked the **70th anniversary of the Schuman Declaration** and some beneficiaries celebrated this significant event in the history of European integration. Many organisations carried out activities relating to the **Conference on the Future of Europe**. The focus was on issues of concern to EU citizens, such as democratic participation, migration and asylum, the economy, climate change, and digitalisation.

In terms of working methods, we have seen a rapid shift to virtual and remote work. Many workshops, meetings and conferences took place in a virtual space. The transition to new formats was very successful. In many cases, outreach was greater than in normal circumstances, as more participants were able to join virtual activities.

Overall, in the course of 2020, beneficiary organisations encouraged and facilitated citizens' involvement in the democratic process, raised awareness of EU issues, and contributed to European policy debates.

Organisation: The European Policy Centre (EPC)

Country: Belgium

Website: <https://epc.eu/>

Grant awarded: EUR 200 000

The **European Policy Centre** is an independent, not-for-profit think tank dedicated to fostering **European integration** through analysis and debate, supporting and challenging decision-makers at all levels to make informed decisions based on evidence and analysis, and providing a platform for engaging partners, stakeholders and citizens in EU policymaking and in the debate about the future of Europe.

The emergence of the COVID-19 health crisis and the resulting devastating economic and social impact led EPC to recalibrate its work programme and home in on the impact of COVID-19 across a range of policies and sectors, including monitoring and analysing the EU's response to the pandemic with a particular focus on the EU Recovery Plan – **Next Generation EU** – and the EU budget negotiations. EPC successfully adapted its events programme by switching to online platforms, extending its outreach and increasing its output. New event formats were introduced, such as the online Weekly Update, which gives the latest analysis on the EU's response to COVID-19 and reports on the outcome of the many high-level EU summits held by videoconference to coordinate the response by European leaders to the pandemic.

The EPC continued to develop its reflections on the delayed Conference on the Future of Europe, feeding decision-makers in the EU and Member States with ideas on its design, conceptualisation and implementation, as well as advocating for **citizen involvement** in the conference, including young people.

Brexit remained high on the EPC agenda with regular events and analysis of the practical and political ramifications for the EU and its citizens.

Key indicators for 2020

- *240 events organised*
- *106 publications resulting in 71,000 downloads*
- *22,750 people took part directly in events*
- *Social media: EPC events & publications were widely promoted through online platforms reaching more than 70,000 followers on: Twitter (34,000), Facebook (14,000), and LinkedIn (24,000).*
- *An average 50,000 visitors per month to the EPC website*

Organisation: Fondation Robert Schuman

Country: France

Website: <https://www.robert-schuman.eu>

Grant awarded: EUR 350 000

The **Robert Schuman Foundation** develops studies on the European Union and its policies, promoting the content of these in France, Europe and elsewhere in the world. It encourages, contributes to and stimulates **European debate** thanks to the wealth of its research, publications and the organisation of conferences.

The 70th anniversary on 9 May of Robert Schuman's declaration gave rise to an unprecedented digital event during which high-ranking European personalities, including the President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen, the Executive Vice-President Margrethe Vestager, and the High Representative and Vice-President Josep Borrell, shared their vision for the future of the Union¹.

The Foundation reorganised its work by greatly developing its uses of new **internet tools**. It has tripled its activities and digital publications. In addition to the weekly newsletter, the Foundation published a daily letter containing information on the COVID-19 crisis in all Member States, the measures taken by Member States and the European Union, and the provision of online cultural events accessible in Europe. These publications were sent in French and English to over 200 000 subscribers.

Organisation: Gong

Country: Croatia

Website: <https://www.gong.hr/en/>

Grant awarded: EUR 198 094

Gong is a civil society organisation focused on enhancing **democratic processes** and institutions. It also seeks to develop democratic political culture and encourage active participation of citizens in political processes, particularly in decision-making processes related to **good governance, protection and promotion of the rule of law, human rights, and solidarity**.

In 2020, Gong continued to work to preserve the **civic space**, being among the leading organisations of the nationwide coalition for a sustainable civil society sphere. Transnationally, Gong continued and deepened its membership in **Europe-wide networks of civil society organisations**, including the governing structure of the European Civic Forum.

Gong's media, political and EU literacy programmes were updated, adapted and implemented, online as well as live, enabling a further reach toward interested **teachers and trainers**. The online programmes were Gong's first e-learning activities and were met with acclaim from users, who especially praised them for their relative ease of use, encouraging the further development of teaching materials and hands-on exercises. An entirely novel digital literacy module was developed and implemented, receiving positive feedback from users.



¹ <https://www.robert-schuman.eu/en/special-page-on-may-9>

Organisation: ICNM – Internationales Centrum für Neue Medien Verein

Country: Austria

Website: <https://icnm.net/>

Grant awarded: EUR 200 000

The **ICNM – International Centre for New Media** – is a non-profit association, based in Austria. ICNM focuses on the use of digital technologies, social entrepreneurship and the achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, connecting and promoting social entrepreneurship and knowledge exchange. ICNM stands out for its special emphasis on the evaluation, promotion and showcasing of best practice in **digital projects improving society**.

On 9-11 March 2020, the **WSA Global Congress – Hack the Gap** took place in Vienna, gathering young social entrepreneurs and digital founders from more than 80 countries. Diverse formats offered participants the chance to discuss how we can work together to tackle the global challenges we are facing – **education, health, fake news, gender equality or climate change**.

The event was perhaps the last international gathering before all governments around the world announced lockdowns and strict measures in response to the pandemic.

ICNM immediately shifted all activities online and was able to organise its local, regional and global competitions as planned.

In 2020, more than 700 impact solutions from 120 countries participated in the contest and more than 100 international jury members selected the 16 European Young Innovators, the 40 WSA Winners and the 5 WSA Young Innovators.

From 28 November to 2 December, the European **Young Innovators Festival** took place as a virtual festival, with panel discussions, pitching sessions, mentoring sessions and interactive knowledge webinars.

ICNM also conducted its pan-European student entrepreneurship programme **Youth for Innovation** online, where 70 students from 8 universities collaborated in international and interdisciplinary teams and developed project analysis for successful impact tech solutions.



PART B

QUANTITATIVE RESULTS

Europe for Citizens programme in 2020: selection and contracts

Europe for citizens programme follow up selection and contracts (2020)										
Index	Actions and sub-actions	Budget*	Number of grants / contracts	Call	Deadline	Number of applications received	Number of selected application	Success rate	Decision date	Amount of Decision (euros)
Strand 1 - European remembrance and European citizenship										
1.1.	Remembrance projects	4.140.000	45	EACEA-52/2019	4/02/2020	255	54	21 %	15/06/2020	4.912.620
1.2.	Structural support think tanks, organisations at European level (framework partnerships)	1.291.900	6	EACEA 33/2017 Invitation n° EACEA 53/2019	17/12/2019	6	6	100%	28/02/2020	1.291.900
Strand 2 - Democratic engagement and civic participation										
2.1.	Town twinning citizens meetings - phase 1	4.750.160	280	EACEA 52/2019	4/02/2020	285	125	44%	24/07/2020	2.314.290
2.1.	Town twinning citizens meetings - phase 2				1/09/2020	272	106	39%	14/12/2020	1.994.070
						557	231	41%		4.308.360
2.2.	Networks of twinned towns - phase 1	5.127.228	36	EACEA-52/2019	3/03/2020	147	22	15%	9/07/2020	3.103.560
2.2.	Networks of twinned towns - phase 2				1/09/2020	173	19	11%	14/01/2020	2.758.320
						320	41	13%		5.861.880
2.3.	Civil society projects	3.941.274	29	EACEA-52/2019	1/09/2020	571	33	6%	15/12/2020	4.478.950
2.4.	Structural support for think tanks, organisations at European level (framework partnerships)	5.518.503	24	EACEA - 33/2017 Invitation n° EACEA 53/2019	17/12/2019	24	24	100%	28/02/2020	5.518.303
Strand 3 - Valorisation										
3.1.	Information structures in Member States and participating countries	1.100.000	35	Invitation n° EACEA 54/2019	7/12/2019	28	28	100%	2904/2020	916.645
4.1.	Support to project selection	200.000			n/a					0
	TOTAL WP 2020	25.069.065	450			1761	417			27.288.658

Applications submitted in 2020

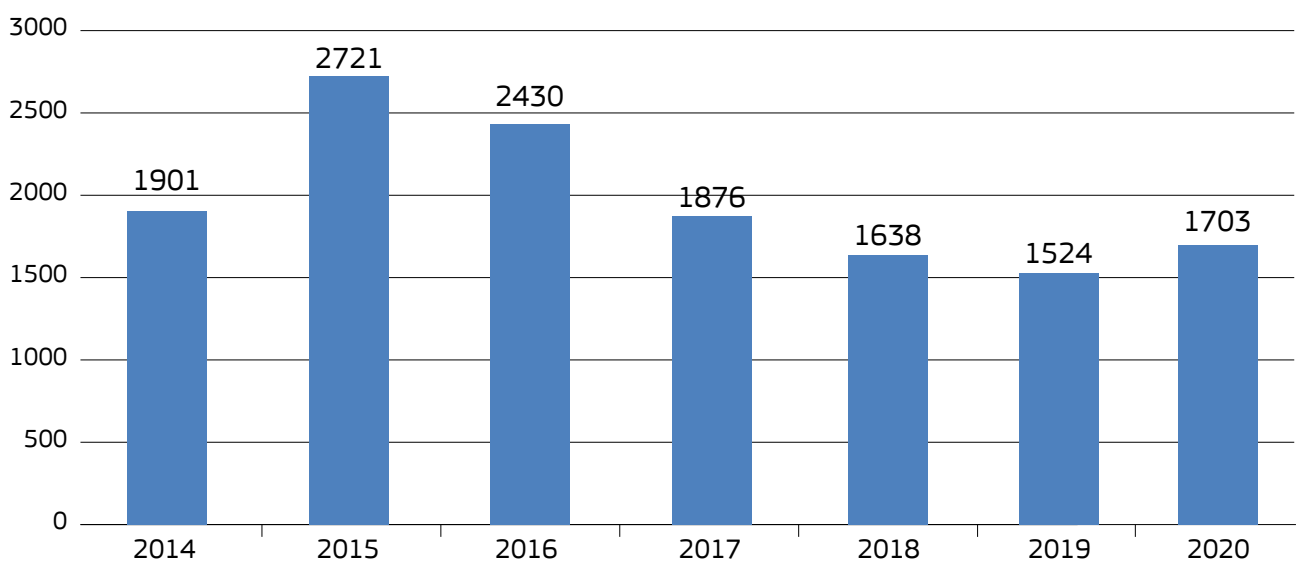
In total, 1 761 applications were submitted in 2020, of which 1 703 action grant applications, 30 operating grant applications and 28 applications for the Europe for Citizens contact points.

- Applications submitted in 2020 per action grants



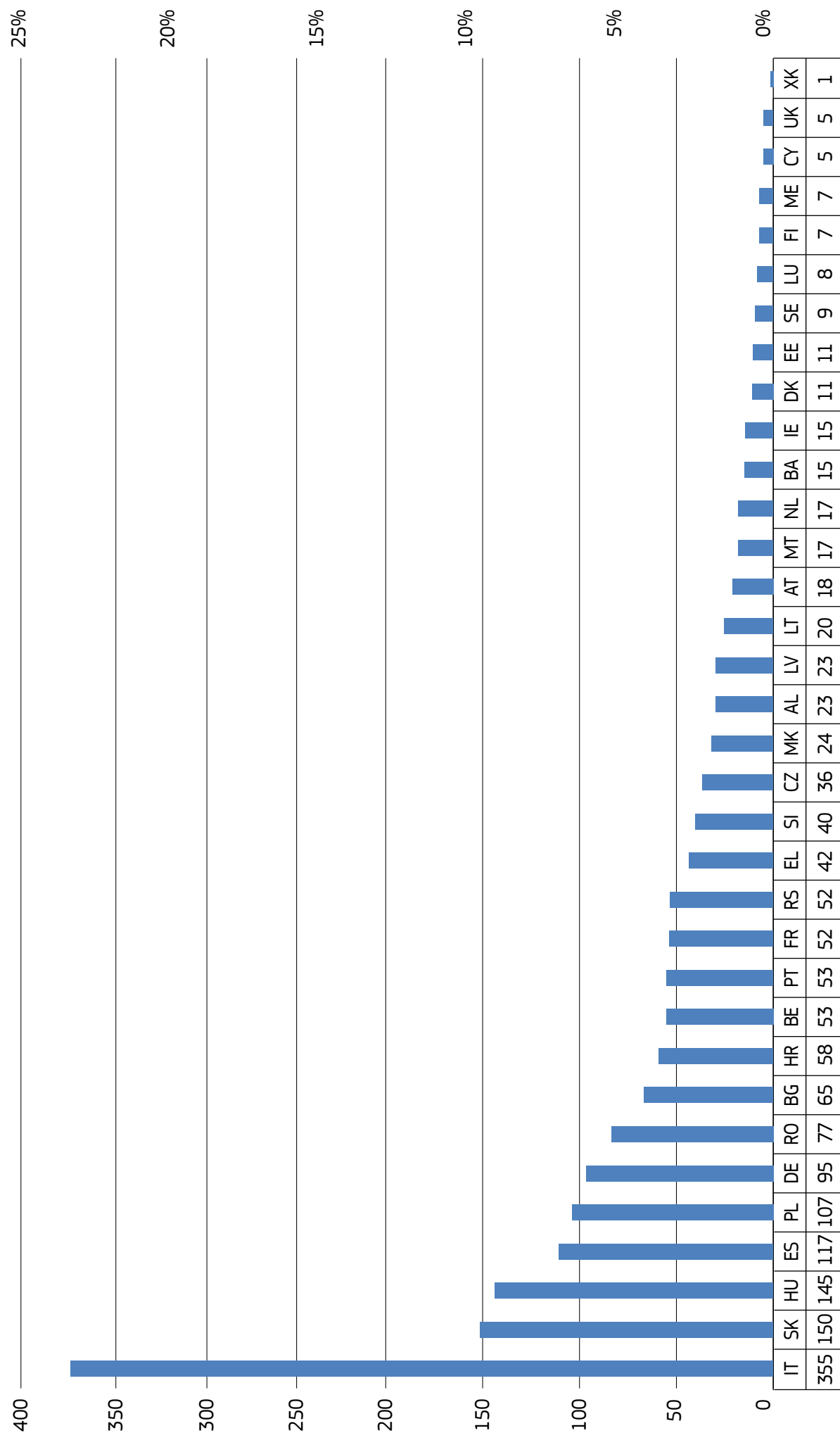
- Applications submitted in 2014-2020 per action grants

The relatively low success rate may have limited the number of applications after its rise in 2015.



• Applications submitted in 2020 per country – action grants and operating grants

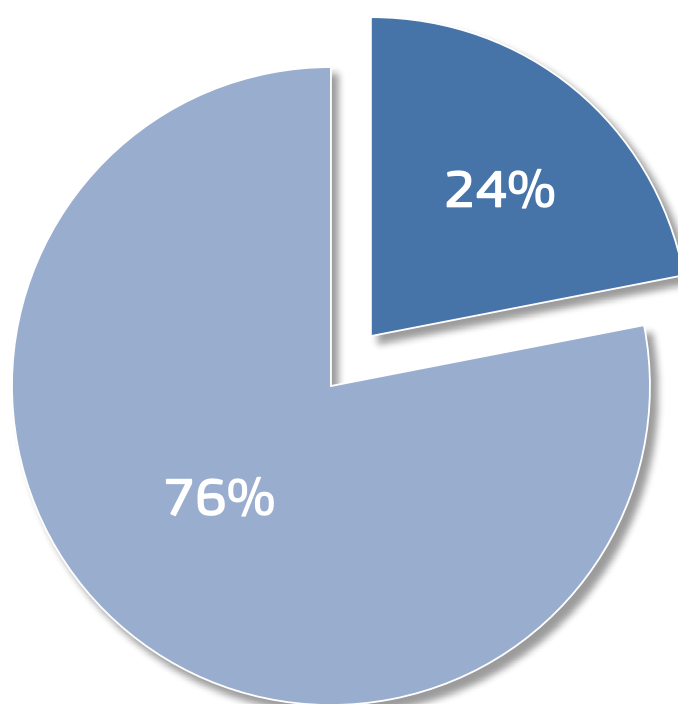
Organisations from all Member States and participating countries are represented as applicants. Italy was the Member State submitting the highest number of proposals (355 or 20.5%), followed by Slovakia (150 or 8.7%), Hungary (145 or 8.4%), Spain (117 or 6.8%) and Poland (107 or 6.2%).



Projects selected in 2020

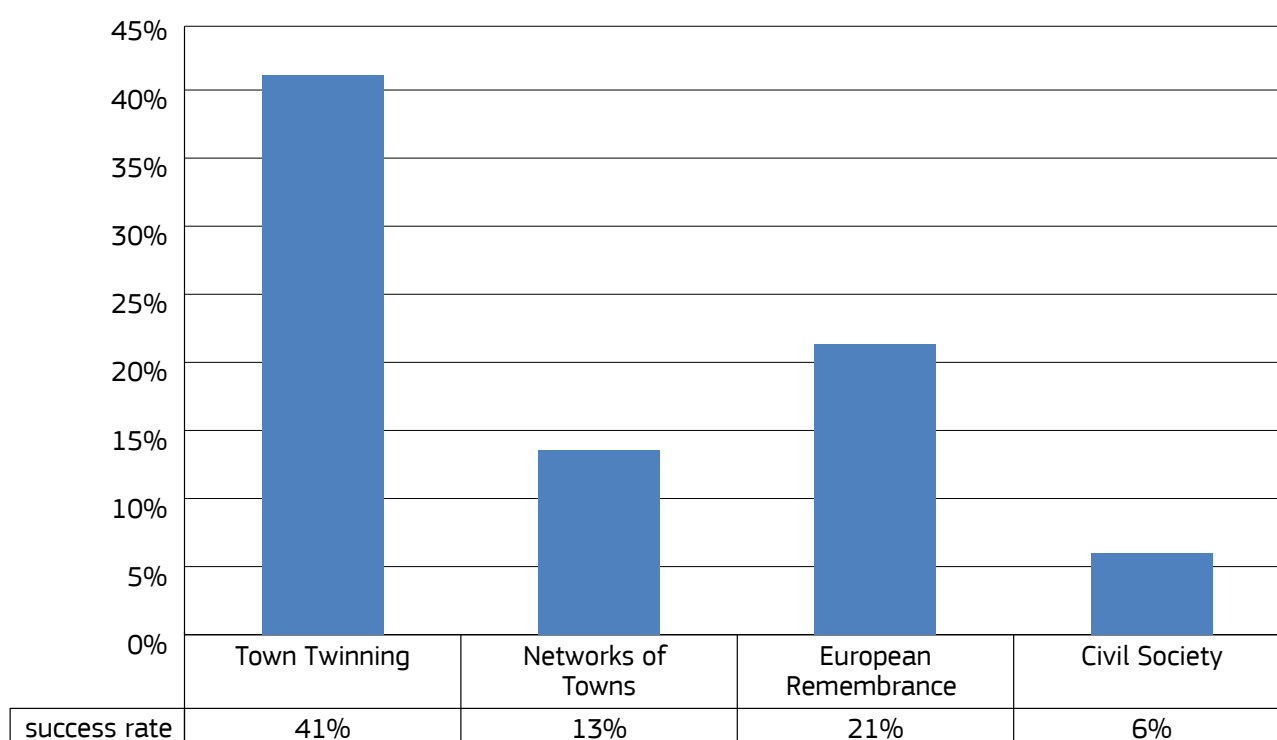
- **Programme success rate (2020)**

Ratio between projects submitted/selected



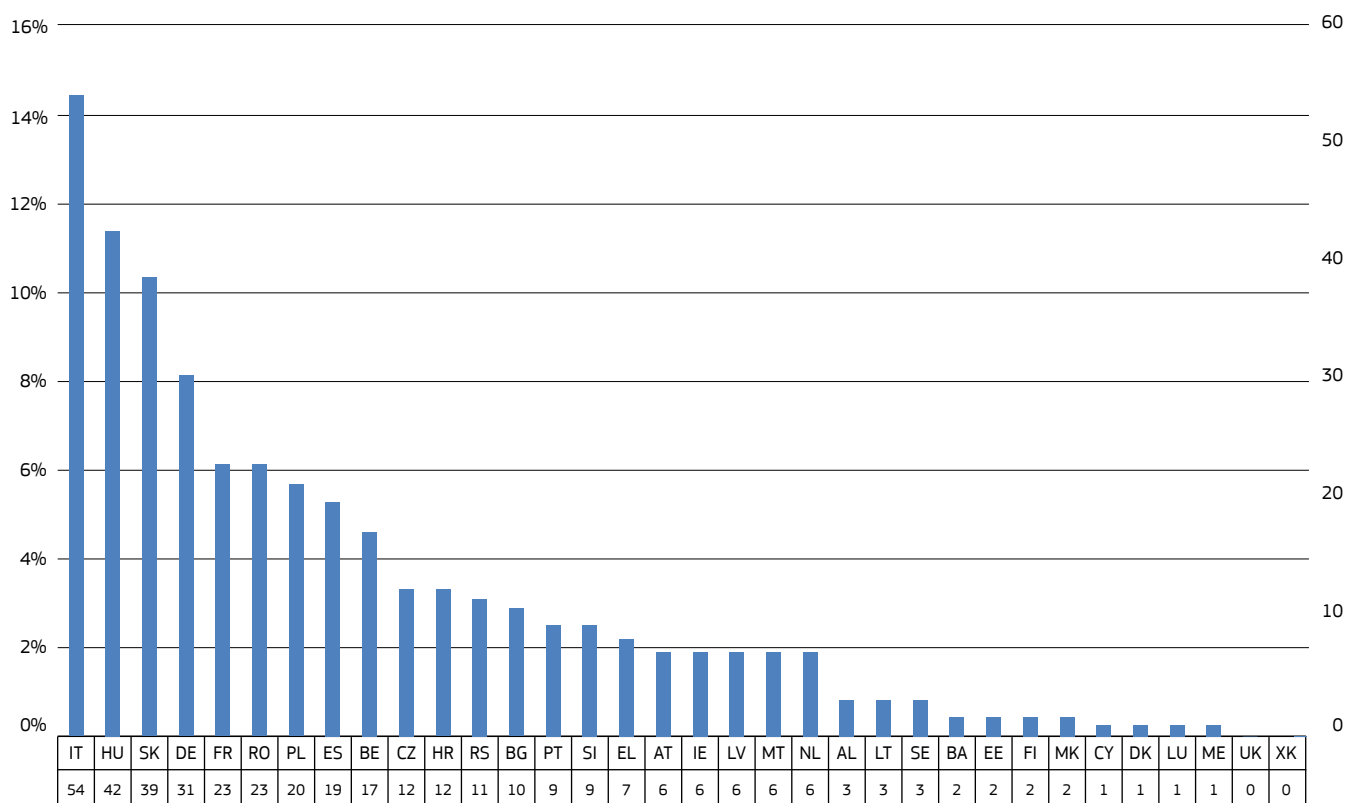
- **Success rate per action grants (2020)**

Ratio between projects submitted/selected



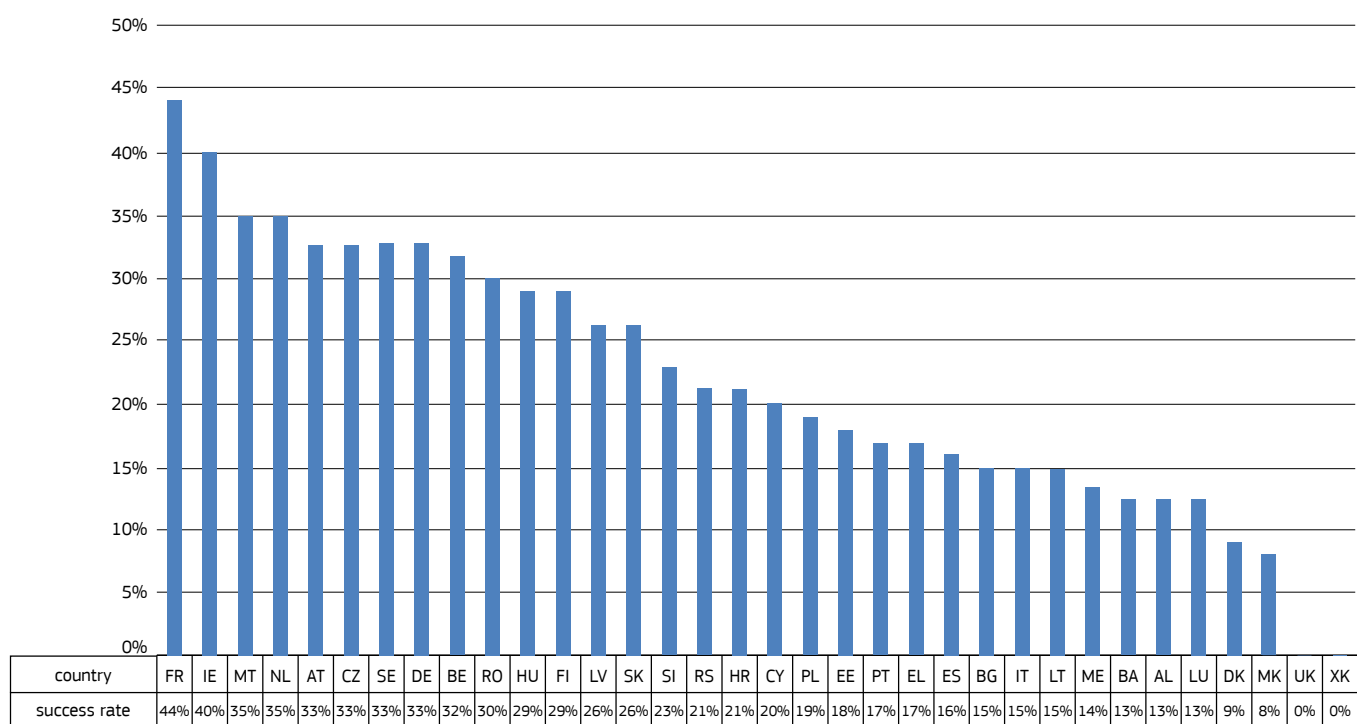
• Success rate for projects selected per country (2020)

Ratio between projects selected and total of projects selected per country



• Success rate for applications submitted per country (2020)

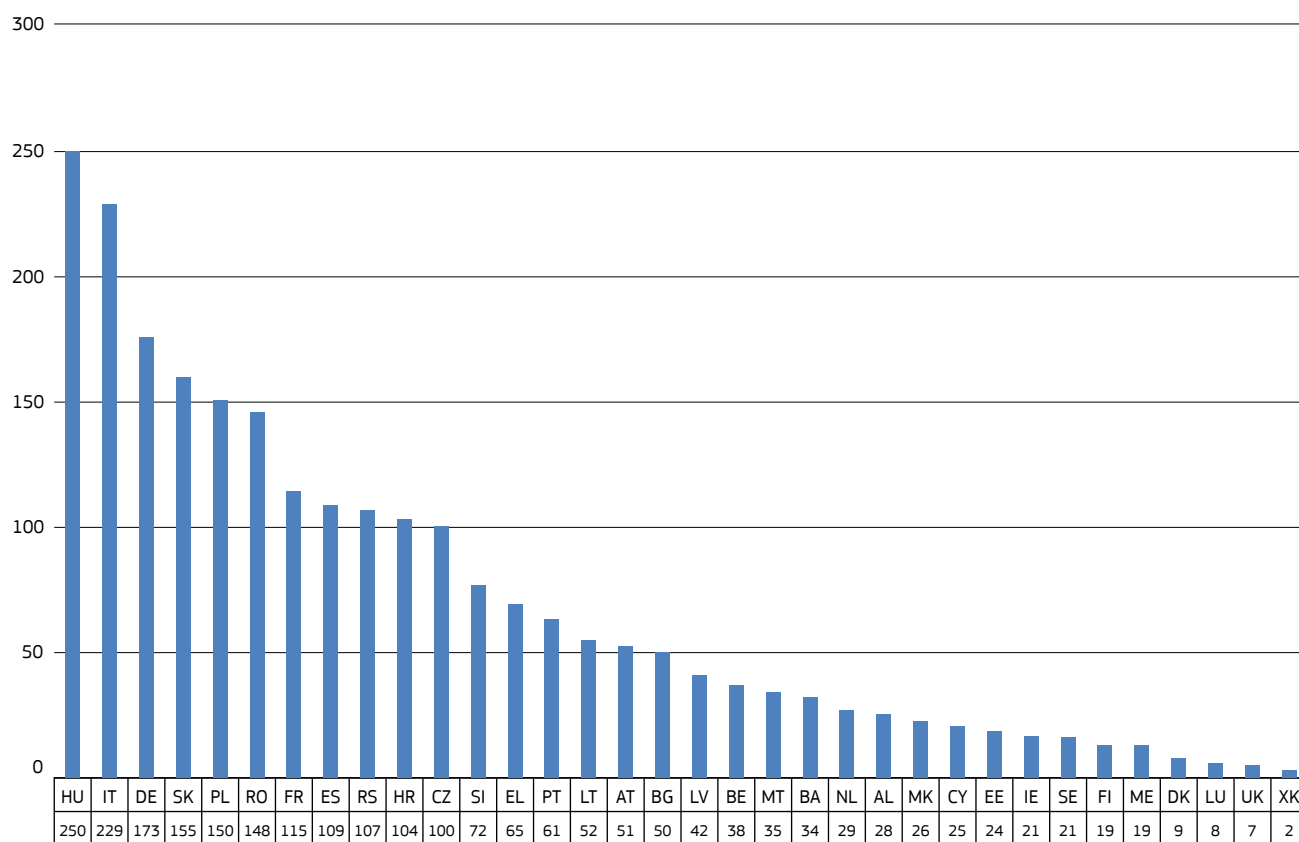
Ratio between applications submitted and projects selected per country



Analysis of projects partners in 2020

• Overview of partner organisations per country (2020)

In total, 2 378 partner organisations were directly involved in selected projects for action grants (European Remembrance, Town Twinning, Networks of Towns and Civil Society)



• Average number of partner organisations in selected projects per action grants (2020)

'Partners' refers to all organisations involved in the projects, including applicants.

Action	Number of projects granted	Number of Partners in project granted	Average number of partners in 2020	Average number of partners in 2019
Networks of Towns	41	486	11,9	12,1
Civil Society	33	232	7,0	6,6
European Remembrance	54	302	5,6	6,0
Town Twinning	231	1358	5,9	5,3
TOTAL	359	2378	6,6	6,1

- Number of partner organisations in selected projects per country (2020)

Country	European Remembrance	Town Twinning	Networks of Towns	Civil Society	Total
AL	5	9	10	4	28
AT	8	30	8	5	51
BA	7	14	6	7	34
BE	7	10	8	13	38
BG	10	11	24	5	50
CY	2	10	13	0	25
CZ	12	69	15	4	100
DE	9	100	30	14	173
DK	4	2	2	1	9
EE	4	5	9	6	24
EL	13	18	21	13	65
ES	23	41	31	14	109
FI	1	9	8	1	19
FR	14	62	25	14	115
HR	11	65	18	10	104
HU	7	215	20	8	250
IE	2	8	6	5	21
IT	28	127	48	26	229
LT	9	22	13	8	52
LU	1	2	3	2	8
LV	3	24	13	2	42
ME	2	8	5	4	19
MK	3	8	11	4	26
MT	2	19	14	0	35
NL	7	6	8	8	29
PL	30	85	27	8	150
PT	12	21	21	7	61
RO	12	114	14	8	148
RS	15	66	14	12	107
SE	1	5	8	7	21
SI	13	33	19	7	72
SK	4	134	12	5	155
UK	1	6	0	0	7
XK	0	0	2	0	2
TOTAL	302	1358	486	232	2378
Number of projects granted	54	231	41	33	359

Selection thresholds per action grants

The table below shows all funding thresholds for action grants (i.e. the lowest score obtained by selected projects) since the beginning of the Europe for Citizens programme in 2014. It takes into consideration the released reserve lists.

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Remembrance	84	79,5	82,5	82,5	82,5	80,5	80
Civil Society	82,75	81,75	81,5	82,25	82,5	82,5	82
Town Twinning phase 1	53	78	74	71	71	71	71
Town Twinning phase 2	70,75	74,25	73	72	71	71	71
Network of Town phase 1	67,5	80	81	82	81	81	81
Network of Town phase 2	76,25	85	84	83	82	81	81

Feeling of being a citizen of the EU

Country	Summer 2020	Autumn 2019	Spring 2019	Autumn 2018	Spring 2018	Autumn 2017	Spring 2017	Autumn 2016	Spring 2016	Autumn 2015	Spring 2015	Autumn 2014	Spring 2014	Autumn 2013	Spring 2013	Autumn 2012	Spring 2012
	EB 93 p.14	EB 92 p.14	EB 91 p.36	EB 90 p.33	EB 89 p.36	EB 88 p.39	EB 87 p. 38	EB 86 p.32	EB 85 p. 38	EB 84 p. 32	EB 83 p. 17	EB 82 p. 29	EB 81 p. 7	EB 80 p. 30	EB 79 p. 23	EB 78 p. 23	EB 77 p. 22
AT	72	73	80	75	77	78	73	66	69	63	72	73	87	63	66	63	60
BE	76	74	81	79	74	78	78	71	71	72	70	69	71	70	71	68	69
BG	52	56	52	51	51	56	55	50	49	47	50	48	46	49	48	47	50
CY	68	72	73	65	72	69	64	53	53	49	50	51	53	46	45	55	62
CZ	60	65	58	56	59	56	57	53	58	57	62	60	57	55	54	54	52
DE	82	83	88	86	84	82	82	77	78	74	81	74	79	73	73	74	74
DK	80	79	82	78	80	79	81	74	77	76	74	74	73	71	71	74	75
EE	79	80	79	81	78	78	75	75	76	73	79	78	76	72	70	73	67
EL	54	51	57	52	51	48	48	47	46	50	50	45	49	42	44	46	50
ES	79	86	87	83	82	88	75	79	76	75	69	71	71	69	68	73	70
FI	71	81	85	81	79	81	81	79	82	75	81	76	79	73	73	78	71
FR	59	58	64	62	61	63	64	61	67	61	61	63	63	57	61	66	65
HR	70	66	64	66	63	61	61	60	61	66	63	56	55	58	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
HU	80	80	84	80	77	67	70	69	65	69	67	67	59	59	59	54	51
IE	89	80	85	85	85	81	82	78	80	76	77	70	74	67	68	69	69
IT	48	55	57	59	56	54	53	51	49	49	53	47	47	45	52	51	45
LT	81	81	80	77	78	77	77	74	74	77	78	71	71	64	65	64	60
LU	89	91	93	89	93	90	89	92	93	85	88	89	85	85	88	87	85
LV	76	73	76	75	74	73	74	73	71	68	69	68	62	53	56	57	54
MT	72	81	81	82	82	85	82	82	84	82	84	85	87	74	81	76	72
NL	73	72	77	75	70	70	71	68	70	67	70	61	65	58	61	67	60
PL	83	81	84	79	80	77	80	78	76	71	74	74	77	67	70	74	67
PT	80	81	84	78	83	81	80	79	75	72	72	66	69	58	62	59	60
RO	68	72	73	68	64	63	66	67	59	62	65	68	61	56	53	51	60
SE	75	79	83	82	76	77	76	75	74	72	78	76	77	69	69	73	65
SI	77	76	77	72	73	73	71	73	70	75	65	69	69	61	64	68	66
SK	82	79	80	77	80	75	72	73	75	69	75	73	73	70	76	71	70
UK	n.a.	53	58	58	57	55	54	55	53	52	56	60	52	42	48	48	42
EU	70	70	73	71	70	70	68	67	66	64	67	63	65	59	62	63	61

Synoptic table of projects submitted and selected per country and action grant in 2020

Europe for Citizens programme 2014 - 2020

Report 2020

Applications submitted										Projects selected							Statistic Data						
	CIV	REMEM	OG	TT1	TT2	NT1	NT2	TOTAL submitted	TOTAL selected		CIV	REMEM	OG	TT1	TT2	NT1	NT2		Applications Submitted in %	Applications Granted in %	Success rate /submitted/country	Population rate	Population Eurostat 2020
AL	10	1	0	0	7	2	3	23	3		0	1	0	0	2	0	0	AL	1,33%	0,77%	13,04%	0,53%	2.845.955
AT	9	5	1	1	1	0	1	18	6		1	2	1	1	0	0	1	AT	1,04%	1,54%	33,33%	1,67%	8.901.064
BA	7	2	0	1	0	3	2	15	2		1	0	0	1	0	0	0	BA	0,87%	0,51%	13,33%	0,66%	3.492.018
BE	32	6	10	0	1	0	4	53	17		3	2	10	0	1	0	1	BE	3,06%	4,37%	32,08%	2,17%	11.522.440
BG	23	15	0	5	2	8	12	65	10		1	3	0	2	1	2	1	BG	3,75%	2,57%	15,38%	1,31%	6.951.482
CY	2	0	0	0	0	1	2	5	1		0	0	0	0	0	1	0	CY	0,29%	0,26%	20,00%	0,17%	888.005
CZ	13	3	1	5	10	2	2	36	12		1	2	1	2	5	1	0	CZ	2,08%	3,08%	33,33%	2,01%	10.693.939
DE	26	19	2	21	19	5	3	95	31		2	4	2	10	11	1	1	DE	5,48%	7,97%	32,63%	15,63%	83.166.711
DK	7	3	0	0	0	0	1	11	1		0	1	0	0	0	0	0	DK	0,63%	0,26%	9,09%	1,09%	5.822.763
EE	7	3	0	1	0	0	0	11	2		1	1	0	0	0	0	0	EE	0,63%	0,51%	18,18%	0,25%	1.328.976
EL	16	9	0	2	2	8	5	42	7		0	1	0	2	2	1	1	EL	2,42%	1,80%	16,67%	2,01%	10.718.565
ES	44	21	1	8	7	15	21	117	19		3	4	1	4	2	3	2	ES	6,75%	4,88%	16,24%	8,90%	47.332.614
FI	3	3	0	0	1	0	0	7	2		0	1	0	0	1	0	0	FI	0,40%	0,51%	28,57%	1,04%	5.525.292
FR	15	6	8	7	12	1	3	52	23		1	3	8	4	6	0	1	FR	3,00%	5,91%	44,23%	12,65%	67.320.216
HR	26	6	1	9	6	5	5	58	12		1	2	1	2	5	1	0	HR	3,35%	3,08%	20,69%	0,76%	4.058.165
HU	16	12	1	58	38	11	9	145	42		0	1	1	22	16	1	1	HU	8,37%	10,80%	28,97%	1,84%	9.769.526
IE	5	4	1	3	1	0	1	15	6		1	1	1	2	1	0	0	IE	0,87%	1,54%	40,00%	0,93%	4.964.440
IT	128	48	0	35	44	43	57	355	54		6	7	0	19	13	5	4	IT	20,48%	13,88%	15,21%	11,21%	59.641.488
LT	12	5	0	0	1	1	1	20	3		1	1	0	0	1	0	0	LT	1,15%	0,77%	15,00%	0,53%	2.794.090
LU	5	0	0	1	0	1	1	8	1		0	0	0	1	0	0	0	LU	0,46%	0,26%	12,50%	0,12%	626.108
LV	9	5	0	6	1	0	2	23	6		1	1	0	3	1	0	0	LV	1,33%	1,54%	26,09%	0,36%	1.907.675
ME	3	1	0	0	0	1	2	7	1		0	1	0	0	0	0	0	ME	0,40%	0,26%	14,29%	0,12%	621.873
MK	19	2	0	0	0	2	1	24	2		1	0	0	0	0	1	0	MK	1,38%	0,51%	8,33%	0,39%	2.076.255
MT	3	0	0	3	6	3	2	17	6		0	0	0	2	3	1	0	MT	0,98%	1,54%	35,29%	0,10%	514.564
NL	10	2	2	1	0	1	1	17	6		2	1	2	0	0	0	1	NL	0,98%	1,54%	35,29%	3,27%	17.407.585
PL	32	34	1	13	13	9	5	107	20		1	5	1	7	5	1	0	PL	6,17%	5,14%	18,69%	7,14%	37.972.812
PT	21	10	0	4	6	3	9	53	9		1	2	0	3	1	1	1	PT	3,06%	2,31%	16,98%	1,93%	10.295.909
RO	19	9	0	27	15	4	3	77	23		1	2	0	11	9	0	0	RO	4,44%	5,91%	29,87%	3,63%	19.328.838
RS	22	5	0	7	6	7	5	52	11		1	3	0	3	2	1	1	RS	3,00%	2,83%	21,15%	1,30%	6.926.705
SE	5	2	1	0	0	0	1	9	3		1	0	1	0	0	0	1	SE	0,52%	0,77%	33,33%	1,94%	10.327.589
SI	10	8	0	5	9	2	6	40	9		1	1	0	2	3	0	2	SI	2,31%	2,31%	22,50%	0,39%	2.095.861
SK	8	5	0	62	64	9	2	150	39		0	1	0	22	15	1	0	SK	8,66%	10,03%	26,00%	1,03%	5.457.873
UK	3	1	0	0	0	0	1	5	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	UK	0,29%	0,00%	0,00%	12,60%	67.025.542
XK*	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	XK*	0,06%	0,00%	0,00%	0,34%	1.795.666
TOTAL	571	255	30	285	272	147	173	1733	389		33	54	30	125	106	22	19	TOTAL	100,00%	100,00%		100,00%	532.118.604
				557			320							231		41		EU Total					514.345.458

Legenda:

CIV Civil Society Projects
REMEM Remembrance Projects

OG Operating Grants
TT1 Town Twinning Phase 1

TT2 Town Twinning Phase 2
NT1 Networks of Towns Phase 1

NT2 Networks of Towns Phase 2
*(under United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244/99)

Synoptic table of projects submitted and selected per country and action in the period 2014-2020

Europe for Citizens programme 2014 - 2020
Report 2014-2020

Applications submitted								Projects selected										Statistic Data				
	CIV	REM	OG	TT1	TT2	NT1	NT2	TOTAL submitted	TOTAL selected	CIV	REM	OG	TT1	TT2	NT1	NT2		Applications Submitted in %	Applications Granted in %	Success rate submitted/ granted per country	Population rate	Population Eurostat 2020
AL	29	19	0	2	11	9	11	81	6	0	2	0	0	4	0	0	AL	0,57%	0,24%	7,41%	0,53%	2.845.955
AT	84	62	10	16	8	9	14	203	31	7	11	1	5	1	2	4	AT	1,43%	1,23%	15,27%	1,67%	8.901.064
BA	36	18	2	7	9	11	14	97	10	2	2	0	3	3	0	0	BA	0,68%	0,40%	10,31%	0,66%	3.492.018
BE	181	72	96	17	14	9	17	406	66	16	12	19	6	6	4	3	BE	2,85%	2,61%	16,26%	2,17%	11.522.440
BG	176	136	8	23	25	32	47	447	51	7	11	0	12	9	5	7	BG	3,14%	2,02%	11,41%	1,31%	6.951.482
CY	19	2	0	2	3	5	7	38	8	3	1	0	1	0	3	0	CY	0,27%	0,32%	21,05%	0,17%	888.005
CZ	63	57	8	62	79	8	9	286	68	5	11	2	23	25	2	0	CZ	2,01%	2,69%	23,78%	2,01%	10.693.939
DE	145	153	36	242	207	28	28	839	248	14	23	6	101	87	9	8	DE	5,90%	9,81%	29,56%	15,63%	83.166.711
DK	31	8	2	4	2	0	3	50	7	2	3	0	0	2	0	0	DK	0,35%	0,28%	14,00%	1,09%	5.822.763
EE	32	32	1	8	7	2	3	85	9	3	3	0	2	1	0	0	EE	0,60%	0,36%	10,59%	0,25%	1.328.976
EL	85	73	3	8	17	44	55	285	35	6	8	0	5	5	4	7	EL	2,00%	1,38%	12,28%	2,01%	10.718.565
ES	188	167	31	56	61	60	79	642	93	12	17	3	26	20	9	6	ES	4,51%	3,68%	14,49%	8,90%	47.332.614
FI	22	14	2	2	8	5	1	54	15	2	6	0	1	4	2	0	FI	0,38%	0,59%	27,78%	1,04%	5.525.292
FR	99	99	86	154	182	30	37	687	187	9	20	18	60	65	7	8	FR	4,83%	7,39%	27,22%	12,65%	67.320.216
HR	133	66	8	58	46	43	39	393	69	7	8	1	20	26	5	2	HR	2,76%	2,73%	17,56%	0,76%	4.058.165
HU	184	176	12	887	551	112	105	2027	311	9	8	2	178	95	13	6	HU	14,25%	12,30%	15,34%	1,84%	9.769.526
IE	34	20	5	10	14	0	3	86	26	5	9	1	5	6	0	0	IE	0,60%	1,03%	30,23%	0,93%	4.964.440
IT	623	495	20	321	310	243	302	2314	320	22	28	0	124	98	29	19	IT	16,27%	12,65%	13,83%	11,21%	59.641.488
LT	70	65	0	15	19	11	9	189	28	7	8	0	3	9	0	1	LT	1,33%	1,11%	14,81%	0,53%	2.794.090
LU	10	0	2	1	2	2	5	22	6	0	0	0	1	2	0	3	LU	0,15%	0,24%	27,27%	0,12%	626.108
LV	46	62	6	26	11	16	21	188	29	4	7	1	11	3	2	1	LV	1,32%	1,15%	15,43%	0,36%	1.907.675
ME	10	7	1	0	0	1	5	24	4	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	ME	0,17%	0,16%	16,67%	0,12%	621.873
MK	60	19	7	9	6	12	10	123	15	3	4	1	3	1	2	1	MK	0,86%	0,59%	12,20%	0,39%	2.076.255
MT	19	12	1	16	19	12	16	95	37	2	3	0	11	13	4	4	MT	0,67%	1,46%	38,95%	0,10%	514.564
NL	62	40	15	10	4	7	8	146	26	8	10	3	0	1	2	2	NL	1,03%	1,03%	17,81%	3,27%	17.407.585
PL	199	272	16	182	144	53	54	920	184	9	23	3	75	63	6	5	PL	6,47%	7,28%	20,00%	7,14%	37.972.812
PT	72	42	5	20	23	19	22	203	41	6	7	0	11	9	4	4	PT	1,43%	1,62%	20,20%	1,93%	10.295.909
RO	127	143	1	289	166	27	30	783	157	8	8	0	88	48	5	0	RO	5,51%	6,21%	20,05%	3,63%	19.328.838
RS	106	61	5	55	48	26	36	337	54	6	8	0	20	15	3	2	RS	2,37%	2,14%	16,02%	1,30%	6.926.705
SE	26	14	4	3	5	11	10	73	19	4	2	1	0	3	4	5	SE	0,51%	0,75%	26,03%	1,94%	10.327.589
SI	94	90	1	39	47	27	32	330	59	5	8	0	18	20	4	4	SI	2,32%	2,33%	17,88%	0,39%	2.095.861
SK	79	106	14	680	602	54	50	1585	287	3	7	1	167	102	4	3	SK	11,14%	11,35%	18,11%	1,03%	5.457.873
UK	71	34	22	19	18	4	8	176	22	4	5	4	4	5	0	0	UK	1,24%	0,87%	12,50%	12,60%	67.025.542
XK*	4	2	0	1	0	1	0	8	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	XK*	0,06%	0,04%	12,50%	0,34%	1.795.666
TOTAL	3.219	2.638	430	3.244	2.668	933	1.090	14.222	2.529	201	286	67	984	751	135	105	TOTAL	100,00%	100,00%		100,00%	532.118.604
				5.912			2.023						1.735			240				EU Total		514.345.458

Legenda:

CSP Civil Society Projects
REM Remembrance Projects
OG Operating Grants
TT1 Town Twinning Phase 1
TT2 Town Twinning Phase 2
NT1 Networks of Towns Phase 1
NT2 Networks of Towns Phase 2

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Europe for Citizens 2020 Report

Europe for Citizens Programme Results

Resume

In this document you will find an overview of the Europe for Citizens programme implementation in 2020 together with some data measuring the overall impact for the period 2014 - 2020.

PART A provides an operational feedback per action on the main achievements in 2020.

PART B presents the main statistical data on the Programme execution in 2020 with some data of the period 2014 - 2020.

Furthermore, synoptic tables illustrate the breakdown of projects submitted and granted by country.

In 2020, **Directorate-General for Justice & Consumers (DG JUST)** was responsible for the development and smooth running of the "Europe for Citizens" programme. It managed the budget and defined objectives, strategies and priority areas of action. It also guided and monitored the implementation, follow-up and evaluation of the Programme at European level. DG JUST has delegated the management of the implementation of the Programme to the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA).

European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) The EACEA is responsible for the implementation of grants under the "Europe for Citizens" programme. EACEA manages the complete life cycle of these projects, including drawing up calls for proposals, selecting projects and signing Grant Decisions/Agreements, financial management, monitoring of projects, communication with beneficiaries and on the spot controls.

More information:

http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/europe-for-citizens_en